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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region Staff Summary Report December 5, 2024

**ITEM: 4**

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0052 to consider adoption of proposed Amendment Order to modify National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2020-0012 (Permit) for the City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa Regional Water Reuse System, Laguna Treatment Plant, WDID No. 1B830990SON, NPDES No. CA0022764.

**BOARD ACTION:** The Board will consider adoption of Amendment Order No. R1-2024-0052. The Amendment Order would provide one additional year to complete Tasks 2 and 3 of the Compliance Schedule, included within section VI.C.7 of the Permit. Task 2 identifies the compliance date for the Permittee to complete construction of the on-site diversion system and UV disinfection system upgrade project, and Task 3 is the compliance date to achieve full compliance with UV system operational requirements and effluent limitations.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Santa Rosa (Permittee) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facility and provides sewerage service to a population of approximately 237,800 residential, commercial, and institutional customers. The Permittee provides wastewater treatment and disposal services for residences, businesses, and industries within the Santa Rosa area and provides service to the cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, and South Park County Sanitation District, an unincorporated area of Sonoma County. Additionally, the Facility accepts wastewater, septic waste, landfill leachate, and high strength wastes (primarily grease and food production wastes) from the surrounding communities. The Facility provides tertiary treatment and utilizes ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection to treat municipal wastewater. The Facility has an average dry-weather design flow of 21.34 million gallons per day (mgd).

The Permittee's NPDES Permit includes a compliance schedule for completion of an UV disinfection system upgrade that is critical to ensuring consistent compliance with total coliform effluent limitations and is necessary for the protection of public health. On September 16, 2024, the Permittee requested a one-year extension to the compliance dates for Tasks 2 and 3 of the compliance schedule because the Permittee requires additional time to complete this project. Regional Water Board staff agrees that an extension to the Tasks 2 and 3 compliance dates is reasonable and appropriate, as the

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construction delays were outside of the Permittee's control, and the revised compliance date to come into final compliance with total coliform effluent limitations remains less than the maximum allowable compliance schedule duration of ten years, as allowed for by the State Water Board's Policy for Compliance Schedules in NPDES Permits.

**DISCUSSION:** Amendment Order No. R1-2024-0052, modifies the time schedule included within Order No. R1-2020-0012, to provide one additional year to complete construction of the on-site diversion system and UV disinfection system upgrade project and to achieve full compliance with the disinfection system operations requirements and effluent limitations. Specifically, the due date for Task 2 of the Compliance Schedule, Complete construction of on-site diversion system and UV disinfection system upgrade project, has been changed from December 31, 2024, to December 31, 2025. Additionally, the due date for Task 3, Achieve full compliance with UV system operational requirements and effluent limitations, has been changed from September 30, 2025, to September 30, 2026.

A copy of the draft Amendment Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from September 20 through October 21, 2024, for a 30-day comment period. No comments were received regarding the Draft Amendment Order and no substantive changes have been made to the Draft Order that was released for public review.

Staff anticipates that the Proposed Amendment Order will be uncontested.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Amendment Order No. R1-2024-0052, as proposed.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Proposed Amendment Order No. R1-2024-0052
2. Revised Order No. R1-2020-0012
3. Notice of Public Hearing