

# UNCONTESTED

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Heather Ottaway)  
MEETING DATE: November 10, 2010

ITEM: **5B**

SUBJECT: **Mt. View Sanitary District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Martinez, Contra Costa County—Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: September 2006—NPDES Permit Reissued

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the Mt. View Sanitary District. The District owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant in Martinez, which has an average dry weather design treatment capacity of 3.2 million gallons per day (MGD) and can treat peak wet weather flows up to 10.94 MGD. Effluent is discharged to Moorhen Marsh, a 20-acre created wetland where the effluent receives final polishing. It then flows to Peyton Slough, where it combines with surface runoff to supply McNabney Marsh. Flows from McNabney Marsh re-enter Peyton Slough, which flows to Carquinez Strait.

The District was the only party who commented on a draft permit that we circulated for public review. As explained in our response to the District's comments (Appendix C), we revised the draft permit where appropriate, thus resolving most of the District's concerns. All revisions are shown in the Revised Tentative Order.

Most changes in the Revised Tentative Order are a result of the District's request for pre-authorization of bio-filter and bio-tower bypasses. The District's bio-filter and bio-tower are polishing units that remove ammonia from its wastewater after treatment with activated sludge. The bio-filter and bio-tower have to be maintained roughly every two years, and their operation must normally be stopped for one to two days. The District has no backup ammonia removal. Federal regulations prohibit bypass except under special circumstances and only after consideration of adverse effects. Because the District has not provided sufficient information about the potential effects of such bypasses, the permit cannot and should not pre-authorize such bypasses. Instead, we propose in the Revised Tentative Order to conditionally allow for the bypasses only after the District (1) complies with the federal regulations' circumstances for a need to bypass, and (2) collects receiving water data, including a biological assessment, demonstrating that no lasting adverse impacts occurred from the bypass. We believe this is a reasonable resolution of the District's concern and will provide clarity when the District pursues this process in the future. With our revisions, the District does not plan to contest the Revised Tentative Order.

RECOMMEN-  
DATION: Adopt the Revised Tentative Order

APPENDICES: A. Revised Tentative Order  
B. Comment Letter  
C. Response to Comments