



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

1001 I Street, 14th Floor ♦ Sacramento, California 95814 ♦ 916.341.5300
P.O. Box 2000 ♦ Sacramento, California 95812-2000
FAX: 916.341.5400 ♦ www.waterrights.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE IN POINT OF DISCHARGE OF TREATED WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER CHANGE PETITION WW-44

PETITIONER: City of Turlock

PETITION FILED: July 13, 2005

STREAM SYSTEM: Harding Drain tributary to San Joaquin River

COUNTY: Stanislaus

Notice is hereby given that the City of Turlock, Municipal Services Department (City) filed a petition for change in the point of discharge of treated wastewater effluent from the City's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will determine whether an order approving the wastewater change petition should be issued and, if so, whether conditions are needed in the order to protect the environment, the public interest, and downstream water users. This notice provides a description of the proposed project and also describes the procedure and time frame for submittal of protests against the petition. This notice may be viewed at the Division of Water Rights' (Division) website at www.waterrights.ca.gov. Any correspondence directed to the petitioners should be mailed to:

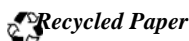
City of Turlock
c/o Jennifer Harder
Downey Brand Attorneys LLP
555 Capitol Mall, 10th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Description of Existing Project

The City's WWTF provides secondary treatment for municipal wastewater and is authorized under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0078948 to discharge up to 20 million gallons per day of treated wastewater into the Harding Drain, which is tributary to the San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County. The treated wastewater effluent is discharged on a year-round basis. The current discharge into Harding Drain is located at Prairie Flower Road and is about six miles from the drain's confluence with the San Joaquin River. The point of discharge is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 25, T5S, R9E, MDB&M.

The City is in the process of upgrading its WWTF to tertiary treatment and anticipates having its tertiary treatment facilities online by May 2006.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Petition Summary

Water Code section 1211(a) requires the owner of a wastewater treatment facility to receive approval from the State Water Board of any change in the purpose of use, place of use, and point of discharge of treated wastewater. The City has petitioned the State Water Board to change the point of discharge of its treated wastewater effluent from the Harding Drain, which is tributary to the San Joaquin River, to a new point of discharge directly into the river. The City proposes to construct a 36-inch outfall force main from the terminus of the current outfall at Harding Drain to the San Joaquin River. The force main will run adjacent to the Harding Drain and its outfall into the San Joaquin River will be situated approximately 560 feet upstream of the confluence of the drain and the river.

The proposed new point of discharge into the San Joaquin River is located within the NE¹/₄ of the NE¹/₄ of section 36, T5S, R9E, MDB&M, within Stanislaus County as shown on a map dated August 9, 2005 filed with the State Water Board.

Environmental Information

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its guidelines, the City is the lead agency and is responsible for preparation of appropriate environmental documents for the project and for determining whether or not the project will cause a significant effect on the environment. The City prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the relocation of the point of discharge (*City of Turlock Harding Drain Bypass Project EIR, SCH No. 2003062002*) dated July 2004. In May 2005, the City certified the final EIR for the proposed project.

If you are not filing a protest, but wish to submit information that indicates the project may cause a significant effect on the environment, please send this information to the lead agency immediately with a copy to Steven Herrera; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights; P.O. Box 2000; Sacramento, CA 95812-2000. This information will be reviewed in accordance with CEQA.

PROTEST SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

Protest Requirements

A person may file a protest based on any of the following factors:

- Interference with prior water rights.
- Adverse environmental impact.
- Not in the public interest.
- Contrary to law.
- Not within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board.

All protests must clearly describe the objections to approval of the petition and the factual basis for those objections. For example, if the objection is based on injury to existing water rights, the protest must describe the specific injury to the existing water right that would result from approval of the changes proposed by the petition. In addition, the party claiming interference with prior rights must provide specific information describing the basis of the prior right, the date the use began, the quantity of water used, the purpose of use and the place of use. Protests based on environmental impacts, public interest, legality, or jurisdictional issues must be accompanied by a statement of facts supporting the basis of the protest. If sufficient information is not submitted, the State Water Board may reject the protest or request that the protestant submit additional information. Protests of a general nature (not project specific) or protests that are inconsistent with constitutional or legislated state policy will not be accepted. A request for information or a request that studies be conducted does not constitute a protest.

Procedure for Submitting Protests

Protests should be submitted on standard protest forms available from the Division's website at www.waterrights.ca.gov/forms/ or upon request, in writing or by telephone, from the Division. A pamphlet that provides additional information relating to water rights and the procedure for filing protests is also available on the website or by mail. Any requests or the submittal of the completed protest form should be directed to the individual listed as the contact person at the end of this notice. **A copy of the completed protest form must also be mailed to the petitioner and should include a description of any measure that could be taken to resolve the protest.**

Protest Submittal Deadline

Protests submitted in response to this notice must be received by the Division by 3:00 p.m. on the **30th** day after the date of this notice (the close of the protest period). Protests may be submitted by any of the following methods:

1. Mailed to Division of Water Rights; P. O. Box 2000; Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
2. Faxed to the Division at (916) 341-5400
3. E-mailed to the engineer listed below under the heading "Contact Person"
4. Hand-delivered to the Division office located at 1001 "I" Street, 2nd Floor (File Room), Sacramento, CA

If you choose to fax or e-mail the protest due to the constraints of the noticing period, the fax or e-mail must be followed by timely delivery of an original signed copy, either personally or by mail, to the Division in order for the protest to be accepted. The State Water Board will respond to all protests within 60 days of the final day to file a protest. **Protests not submitted by the close of the protest period will be subject to rejection.**

For good cause, the State Water Board may grant an extension of time to file a protest. It is the protestant's responsibility to contact the engineer listed below as "Contact Person" to request the extension prior to the end of the protest period.

Resolution of Protests

The petitioners will have 30 days to respond to a protest once it is accepted by the Division. The protestant and the petitioners are expected to make a good faith effort to resolve the protest within 180 days from the close of the protest period.

CONTACT PERSON

To obtain additional information regarding this project, or to obtain copies of protest forms, or general information pamphlets, please contact Kate Gaffney by phone at (916) 341-5360 or by electronic mail at kgaffney@waterboards.ca.gov. Information and protest forms are also available at the Division's website: www.waterrights.ca.gov/forms/.

Date of Notice: **March 3, 2006**

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