

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Gaurav Mittal
MEETING DATE: March 8, 2023

ITEM: 5B

Silicon Valley Clean Water, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Wastewater Collection System, Redwood City, San Mateo County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

DISCUSSION

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for discharges from the Silicon Valley Clean Water Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves a population of about 220,000 people within the cities of Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, Menlo Park, Atherton, and Portola Valley, and areas of East Palo Alto and unincorporated parts of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The facility discharges about 13.6 million gallons per day of advanced secondary treated wastewater to the main shipping channel in Lower San Francisco Bay through a deepwater diffuser about 6,700 feet offshore. The facility produces about 21 million gallons per month of recycled water, which is about five percent of its influent wastewater. It plans to increase its recycled water production through the Potable Reuse Exploratory Plan.

The most significant difference between the Revised Tentative Order and the previous order is that it implements the *State Policy for Water Quality Control: Toxicity Provisions* (Toxicity Provisions) once U.S. EPA approves them.

We received comments (Appendix B) from Silicon Valley Clean Water on a draft permit distributed for public review. Appendix C contains our responses. Silicon Valley Clean Water's most significant comment related to the frequency of chronic toxicity monitoring after U.S. EPA approves the Toxicity Provisions. It requested that we reduce the required frequency from monthly to quarterly. We revised the draft permit to reduce the monitoring frequency if all chronic toxicity tests "pass" for two consecutive years conducted at an instream waste concentration (i.e., concentration of effluent in the receiving water after applying a dilution credit) of 1.25 percent. We also corrected typographical errors and made some minor editorial and formatting changes. We anticipate that this item will 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 Gaurav Mittal via email Gaurav.Mittal@waterboards.ca.gov or at (510) 622-2407.

Appendix C
Response to Comments