

**19 APRIL 2024 BOARD MEETING
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEMS**

AGENDA ITEM: 11

SUBJECT:

The following are proposed permits for consideration of adoption. All agencies and dischargers concur or have offered no comments.

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewals.

BACKGROUND:

**A) AEROJET GENERAL CORPORATION, INTERIM GROUNDWATER
EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS, SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

Aerojet Rocketdyne, Inc. (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Groundwater Extraction and Treatment Systems ARGET, GET EF, GET HA, GET J, GET KA, GET LA, GET LB, GET AB, White Rock GET, Sailor Bar Park Well, Golden State Water Wells and Low Threat Discharges (Facility), located at Aerojet Road, Sacramento, CA 95813. The Discharger currently owns and operates fourteen groundwater extraction and treatment systems that discharge treated groundwater to surface waters in accordance with an NPDES permit. The Facility discharges treated groundwater to the American River, Buffalo Creek, Morrison Creek and Alder Creek, waters of the United States, tributary to the Sacramento River, American River, Sacramento River and Lake Natoma, respectively within the American River watershed.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2020-0051-001, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 28 February 2021. An Order is proposed to amend the NPDES permit to modify the place of treatment and discharge for existing Arden Cordova Well 6 (AC-6) and incorporate an additional discharge and discharge location associated with replacement well AC-25.

The Tentative Amending Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 13 January 2023 with comments due by 13 February 2023. Public comments were received from the City of Sacramento. The comments included requests for clarification of specific discharge points and effluent limitations, and additional evaluation of potential impacts to the Lower American River. In early 2023, the Discharger notified staff that the operational changes reflected in the amendment were not ready to implement and requested the amendment be postponed to a later date. The Discharger notified staff that the changes were ready for implementation in the second quarter of 2024.

B) CITY OF BRENTWOOD, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The City of Brentwood (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the City of Brentwood Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), which serves a population of approximately 64,870. The Facility discharges an average dry weather flow of 5.0 million gallons per day (MGD), and 6.4 MGD upon completion of the Phase II Facility Expansion Project, of tertiary treated municipal wastewater to Marsh Creek, a water of the United States, within the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Discharger also conveys Title 22 disinfected tertiary treated recycled water to irrigation customers through the non-potable water supply system or via the recycled water fill station located at the Facility.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2019-0029 (NPDES Permit) and Time Schedule Order (TSO) R5-2019-0030, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 5 April 2019. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed Order includes new or updated effluent limitations for ammonia, chloride, dibromochloromethane (CDBM), dichlorobromomethane (DCBM), and chronic whole effluent toxicity.

The proposed Order also removes site-specific effluent and receiving water temperature limits (alternative temperature limits) that were included in Order R5-2019-0029 but were not yet effective. These alternative temperature limits are exceptions to the *Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Of California* (Thermal Plan) and were to become effective after consultation with state and federal fisheries agencies and contingent upon concurrence from the State Water Board. Staff are continuing to work with one of the state agencies, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), on addressing their concerns with the Discharger's Thermal Plan exceptions. Therefore, more time is needed to evaluate the alternative temperature limits with CDFW and the Discharger before recommending approval from the Central Valley Water Board in this permit renewal and before requesting concurrence from the State Water Board. The effective temperature limits in Order R5-2019-0029 are carried forward in the proposed Order and are more stringent than the alternative temperature limits. The Order may be reopened to add revised alternative effluent and receiving water temperature limitations, which would become effective upon concurrence with the Thermal Plan Exception from the State Water Board.

TSO R5-2019-0030 contains a compliance schedule for CDBM and DCBM effluent limitations, which expires 31 May 2024. The Discharger has made diligent progress toward achieving compliance with the final effluent limitations for CDBM and DCBM. However, the Discharger has demonstrated that additional time is needed to comply. Therefore, a Time Schedule Order is proposed allowing an extension of the time schedule for compliance with these final effluent limitations until 30 September 2026.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 16 February 2024 with comments due on 18 March 2024. Public comments were received from the Discharger and CDFW. A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff.

