

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (John H. Madigan)
MEETING DATE: February 8, 2012

ITEM: 5C

SUBJECT: **Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Associated Wastewater Collection System, Vallejo, Solano County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: August 2006 – Permit Reissued
March 2010 – Permit Amended

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant serves approximately 117,000 people in Vallejo, Mare Island, and nearby areas. During dry weather, the plant discharges up to 15.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of secondary-treated wastewater to Carquinez Strait through an offshore deepwater outfall. During extreme high wet-weather flows, the plant discharges secondary-treated wastewater through a second outfall into Mare Island Strait, and discharges a blend of primary-treated and secondary-treated wastewater through its Carquinez Strait outfall. In 2010, the average dry weather flow to Carquinez Strait was 9.3 mgd, and the total volume discharged to Mare Island Strait was 43.2 million gallons or about one percent of the total discharged. Discharges to both outfalls are required to be in compliance with the same discharge limits.

The District and several public water agencies submitted comments (Appendix B) on a draft permit. As explained in our response to comments (Appendix C), we resolved many comments by revising the draft permit. All revisions are shown in the attached Revised Tentative Order. The water agencies, in particular, expressed concerns that the discharge could contribute to harmful ammonium concentrations in Suisun Bay. Based on the hydrology of Carquinez and Mare Island straits, we believe little, if any, of the ammonium in this discharge reaches Suisun Bay. However, the water agencies may choose to reiterate or expand upon their concerns before the Board since their comments are nearly identical to those they submitted on the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District permit reissuance (item 7 at this month's hearing).

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order.

CIWQS Place No. 270006 (JHM)

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