

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Elizabeth Christian)  
MEETING DATE: November 14, 2012

ITEM: **5D**

SUBJECT: **Montezuma Wetlands LLC, Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project, Solano County** – Issuance of Updated Waste Discharge Requirements and Rescission of Order No. 00-061

CHRONOLOGY: July 2000 –Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) adopted

DISCUSSION: The Tentative Order (Appendix A) updates WDRs that regulate the placement of sediment from navigational dredging projects at the Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project (Project), located at the eastern edge of the Suisun Marsh. Approximately 17.5 million cubic yards (cy) of sediment is needed to raise historically diked and drained tidal marsh to elevations appropriate for the restoration of 1,628 acres of tidal marsh. The Project will also restore or enhance 249 acres of other types of wetland habitats without using dredged material. The Project is one of two large wetland restoration projects currently available to beneficially reuse dredged sediment as a resource, while reducing the need for in-bay and ocean disposal of such sediment. It is therefore consistent with the goals of the Long Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region.

Although the Project has experienced slower-than-expected sediment delivery since its opening in December 2003, Phase I, which at 873 acres is the largest of four hydrologically-separate project phases, is on track to be filled and breached to restore tidal action within the next two years. Approximately 3.6 million cy of dredged sediment has been placed to within one to two feet of design elevation in 350 acres of the Project site.

The Tentative Order updates the existing WDRs and Self-Monitoring Program to reflect minor improvements to project design and operations, which are necessary to adaptively manage the Project. The improvements are based on knowledge gained during monitoring and input from a technical review team made up of resource agencies and outside experts.

The Tentative Order also rescinds the existing order. We circulated the Tentative Order to the discharger, other responsible agencies, and interested parties, and did not receive any comments.

RECOMMEN-  
DATION: Adoption of the Tentative Order

CIWQS Place: 201051

APPENDIX A. Tentative Order