

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (John H. Madigan)
MEETING DATE: June 11, 2014

ITEM: **5A**

SUBJECT: **City of Benicia, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Benicia, Solano County -
Reissuance of NPDES Permit and Rescission of Cease and Desist Order**

CHRONOLOGY: March 2008 – NPDES permit and Cease and Desist Order adopted
February 2010 – Permit amended with site specific objective-based cyanide limits

DISCUSSION: The City of Benicia’s Wastewater Treatment Plant provides secondary treatment of domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater from within the City, serving a population of about 28,000 people. During dry weather, the plant is permitted to discharge up to 4.5 million gallons a day of secondary-treated wastewater to Carquinez Strait through a deepwater outfall approximately 500 feet offshore.

The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the City’s NPDES permit with updated effluent limits and requirements. For example, the limits for copper and cyanide would be slightly more stringent, and a conditional allowance in the current permit for discharge of small quantities of primary-treated effluent blended with secondary effluent during extreme wet weather (referred to as “blended effluent”) would be eliminated. The discharge of blended effluent is no longer needed because of the City’s efforts since 2000, and ongoing efforts, that have increased influent storage and reduced wet weather inflow and infiltration.

The Revised Tentative Order would also rescind a cease and desist order (CDO) that the Board issued to address compliance with cyanide limits before the limits were adjusted to reflect the Board’s 2009 site specific objectives. The CDO is no longer needed because the City has completed required actions and would comply with the limits proposed in the Revised Tentative Order.

We received comments from the City (Appendix B) on a draft permit published for public comment and have prepared responses (Appendix C) and made revisions, including staff-initiated minor editorial and formatting changes, where appropriate. All revisions are reflected in the Revised Tentative Order. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS PLACE ID: 209253

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