

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Gaurav Mittal
MEETING DATE: December 15, 2021

ITEM: 7

Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC, Tesoro Martinez Facility, Martinez, Contra Costa County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

DISCUSSION

This Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for discharges from the Tesoro Martinez Facility. Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC owns and operates the facility, which used to process about 161,000 barrels of crude oil per day and discharge about 4.4 million gallons of treated wastewater per day. Tesoro has idled refinery processes, however, while it transitions to processing new renewable feedstocks. Within two years, the facility is projected to process approximately 48,000 barrels per day of crop-based oils, rendered fats, and other biological oils to produce diesel, propane, and naphtha. This will result in a projected discharge of about 3.1 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to Suisun Bay. The facility also discharges stormwater to Lower Walnut Creek and Hastings Slough.

We developed new technology-based effluent limitations for the new wastewater discharge based on “best professional judgement” as required by federal regulations when U.S. EPA has not promulgated effluent limit guidelines for a process. Specifically, we included limits for biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, oil and grease, and pH based on Basin Plan Table 4-2 to ensure adequate treatment. Tesoro’s *Projected Effluent Quality* study indicates that it can comply with these limits. We also developed water quality-based limitations for ammonia, copper, cyanide, nickel, selenium, and dioxins and furans because Tesoro’s study estimated that there is a reasonable potential that concentrations of these pollutants could exceed water quality objectives. These technology-based and water quality-based effluent limitations, coupled with lower projected discharge flows, should result in lower pollutant loading to San Francisco Bay when compared to the past. For example, selenium loads are expected to be less than half of those associated with the previous discharge.

Tesoro is developing a strategy to manage and mitigate potential effects of sea level rise in response to our Water Code section 13383 requirement to conduct a vulnerability assessment and develop adaptation strategies by February 1, 2022.

We expect this item to be uncontested.

APPENDIX

A. Tentative Order

Appendix A
Tentative Order