

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: City of Yuba City, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Sutter County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order.*

BACKGROUND: The City of Yuba City (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater treatment and collection system that provides sewer service for the community of Yuba City and serves a population of about 52,000. The Facility also accepts septage from unsewered portions of Sutter and Yuba Counties. The treatment system consists of bar screens, aerated grit removal, primary sedimentation, pure oxygen aeration, secondary sedimentation, chlorine disinfection, dechlorination and pH adjustment. Treated municipal and industrial wastewater is discharged to the Feather River or to disposal ponds within the levee. The Facility also uses treated wastewater for landscape irrigation of 3.5 acres at the Facility. The current residential single family dwelling monthly sewer fee is \$27.62 and the current hook-up/capacity fee is \$5,100 per single family dwelling.

The Discharger is currently discharging pursuant to Order No. R5-2003-0085 (NPDES Permit No. CA0079260). The Discharger petitioned the State Water Board to review Order No. R5-2003-0085 and the associated Cease and Desist Order (CDO) (Order No. R5-2003-0086). To address the petition, the State Water Board adopted Order WQO 2004-0013 on 22 July 2004, remanding the Order and the CDO to the Regional Water Board for modifications.

Order No. R5-2003-0085 expires on 1 June 2008. The Regional Water Board will consider revising and renewing Order No. R5-2003-0085 due to the significant number of issues and changes to be made to the Order based on the remand, as well as the request by the Discharger increase discharge flow at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (hereinafter Facility).

As part of the new Report of Waste Discharge, the Discharger provided a capacity evaluation for expansion of their existing Facility (with a dry weather design flow of 7.0 million gallons per day or mgd) to provide wastewater treatment for an average dry weather flow of 10.5 mgd. The Discharger provided an antidegradation analysis as part of its application to demonstrate that the increased Facility capacity is consistent with federal and State antidegradation requirements.

The proposed NPDES Permit Renewal (a major permit) authorizes the Discharger to increase the capacity of the City of Yuba City's wastewater treatment facility from 7.0 mgd to 10.5 mgd.

The proposed permit contains a significant number of new effluent limitations for pollutants that as a result of the State Water Board's remand order. The proposed effluent limitations are based on an allowable mixing zone and dilution credits under existing Feather River flow conditions, and

on a planned future increase of flow in the Feather River upon approval of the Lower Yuba River Accord by the State Water Board. The proposed permit:

- Includes revised effluent limitations for some pollutants that are less stringent than in Order No. R5-2003-0085, due primarily to the application of dilution credits as authorized under the Statewide Implementation Policy (SIP). These constituents include bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, cyanide, dibromochloromethane, dichlorobromomethane, manganese, methylene blue active substances, molybdenum, nitrite, and tetrachloroethylene. In addition, dynamic modeling resulted in effluent limitations for ammonia, copper, and zinc that are less stringent than those established in Order No. R5-2003-0085.
- Establishes effluent limitations for iron and manganese as annual averages rather than average monthly effluent limitations based on guidance from the Department of Public Health.
- Includes revised effluent limitations for aluminum that are more stringent than in Order No. R5-2003-0085.
- Does not include effluent limitations for some pollutants that do not show reasonable potential in accordance with the SIP, including arsenic, cadmium, chloroform, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, ethion, methyl tert butyl ether, nitrate + nitrite, n-nitrosodi-n-propylene, pentachlorophenol, thiobencarb, trichloroethylene, and 2,4,6-trichlorophenol.
- Does not include a concentration-based effluent limit for mercury as was established in Order No. R5-2003-0085 because mercury no longer demonstrates reasonable potential. However, this Order does establish a mass-based effluent limitation based on maintaining the mercury loading at the current level until a total maximum daily load (TMDL) can be established and USEPA develops mercury standards that are protective of human health.
- Includes effluent limitations for some pollutants that were not previously regulated under Order No. R5-2003-0085, including diethyl phthalate, lead, and thallium.
- Includes an interim performance-based effluent limitation for electrical conductivity. This interim performance-based monthly average effluent limitation of 1,000 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ for EC was derived using the maximum effluent concentration observed from the Facility to maintain the discharge of salinity at the existing discharge EC levels.

Compliance schedules are included in the permit to provide time for the Discharger to meet new final effluent limitations for aluminum, diazinon, and gamma-BHC and interim limitations are included for these constituents. A Time Schedule Order (TSO) is proposed to provide a time schedule for the Discharger to meet the new final effluent limitation for iron and includes an interim limitation.

The Discharger, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and the

Central Valley Clean Water Association submitted comments on the tentative permit. Responses to these comments are provided in the Response to Comments document. Further detail on all comments is included in the Regional Water Board Staff Report and the staff's Response to Comments.

ISSUES: Significant issues are discussed in detail in the Staff Report.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

25/26 October 2007

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