**C) CITY OF CLOVIS, SEWAGE TREATMENT AND WATER REUSE FACILITY,
FRESNO COUNTY**

The City of Clovis (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the City of Clovis Sewage Treatment and Water Reuse Facility (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works. The Facility provides tertiary treatment for an average annual flow of 2.8 million gallons per day of treated municipal wastewater to Fancher Creek; the Diversion Channel from Big Dry Creek Reservoir to Little Dry Creek (Diversion Channel); and reuse sites. The Diversion Channel and Little Dry Creek are waters of the United States and are hydrologically connected to the San Joaquin River. Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2019-0021 (NPDES Permit No. CA0085235), adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on 4 April 2019.

The proposed Order amends Order R5-2019-0021 to change the effluent monitoring frequency for copper, cyanide, and zinc from monthly to annually. It has been determined that no additional copper, cyanide, and zinc data are needed between now and the effective date of the NPDES permit renewal, which is planned for June 2024. Without these changes, the Discharger may face unnecessary penalties associated with the current monitoring frequency, which is unnecessary for water quality protection.

No comments were received.

**D) CITY OF PORTOLA, PORTOLA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
PLUMAS COUNTY**

The City of Portola (Discharger) owns and operates the Portola Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) in the City of Portola, located in Plumas County. The discharge is currently regulated pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2018-0088. This is a minor NPDES discharge.

The treatment system consists of two aerated ponds, five stabilization ponds, chlorination/dechlorination, a six-acre pond, and an adjacent wetland that discharges to the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The design capacity of the Facility is an average dry weather flow of 0.50 MGD.

Secondary treated effluent is discharged to the surface water (Middle Fork of the Feather River) through the constructed wetland adjacent to the Facility. The tentative Order prohibits effluent discharge to surface water from May through October, when there is less than 40 cfs river flow, or when less than a 20:1 dilution (river water to effluent) is present. Discharge typically only occurs over a period of one or two months and usually corresponds with higher rates of inflow/infiltration into the sewer collection system from heavy precipitation. In the case of a dry winter, discharge may not be required.

When the Discharger is not discharging effluent to the surface water, treated wastewater is discharged to land through percolation at the six-acre pond. The treated wastewater discharged to land is not chlorinated. The tentative Order includes new land discharge specifications (BOD, TSS, and pH) and monitoring requirements for the land discharge. Groundwater limitations are retained from the previous permit.

The tentative Order would renew the Discharger's NPDES permit. The proposed NPDES Permit contains effluent limitations for BOD, TSS, pH, chlorine, total coliform, ammonia, copper, nitrate plus nitrite, acute toxicity, and chronic toxicity. Nitrate plus nitrite is a new effluent limitation. An electrical conductivity annual average effluent limitation was removed and instead expressed as a performance-based trigger to complete additional salinity control measures. The proposed NPDES Permit includes acute and chronic toxicity limitations based on the State Policy for Water Quality Control: Toxicity Provisions (Statewide Toxicity Provisions). Chronic whole effluent toxicity is a new effluent limitation.

The Discharger is expected to be able to immediately comply with the renewed NPDES permit.

**E) LINCOLN-SMD1 WASTEWATER AUTHORITY (LISWA), LISWA
WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND RECLAMATION FACILITY, PLACER
COUNTY**

The Discharger provides sewerage service for a population of approximately 67,000; with 51,000 in the City of Lincoln and 16,000 in western Placer County. Discharges from the Facility are authorized under Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2018-0081-01, which permits the treatment capacity of up to 5.9 million gallons per day (MGD) (average dry weather flow), with plans to expand the treatment capacity in increments or in whole, up to 8.4 MGD (average dry weather flow). The facility has a surface water discharge capacity of up to 25 MGD. The Facility receives influent primarily from domestic sources but does currently receive influent from three industrial sources covered under the Discharger's pretreatment program.

Treated municipal wastewater is discharged at Discharge Point 001 to Auburn Ravine Creek, a water of the United States and tributary of the Sacramento River, via East Side Canal and Natomas Cross Canal. Tertiary treated wastewater is discharged at Discharge Point 002 to groundwater beneath the facility from Tertiary Storage Basins 1 and 2. Secondary treated undisinfectated wastewater is discharged to groundwater beneath the facility from Maturation Ponds 1 and 2. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board have classified this discharge a Major discharge.

