

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Robert Schlipf)
MEETING DATE: July 13, 2011

ITEM: **5D**

SUBJECT: **Chevron Products Company, a division of Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Chevron Chemical Company LLC, and General Chemical Corporation, Richmond Refinery, Richmond, Contra Costa County - Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: June 2006 - NPDES Permit Reissued
March 2010 – NPDES Permit Amended

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for discharges from Chevron's wastewater treatment plant and stormwater outfalls. Chevron operates a petroleum refinery that processes about 244,000 barrels per day of crude oil. This results in a discharge of about 6.6 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to San Pablo Bay via a deepwater diffuser that is about 2,000 feet offshore. Chevron also discharges stormwater associated with industrial activities to San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, and creeks and channels that are tributary to San Pablo Bay.

Aside from updating technology and water quality based limits based on the most recent information, the Revised Tentative Order would also reduce the mass limit for selenium by over 10 percent. This reduction reflects Chevron's reduction in wastewater discharge volume to the Bay.

We received numerous comments (Appendix B) from Chevron, the Western States Petroleum Association, Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, the San Francisco Baykeeper, and the City of Richmond on a tentative order distributed for public review. While we disagreed with Chevron and Baykeeper on some issues, we have made many of the requested changes on other issues where appropriate and believe that we have resolved all issues. All changes proposed are described in the Response to Comments (Appendix C) and reflected in the Revised Tentative Order.

The most significant comments came from Chevron and Baykeeper. Chevron insisted that a higher dilution credit is justified for ammonia limits. Because the discharge is currently well within the proposed limits calculated using a more conservative lower dilution credit, we maintain that the more stringent limits are appropriate. Baykeeper questioned whether the proposed requirements for stormwater outfalls were adequate, and also requested that Chevron be required to monitor stormwater for toxic pollutants. We maintain that the proposed numeric limits and requirements proposed are adequate and are consistent with federal discharge standards for petroleum refineries, the Basin Plan, and statewide general stormwater provisions. Also, we maintain that continuing the allowance of relatively

small quantities of non-stormwater sources to a few of the stormwater outfalls are appropriate to encourage wastewater recycling. On the issue of monitoring, we propose including toxic pollutant monitoring at five stormwater outfalls that have the greatest potential for toxic pollutants. This will provide additional information to evaluate the adequacy of Chevron's best management practices for stormwater.

We expect this item to be uncontested.

RECOMMEND-
ATION: Adopt the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS Place ID: 252650 (RS)

Appendices: A. Revised Tentative Order
B. Comments
C. Response to Comments