

ITEM: 15

SUBJECT: City of Placerville Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility,
El Dorado County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Placerville (hereafter Discharger) owns and operates the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works. The Facility provides sewerage service for the City of Placerville, a population of approximately 10,000, at a sewer rate of \$70 every two months. The tertiary treatment facility includes secondary biological treatment, tertiary pressure filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. The Facility currently discharges treated wastewater to Hangtown Creek, which is tributary to Weber Creek and the South Fork American River.

The existing NPDES permit authorize discharge of up to 2.3 million gallons per day (mgd); the existing Cease and Desist Order (CDO) require full compliance with effluent limitations for nitrates, turbidity, and total coliform, and receiving water limits for temperature, by 16 March 2006. To comply with existing waste discharge requirements, the Discharger initiated construction of treatment plant upgrades that includes an improved tertiary treatment facility, the addition of effluent cooling process and ultraviolet light disinfection. The facility upgrades are proposed to be completed by June 2009; therefore, the Discharger is currently not in compliance with the existing NPDES permit and CDO.

The proposed Order includes new final effluent limitations for aluminum, ammonia, atrazine, copper, cyanide, dibromochloromethane, dichlorobromomethane, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, MTBE, , nitrates+nitrite, persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, sulfide, total coliform organisms, turbidity, and zinc. The proposed Order also includes an interim limitation for electrical conductivity and new receiving water limitations for temperature. The propose Order and CDO includes compliance schedules for the new and/or more stringent effluent limitations.

The tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and CDO were circulated for public comments on 29 January 2008. Based on comments received from the Discharger (no other public comments received), the tentative Orders were revised and Staff Response to Comments are provided in the agenda package.

ISSUES: Salinity: The proposed Order contains an interim annual average effluent limitation for Electrical Conductivity (EC) of 850 umhos/cm. The interim limitation was established using the highest observed 12-month average of 821 umhos/cm using the most recent five years of data. Data from 2001 to 2007 indicates that the EC level in the discharge has been slowly increasing. The Discharger requests that the interim limit for EC be increased to 900 umhos/cm based on the possibility of continued

increase in salinity. Regional Water Board staff believes that 850 umhos/cm serves as a reasonable “cap” for the salinity level in the Discharger, yet requires the Discharger to put immediate attention to the reduction of salt-containing additives added to the wastewater for treatment purposes.

Compliance Schedules for Instantaneous Maximum Turbidity Effluent Limitation: The proposed CDO includes compliance schedules for new, more stringent turbidity and total coliform organism effluent limitations with the exception of the new instantaneous maximum turbidity limitation. The Discharger requested that a compliance schedule for the instantaneous maximum turbidity limitation be included. Staff does not believe a compliance schedule for the new instantaneous maximum turbidity limitation of 10 NTUs is necessary because the most recent monitoring data indicates that, with the exception of one sample resulting in a 13 NTU reading, all turbidity levels have been below 10 NTUs. Staff believes that the Discharger is currently in compliance with this new effluent limitation and no further treatment plant upgrades or source control measures are necessary for compliance with the instantaneous maximum turbidity limitation. Therefore, the tentative NPDES permit does not include a compliance schedule for the new instantaneous maximum turbidity effluent limitation.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

24/25 April 2008
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