The proposed NPDES permit renewal does not allow for an increase in discharge from the current permit. The proposed NPDES permit renewal includes updated surface water Discharge Point 001 effluent limits for ammonia, new effluent limitations for chronic toxicity, chlorpyrifos and diazinon, and removes effluent limits for acute toxicity and mercury because there was no longer reasonable potential to exceed the criteria for these constituents. The permit renewal also adds two land discharge points (Discharge Points 002 and 003 for the tertiary storage basins and maturation ponds, respectively) and a land discharge specification for nitrate to Discharge Points 002 and 003.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 31 January 2024 with comments due by 1 March 2024. Public comments were received from the Discharger and Jo Anne Kipps on 1 March 2024. A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff. The Discharger and Jo Anne Kipps have reviewed the

Response to Comments document and concur with the proposed Order.

F) SAN ANDREAS SANITARY DISTRICT, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, CALAVERAS COUNTY

San Andreas Sanitary District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the San Andreas Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), a Publicly Owned Treatment Works located at 675 Gold Oak Road, San Andreas, CA. The Facility provides sewerage service for the community of San Andreas and surrounding communities, serving a population of approximately 2,200, with no industrial users. The Facility has a peak wet weather design flow capacity of 1.9 million gallons per day (MGD). The proposed Order authorizes the discharge of up to a maximum daily effluent flow of 1.5 MGD to the North Fork Calaveras River during the wet season, when effluent receives at least 20:1 dilution as a daily average (receiving water flow to effluent flow), and permits the discharge of up to 1.8 MGD to the Dedicated Land Disposal Area (DLDA). Treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to the North Fork Calaveras River, a water of the United States. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board have classified this discharge a minor discharge.

The proposed NPDES permit renewal does not allow for an increase in the discharge from the current permit. The proposed NPDES permit renewal includes new or updated effluent limits for cyanide, ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, and total suspended solids. In addition, the proposed Order includes groundwater limitation for Nitrate as Nitrogen.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 12 December 2023 with comments due by 11 January 2024. Public comments were received from the Discharger and Jo Anne Kipps. A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff.

G) SHASTA COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 17, COTTONWOOD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, SHASTA COUNTY

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant in the community of Cottonwood, located in Shasta County. The discharge is currently regulated pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2016-0066. This is classified as a minor NPDES discharge.

The Facility provides tertiary treatment utilizing a headworks with Auger Monster® and Parshall flume with ultrasonic level sensor, anoxic biological selector, two parallel oxidation ditches, mixed liquor recycle pump station, two parallel secondary clarifiers, two parallel traveling bridge filters, chlorine gas chlorination, chlorine contact chamber, sulfur dioxide (SO₂) gas dechlorination, two aerated sludge storage basins, and three sludge drying beds.

The Facility has a design capacity for an average dry weather flow (ADWF) of 0.43 million gallons per day (MGD) and a peak wet weather flow (PWWF) of 1.32 MGD. The Facility is currently operating at an ADWF of 0.33 MGD and PWWF of 0.94 MGD.

Effluent discharges through a diffuser to Cottonwood Creek, a tributary to the Sacramento River.

The proposed Order would renew the Discharger’s NPDES permit and includes surface water effluent limitations for BOD, TSS, pH, chlorine, total coliform, copper, zinc, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, ammonia, nitrate plus nitrite, acute whole effluent toxicity, and chronic whole effluent toxicity. The Discharger is unable to immediately comply with final effluent limitations for ammonia, copper, zinc, and dichlorobromomethane.

The proposed Order includes a compliance schedule for ammonia, and the separate, proposed, Time Schedule Order (TSO) includes a time schedule for copper, zinc, and dichlorobromomethane. Collectively, these schedules give the Discharger time to evaluate alternatives, secure funding, and complete the construction of a selected alternative that will achieve compliance with the new effluent limits for ammonia, copper, zinc, and dichlorobromomethane. The proposed Order and TSO both include interim effluent limits for these parameters in which compliance schedules have been developed. The Discharger is expected to be able to immediately comply with the new interim effluent limits.

The proposed Order and TSO were issued for a 30-day public comment period on 22 January 2024 with comments due by 22 February 2024. Comments were received from a Fresno County resident. Staff made changes to the proposed permit in response to some of the comments. The most significant comments were regarding the schematics of the sludge basins and the underlying groundwater. Staff’s response to comments and the revised proposed permit are included with this agenda item. The proposed revisions satisfy the concerns of the commenter and this item is uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the NPDES Permits.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE