

ITEM: 22

SUBJECT: City of Davis, City of Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant, Yolo County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No. CA0079049), New Time Schedule Order, and Amending Order (amending existing Time Schedule Order No. R5-2010-0029-01)*

BACKGROUND: The City of Davis (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the City of Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), serving a population of approximately 65,622. The Facility is currently authorized to discharge up to 7.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of disinfected secondary treated effluent to two separate locations, Willow Slough Bypass and Conaway Ranch Toe Drain. Willow Slough Bypass is part of the Yolo Bypass flood protection structure and the Conaway Ranch Toe Drain is within the Yolo Bypass and the Sacramento River Watershed.

The proposed NPDES Permit renewal contains new final effluent limitations for Discharge Point No. 001 (Willow Slough Bypass) for cadmium and copper, and for Discharge Point No. 002 (Conaway Ranch Toe Drain) for methylmercury. The proposed NPDES Permit also contains new effluent limitations for both discharge points for diazinon plus chlorpyrifos, and electrical conductivity. Based on a reasonable potential analysis, the proposed NPDES Permit renewal does not retain effluent limitations for iron and settleable solids from the existing permit.

The Discharger is currently coordinating a regional water supply project to improve drinking water quality that will also improve the influent wastewater quality and thus support the Facility in achieving compliance with the proposed final effluent limitations. The Discharger is also upgrading the Facility to provide a tertiary level of treatment and UV disinfection to achieve compliance with the proposed final effluent limitations.

The proposed new Time Schedule Order (TSO) requires compliance with final effluent limitations for aluminum and copper at Discharge Point No. 001 and for aluminum at Discharge Point No. 002 by 25 October 2017 when the new Facility is operational. Additionally, the proposed Amending Order amends existing TSO No. R5-2010-0029-01 to reference the proposed NPDES Permit renewal; the existing time schedules were not amended.

ISSUES: Public comments on the tentative NPDES Permit and the tentative TSO were received from the Discharger and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Staff does not concur with all of the comments and has resolved many of the public comments through subsequent meetings and discussions. Staff has made appropriate changes to the proposed NPDES permit and proposed TSO to address comments. The Discharger has communicated to staff that they now support the proposed NPDES Permit and proposed TSO.

The following is a summary of the comments on the major permitting issues and the staff responses.

Iron. USEPA comments that there appears to be an error in the rationale for determining reasonable potential for iron and that the iron effluent limits in the existing permit based on the same water quality objective must be retained. Staff concurs that the rationale for determining reasonable potential for iron was not adequately characterized in the tentative NPDES Permit, and the proposed NPDES Permit was changed accordingly. However, Staff does not concur that the existing effluent limits for iron should be retained. The proposed NPDES Permit removes the existing iron effluent limits and provides the necessary justification regarding federal backsliding provisions.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order.

Mgmt. Review AWL

Legal Review _____

3/4 October 2013 Board Meeting

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