

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Samuel Plummer  
MEETING DATE: November 8, 2023

**ITEM: 6B**

**Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin, Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System, Mill Valley, Marin County – Reissuance of NPDES permit**

**DISCUSSION:**

This Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin's wastewater treatment plant and collection system. The plant serves a population of about 29,000, providing secondary treatment of domestic wastewater from six satellite collection systems: Almonte Sanitary District, Alto Sanitary District, Homestead Valley Sanitary District, City of Mill Valley, Richardson Bay Sanitary District, and Tamalpais Community Services District.

The plant can provide biological treatment for up to 24.7 million gallons per day (MGD). During dry weather, the plant discharges an average of 2.5 MGD. During peak wet weather, stormwater inflow and infiltration into the collection system can result in flows that exceed the plant's biological treatment capacity. To prevent microbial washout, the Agency bypasses the portion of primary-treated wastewater above 24.7 MGD around the biological treatment units and blends it with fully treated wastewater. The plant discharges treated wastewater through a deepwater outfall to Raccoon Strait in Central San Francisco Bay that it shares with the Sanitary District No. 5 of Marin County in Tiburon.

The Tentative Order would continue to allow the Agency to discharge secondary treated wastewater to Raccoon Strait, while updating requirements to reflect recent regulatory changes. The most significant differences between the Tentative Order and the previous order are that it would include new toxicity requirements based on the State Water Board's *State Policy for Water Quality Control: Toxicity Provisions* and increase effluent limitations for ammonia based on an updated dilution study. The Tentative Order's ammonia effluent limitations will continue to protect aquatic life.

We circulated the Tentative Order for public review and did not receive any comments. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

**APPENDIX:**

A. Tentative Order

Appendix A  
Tentative Order