

ITEM: 5C

Waste Discharge Requirements for Mercury and PCBs from Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Discharges to San Francisco Bay – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

DISCUSSION:

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for discharges of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from almost 50 municipal and industrial wastewater dischargers to San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. This permit implements the wasteload allocations and implementation requirements of the San Francisco Bay Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), adopted by the Board in 2006, and the PCBs TMDL, adopted by the Board in 2008.

The most significant change from the previous order is that the Revised Tentative Order would reduce monitoring frequencies for PCB congeners for most dischargers. Reducing PCB congeners monitoring is appropriate because PCB loads from municipal and industrial dischargers are well below their overall wasteload allocations, the cost for each PCB analysis is relatively high, and the reduced monitoring frequencies will be sufficient to characterize PCB loads to San Francisco Bay.

The Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA); USS-UPI, LLC; and the Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District submitted comments (Appendix B) on a draft order circulated for public review. BACWA requested removal of a provision that addresses how to proceed if permit provisions are discovered to conflict, duplicate, or overlap. We retained the provision because it provides clarity in the unlikely event that this happens, as explained in our Response to Comments (Appendix C). All other comments were minor and we revised the draft order where appropriate, as detailed in the Response to Comments. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

APPENDICES:

- A. Revised Tentative Order
- B. Comments
- C. Response to Comments

Appendix A
Revised Tentative Order

Appendix B

Comments

For an electronic copy of the comments, please contact James Parrish via email to James.Parrish@waterboards.ca.gov or at (510) 622-2381.

Appendix C

Response to Comments