

# UNCONTESTED

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (John H. Madigan)  
MEETING DATE: May 11, 2011

ITEM: **5B**

SUBJECT: **ConocoPhillips Company, San Francisco Refinery at Rodeo, Rodeo, Contra Costa County - Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: June 2005 - Permit Reissued  
March 2010 - Permit Amended

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for ConocoPhillips' San Francisco Refinery at Rodeo, a petroleum cracking refinery that produces hydrocarbon products, byproducts, and intermediates. The Revised Tentative Order covers three discharges to San Pablo Bay: (1) effluent from an onsite wastewater treatment plant that treats process wastewater and stormwater, (2) once-through cooling water, and (3) stormwater. The Revised Tentative Order would impose updated technology-based and water quality-based limits. The technology-based limits reflect recent production changes at the refinery.

We received comments (Appendix B) from ConocoPhillips, the Western States Petroleum Association, and the Baykeeper on a tentative order distributed for public review. As explained in our response to comments (Appendix C), we resolved many comments with revisions where appropriate. The Revised Tentative Order reflects all revisions made. Some issues remain. For example, the Baykeeper is concerned that the tentative order impermissibly would allow backsliding from existing technology-based limits. We disagree. The slightly increased production-based mass limits reflect ConocoPhillips' recent production rates and are consistent with federal technology-based regulations. Backsliding is allowed because ConocoPhillips' process changes are material and substantial alterations. Other concerns relate to monitoring frequencies and when the Executive Officer may extend deadlines for special studies. Nevertheless, we expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order.

CIWQS Place No.: 255284

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