

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Gaurav Mittal
MEETING DATE: November 9, 2022

ITEM: 6

Martinez Refining Company, LLC, Martinez Refining Company, Martinez, Contra Costa County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

DISCUSSION

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for discharges from the Martinez Refining Company refinery. Martinez Refining Company, LLC owns and operates the facility, which processes about 140,000 barrels of crude oil per day, producing propane, butanes, gasolines, diesel, jet fuels, marine fuel oil, and petroleum coke. It mainly generates wastewater from desalting crude oil, sour water, boiler blowdown, cooling tower blowdown, and groundwater from extraction systems. It discharges about 5.3 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to Carquinez Strait. It also discharges stormwater to Peyton Slough and Peyton Creek.

The most significant difference between the Revised Tentative Order and the previous order is that it would require Martinez Refining Company to replace its old biotreater (Pond 7) with a new unit, which will improve overall treatment. The Order also implements the *State Policy for Water Quality Control: Toxicity Provisions* once U.S. EPA approves the provisions.

We received comments (Appendix B) from San Francisco Baykeeper on a tentative order circulated for public review. San Francisco Baykeeper asserts that the Board should reject the Tentative Order and require Martinez Refining Company to reduce selenium loads because current selenium concentrations in Suisun Bay are not protective. In response, we explained that the Tentative Order implements the North San Francisco Bay Selenium TMDL which establishes the basis for implementing selenium effluent limits in NPDES permits. To change permit limits, the TMDL would first need to be revised. Additionally, we revised the Tentative Order to include a provision that requires Martinez Refining Company to implement measures to keep selenium discharges below its wasteload allocation. We prepared a response to comments (Appendix C) that further explains these issues, plus all revisions made to the Revised Tentative Order.

We expect San Francisco Baykeeper to contest this item.

APPENDICES

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

Appendix A
Revised Tentative Order

Appendix B

Comments

For an electronic copy of the comments, please see the contact information provided in Fact Sheet section 8.7 of the revised tentative order.

Appendix C

Response to Comments