

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

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

**ITEM: 7**

**Chevron Products Company (a division of Chevron U.S.A. Inc.) and Chevron Environmental Management Company, Chevron Products Company Richmond Refinery, Richmond, Contra Costa County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

**DISCUSSION:**

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue an NPDES permit for the Chevron Products Company Richmond Refinery. The 2,900-acre petroleum refinery processes an average crude oil throughput of 251,000 barrels per day. The facility treats and discharges an average 6.1 million gallons per day of process water, non-process water, and stormwater to San Pablo Bay and Central San Francisco Bay.

This Revised Tentative Order would update several requirements. It would impose new effluent limits for acute and chronic toxicity that conform to the *State Policy for Water Quality Control: Toxicity Provisions* that U.S. EPA approved in May 2023. It would also allow Chevron to move forward with a recycled water project that would divert up to 1.5 million gallons per day of treated wastewater from its bioreactor to a recycled water facility that would provide additional treatment through microfiltration and reversos osmosis. This recycled water would be used in refinery boilers and reduce Chevron's reliance on potable water. A pilot study to investigate the feasibility and impacts of this recycled water project is scheduled to begin in late 2023 or early 2024.

We received comments (Appendix B) from Chevron Products Company and San Francisco Baykeeper on the Tentative Order and prepared responses to comments (Appendix C). Chevron requests that we allow it to collect stormwater samples from basins prior to discharge. In response, we revised the Tentative Order to provide this flexibility. San Francisco Baykeeper asserts that the Board should reject the Tentative Order and require the Chevron Richmond Refinery to reduce selenium loads because it claims that current selenium concentrations in North San Francisco Bay are not protective. In response, we explain that the selenium effluent limit in the Tentative Order implements the North San Francisco Bay Selenium TMDL. The Revised Tentative Order also includes minor editorial and formatting changes.

We anticipate that San Francisco Baykeeper will present oral testimony regarding this matter.

**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](mailto:William.Burrell@waterboards.ca.gov) or at (510) 622-2317.

Appendix C  
Response to Comments