

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Bill Johnson)  
MEETING DATE: August 14, 2013

**ITEM:** 6

**SUBJECT:** Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant, North Point Wet Weather Facility, Bayside Wet Weather Facilities, and Wastewater Collection System, City and County of San Francisco – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

**CHRONOLOGY:** July 2008 – Permit reissued

**DISCUSSION:** This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for San Francisco’s Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant, North Point Wet Weather Facility, Bayside Wet Weather Facilities, and wastewater collection system. These facilities collect and treat sanitary, commercial, and industrial wastewaters from the east side of San Francisco. Because the City operates a combined sewer system, its facilities also collect and treat urban runoff during dry weather and stormwater runoff during wet weather.

The Southeast Plant has a dry weather secondary treatment capacity of 85.4 million gallons per day (MGD). In recent years, its average dry weather flow has been 58 MGD. During storm conditions, it provides primary and secondary treatment for up to 250 MGD. Primary treatment is the first level of treatment consisting of physical processes, and secondary treatment includes a higher level of treatment consisting of biological processes. Up to 110 MGD can be discharged through an outfall 43 feet deep at the end of Pier 80. Above this volume, the secondary-treated effluent is discharged to a shoreline outfall near Quint Street, while the rest consisting of primary and secondary effluent discharges to the Pier 80 outfall.

During wet weather, the North Point Wet Weather Facility may discharge primary disinfected effluent from four deepwater outfalls near Piers 33 and 35. During exceptional storms (just a few times each year), discharges can also occur from any of 29 shoreline outfalls—these discharges typically last only a few hours and receive equivalent-to-primary treatment, without disinfection.

We revised a tentative order distributed for public review in response to numerous comments received from the City, U.S. EPA, and Bay Area

Clean Water Agencies (Appendix B). Among other concerns, the City objects to a receiving water limitation that would prohibit discharges that cause violations of water quality standards. We disagree. As explained in our response (Appendix C), the receiving water limit serves as a backstop in the event that the effluent limitations and other provisions in the permit prove to be inadequate. (The same receiving water limitation appears in nearly all NPDES permits in the Region including the City's previous permits.) While we have added clarifying language to the Revised Tentative Order in response to the City's concerns, we anticipate that the City may testify at the Board hearing to reiterate its concerns.

**RECOMMEN-** Adopt the Revised Tentative Order  
**DATION:**

**CIWQS:** Place ID 256499

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