

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (James Parrish)
MEETING DATE: June 10, 2020

ITEM: 5A

SUBJECT: **Novato Sanitary District, Novato Sanitary District
Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System,
Novato, Marin County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

CHRONOLOGY: July 2015 – Permit reissued

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the Novato Sanitary District (District) Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant provides secondary treatment of domestic and non-domestic wastewater from the City of Novato and adjacent unincorporated Marin County, serving a population of about 60,000. The plant treats about 5.0 million gallons per day of wastewater for discharge to San Pablo Bay.

The Revised Tentative Order would remove the Regional Water Board's dry season discharge prohibition. This change would enable the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to restore wetlands on pasturelands that the District currently irrigates with its effluent during the dry season. These wetlands would create continuous tidal habitat around San Pablo Bay that promote climate change resiliency and improve flood and sediment conveyance along Novato Creek. The Revised Tentative Order would also continue to allow the District to relocate its discharge outfall about 1.2 miles inland to support a new marsh south of Bel Marin Keys as part of a State Coastal Conservancy wetland restoration project; this marsh would be a part of San Pablo Bay and would rely on the District's effluent as a freshwater source.

We received comments from the District (Appendix B) on a draft permit distributed for public review. We prepared a response to those comments (Appendix C) that explain changes reflected in the Revised Tentative Order. The most significant change was to clarify the District's level of treatment. We also made editorial changes in Fact Sheet section VIII.C (Public Participation) to reflect that the public hearing was held virtually. We expect this item to be uncontested.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:** Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS: CW-244705

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

Appendix A
Revised Tentative Order

Appendix B

Comments

In accordance with Section 11546.7 of the California Government Code, an electronic version of the comments received have not been posted online as they do not meet specified accessibility standards. For an electronic copy of the comments, please see the contact information provided in Fact Sheet section VIII.G of the revised tentative order.

Appendix C
Response to Comments