

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (William Burrell)
MEETING DATE: July 8, 2020

ITEM: **5A**

SUBJECT: **Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, Sewage Treatment Plant and Wastewater Collection System, San Rafael, Marin County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: May 2015 – Permit reissued

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Sewage Treatment Plant and wastewater collection system. The plant serves about 30,000 people in the northern part of San Rafael and unincorporated portions of Marin County, providing secondary treatment for an average of 2.6 million gallons per day (MGD). The plant discharges effluent to Miller Creek, which flows to San Pablo Bay. The District is permitted to only discharge seasonally (November through May). During the dry season, the District uses treated effluent to irrigate pasturelands.

The Revised Tentative Order would update the permit based on current data and updated State and regional policies and regulations. We received no comments on the tentative order; however, we made editorial changes in Fact Sheet section VIII.C (Public Participation) to reflect that the public hearing was held by webinar.

Two significant changes from the previous order include the following: (1) the Revised Tentative Order would require the District to construct a new biological treatment system to reduce wet weather bypasses and comply with more stringent effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, and ammonia; and (2) the Revised Tentative Order would remove the previous order's chronic toxicity effluent limitations because there is no longer reasonable potential for the discharge to cause chronic toxicity in receiving water. U.S. EPA had objected to a draft of the previous order based on our outdated approach to chronic toxicity permit requirements, which resulted in numeric chronic toxicity effluent limits in the adopted order. This was the first time such limits were included in a POTW permit in our region. Because the relatively high chronic toxicity observed at that time, which triggered the need for the limits, has not been observed since, the numeric limits may now be removed.

We expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

FILE: CW-236598

APPENDIX: A. Revised Tentative Order

Appendix A
Revised Tentative Order