

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Vincent Christian)  
MEETING DATE: March 13, 2013

ITEM: **5B**

SUBJECT: **Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, Fairfield-Suisun Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fairfield, Solano County** – Amendment of NPDES Permit and Rescission of Cease and Desist Order

CHRONOLOGY: April 2009 – NPDES Permit reissued and Cease and Desist Order adopted

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would amend the NPDES permit and rescind the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) for the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, which owns and operates an 18 million gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant serving Fairfield, Suisun City, and nearby areas.

The Revised Tentative Order would amend the permit to increase the effluent limits for cyanide when the District discharges wastewater at its alternate discharge locations, and it rescinds the CDO that required the District to take actions to reduce cyanide, copper, chlorodibromomethane, and dichlorobromomethane concentrations. In 2011, the District converted its disinfection method from chlorine treatment to ultra-violet treatment, and this change has significantly reduced cyanide, chlorodibromomethane, and dichlorobromomethane concentrations. The District also implemented pollution prevention measures that have reduced copper concentrations below effluent limits.

While the new disinfection method has significantly reduced cyanide concentrations, the District also did a mixing zone study to evaluate the potential impacts of cyanide discharges at its alternate discharge locations. As allowed by the State Implementation Policy, the Revised Tentative Order would increase the effluent concentrations allowed at the District's alternate discharge locations based on information provided in the mixing zone study. The new proposed effluent limits at the alternate discharge locations are the same as the effluent limits at the primary discharge location. Because the District can now comply with all effluent limits in its permit, once amended by the Revised Tentative Order, the CDO is no longer necessary and can be rescinded.

The District submitted comments (Appendix B) on a tentative order distributed for public review, endorsing the tentative order and requesting minor formatting changes of the figures to make to labels more legible. We revised the tentative order as appropriate and have made additional minor formatting and editing changes. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

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Appendices: A. Revised Tentative Order  
B. District Comments