

ITEM: 27

SUBJECT: Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1, Lake Wildwood Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit No. CA0077828)*

BACKGROUND: The Nevada County Sanitation District No. 1 is the owner of the Lake Wildwood Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), located at 12622 Pleasant Valley Road, Penn Valley, CA. The Facility provides sewerage services for the communities of Lake Wildwood and Penn Valley, serving a population of approximately 8,100. Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2009-0004, permitting an average dry weather flow of 0.69 million gallons per day (MGD). Treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to the Deer Creek, a water of the United States and a tributary to the Yuba River, within the Upper Yuba River Watershed. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board have classified this discharge a minor discharge. The proposed NPDES permit renewal includes new or more stringent effluent limits for ammonia. The proposed Order also removes effluent limits for carbon tetrachloride, chlorine residual, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, nitrite, and salinity, because the discharge no longer exhibits reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable water quality objectives for these constituents.

The Tentative Order issued on 21 January 2015, included effluent limitations based on USEPA's 2013 recommended ammonia criteria. Because a separate basin planning effort is underway to evaluate the appropriate methodology to implement USEPA's 2013 criteria, on 3 March 2015, staff issued a supplemental notice to the Discharger and interested parties noting proposed changes to the Tentative Order that would follow USEPA's 1999 recommended ammonia criteria instead of the 2013 Criteria. The Order in the agenda package implements the 1999 Criteria. Included for the Board's consideration is a change sheet that identifies the necessary changes to the Order if the Board instead decides to regulate ammonia using the 2013 Criteria.

ISSUES: A Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the discharger and interested parties on 21 January 2015 for a 30-day public comment period. Timely public comments on the tentative NPDES permit were received by the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA). A Supplemental Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the discharger and interested parties on 3 March 2015 for a 30-day public comment period noting the change from using the 2013 ammonia criteria to the 1999 ammonia criteria. Comments on the Supplemental Notice of Public Hearing are due 2 April 2015. Central Valley Water Board staff is in agreement with the proposed change submitted by CVCWA and have modified the proposed Order accordingly.

Average Weekly Effluent Limit for Nitrate plus Nitrite. Central Valley Water Board staff inadvertently excluded an Average Weekly Effluent Limit (AWEL) for nitrate plus nitrite of 20 mg/L. The AWEL of 20 mg/L was added as a final effluent limit in the proposed Order, for which the Facility can meet this limit based on historical data.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt NPDES Permit Renewal, as proposed.

Mgmt. Review ___NM___
Legal Review ___NJJ___
16/17 April 2015 Board Meeting
11685 E. Street
Fresno, CA 93706