

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: William Burrell
MEETING DATE: March 8, 2023

ITEM: 5A

Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Wastewater Treatment Plant and Intertie Pipeline System, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

DISCUSSION:

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue an NPDES permit for the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Wastewater Treatment Plant and Intertie Pipeline System. The Sewer Authority collects, treats, and disinfects about 1.5 million gallons per day of domestic wastewater from the City of Half Moon Bay, the Granada Community Services District, and the Montara Water and Sanitary District. The service area population is about 26,000. Following dechlorination, secondary-treated wastewater is discharged through an outfall extending 1,900 feet into the Pacific Ocean.

While the Sewer Authority does not currently recycle treated wastewater, it is evaluating the use of ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet disinfection to treat up to 50 percent of secondary-treated effluent for indirect potable reuse. Reject water from ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis would be blended with the final effluent prior to discharge. In addition to membrane filtration and ultraviolet disinfection facilities, the project would require an effluent diversion pipeline to convey effluent from the secondary clarifiers to the recycled water treatment system, an effluent equalization basin to providing a constant flow to the recycled water treatment system, a recycled water storage basin, and pipes to convey the recycled water concentrate to the existing ocean outfall for disposal. The Revised Tentative Order includes requirements that account for this project.

This Revised Tentative Order would continue to allow the discharge described above. It would also update effluent limits for enterococcus and total coliform, and include new receiving water limits for enterococcus, fecal coliform, and total coliform that conform to the 2019 *Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy* amendment to the California Ocean Plan.

We received comments (Appendix B) from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Sewer Authority on a draft permit circulated for public review. Appendix C contains our responses. The Sewer Authority supports adoption of the Tentative Order. The Sanctuary requests that we include additional notification and reporting requirements to make it aware of any noncompliance or changes in operations that could adversely affect water quality in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. In response, we revised the tentative order to require the Sewer Authority to provide copies of reports detailing any noncompliance or changes in operations (e.g., discharge of brine from a recycled water project) to the Sanctuary. The Revised Tentative Order also includes minor editorial and formatting changes. We anticipate that this item will remain uncontested.

APPENDIX:

- 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 William Burrell via email to William.Burrell@waterboards.ca.gov or at (510) 622-2317.

Appendix C
Response to Comments