

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Vincent Christian)
MEETING DATE: May 8, 2013

ITEM: **5E**

SUBJECT: **West County Agency, West County Wastewater District, City of Richmond, and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No.1; West County Wastewater District Water Pollution Control Plant, Richmond Municipal Sewer District Water Pollution Control Plant, and Wastewater Collection Systems; Richmond, Contra Costa County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: January 2008– NPDES Permit reissued

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the West County Agency and its associated dischargers. The permit covers two separate wastewater treatment plants serving Richmond and nearby areas. One plant is located in north Richmond and the other is in southwest Richmond. Together, they provide secondary treatment for about 17 million gallons per day of domestic and industrial wastewater for about 160,000 people. The two plants combine their effluent and discharge it through a common outfall about 30 feet deep into Central San Francisco Bay about 1.5 miles offshore west of Pt. Richmond.

The West County Agency, U.S. EPA, San Francisco Baykeeper, and Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) submitted comments (Appendix B) on a tentative order distributed for public review. We prepared a response to the comments (Appendix C) and revised the tentative order where appropriate.

Due to the growing concern regarding nutrients in San Francisco Bay, and to avoid backsliding, this tentative order retains existing ammonia effluent limits from the previous order. West County Agency and BACWA requested higher limits to allow for increases in ammonia concentrations due to wastewater recycling and water conservation. However, they presented no information quantifying the potential increase and no information demonstrating that the West County Agency will be unable to comply with the existing limits. We think the West County Agency can comply for the duration of the coming permit term. Nevertheless, we added to the Revised Tentative Order a specific reopener provision in the event that the West County Agency makes a more compelling case for higher limits in the future.

CIWQS Place ID: 215234

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