



# Montecito Sanitary District

1042 Monte Cristo Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

*A Public Service Agency*

**General Manager: Diane M. Gabriel**

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April 16, 2020

Ms. Lisa Plowman, Director  
County of Santa Barbara  
Planning and Development  
123 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2058

**SUBJECT: Emergency Permit Application for Temporary Facilities**

Dear Ms. Plowman,

As you were informed in my April 3, 2020 correspondence, the COVID-19 emergency has immediate impacts on the health and well-being of Montecito Sanitary District's highly specialized and certified wastewater infrastructure employees. The most recent scientific data show that COVID-19 is present in the waste of individuals infected with the coronavirus which, necessarily, is transmitted into wastewater. The District's employees are responsible for treating such wastewater; there is a high likelihood that they will be exposed to COVID-19 through the wastewater.

The County of Santa Barbara Emergency Operations Center staff has reported that there are cases of COVID-19 in the Montecito community. Although we do not know the exact whereabouts of the infected individuals, we were instructed by the County to assume that there is COVID-19 present in the raw wastewater. Due to the hazardous work our employees undertake in handling raw sewage (please see enclosed photos), the District has an immediate need to protect its employees by providing additional sanitary facilities including changing rooms, washrooms, shower rooms, designated food preparation facilities and individual data entry / mandatory reporting workstations in areas that are conditioned with proper air exchange and safe social distancing. The District's existing structures cannot accommodate these requirements.

Following the Governor's March 4, 2020 declaration of statewide emergency, the County of Santa Barbara declared an emergency on March 12, 2020 (ratified on March 17, 2020). In accordance with the District Board's direction on the matter, the District declared an emergency on March 19, 2020. Under those emergency powers, the District's General Manager is specifically authorized by the Board to "to take all steps necessary" for protecting public and employee health and safety. Your April 10, 2020 letter states "P&D can consider the placement of temporary trailer facilities on the property to provide any essential resources that may be needed by the District at this time." We are hereby informing you that the District will be providing such temporary facilities and these facilities will be delivered to the District treatment plant site as rapidly as possible. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

The enclosed Emergency Permit Application includes a site map that shows the approximate locations for the placement of these temporary / trailer facilities. These temporary facilities will provide physical protection, proper hygiene, and workplace distancing, which are necessary and urgently needed for Sanitary District employees during this pandemic emergency.

Sincerely,

Diane Gabriel  
General Manager

Cc: Ciara Ristig, County of Santa Barbara  
Jeff Wilson, County of Santa Barbara