

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Staff Summary Report
June 13, 2024

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0010 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the City of Dorris Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1A77141OSIS (Mike Reese)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2024-0010 (Proposed Order).

BACKGROUND: The Proposed Order is a renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 98-4 for the City of Dorris.

The City of Dorris (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates facilities for the collection, treatment and disposal of municipal wastewater from the City of Dorris. These facilities consist of a gravity sewer, a collection system, two lift stations and treatment and disposal in three oxidation ponds west of town. The wastewater treatment facility (Facility) was originally constructed in 1963, with minimal improvements made over the last 60 years. The Facility is located off Highway 97, in northern Siskiyou County.

The Facility has a design average daily dry weather flow of 0.120 million gallons per day (mgd). Current dry weather flows (June through October) average approximately 0.076 mgd. The Discharger submitted a complete Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) on October 2, 2023. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 98-4, adopted by the Regional Water Board on February 26, 1998, are currently in effect for the Facility.

DISCUSSION: The Proposed Order will have effluent limitations, source control provisions, discharge prohibitions and influent and effluent flow monitoring. The Proposed Order requires monthly effluent sampling, quarterly reporting, and annual reporting summarizing the Discharger's effluent monitoring results, solids handling activities, permit compliance status, and source control activities for the previous year. A source control program summary report is required by March 1st each year to assess industrial, commercial, and residential discharges to the Facility and prevent toxic pollutants from passing through or interfering with the operation of the treatment system. Additionally, the Proposed Order requires a disaster preparedness assessment report and action plan to ensure that Facility operations are not disrupted, compliance with conditions of this Order are achieved, and receiving waters are not adversely impacted by permitted and unpermitted discharges during natural disasters.

Other noteworthy inclusions in the Proposed Order include the following:

1. An explanation of how the Proposed Order complies with the Antidegradation Policy to clarify maintaining higher quality water consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State and protection of the present and anticipated beneficial uses of water. (Order section II.G).
2. Inclusion of the Human Right to Water Policy which provides that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. (Order section II.I).
3. Inclusion of the Recycled Water Policy. Although the Facility does not currently produce recycled water, the Discharger is required to submit monitoring data in accordance with the Recycled Water Policy and State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2017-0012, Comprehensive Response to Climate Change (Order section II.K). The Monitoring and Reporting Program includes annual volumetric reporting requirements to implement requirements of the State Water Board Recycled Water Policy (MRP section IV.B.4).
4. Inclusion of a discharge prohibition that clarifies accepting septage at an approved septage receiving station only upon approval of a septage management program by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. A written septage management plan would need to be submitted for such approval. (Order section III.H).
5. Inclusion of a Compliance Determination section which provides clarity on how compliance with Order requirements will be determined. (Order section IX).

A copy of the draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from January 17, 2024 through February 16, 2024. Informal comments were offered by the Discharger during the public comment window. Changes made in response to these comments are presented in the response to comments document. No other public comments were received within the comment period. Staff anticipates that the Proposed Order will be uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2024-0010, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order R1-2024-0010
2. Response to Comments
3. Notice of Public Hearing