

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Alessandra Moyer
MEETING DATE: October 11, 2023

ITEM: 4A

**City of San Mateo and City of Foster City Estero Municipal Improvement District,
City of San Mateo and Estero Municipal Improvement District Water Quality Control Plant
and Collection System, San Mateo, San Mateo County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

DISCUSSION:

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the City of San Mateo and Estero Municipal Improvement District Water Quality Control Plant and collection system. The City of San Mateo and the City of Foster City Estero Municipal Improvement District own and operate the plant, which provides secondary wastewater treatment for a population of about 150,000 people in the cities of San Mateo and Foster City, the Town of Hillsborough, and portions of the City of Belmont and unincorporated San Mateo County. The plant discharges about 10 million gallons per day of secondary-treated wastewater to Lower San Francisco Bay through a deepwater outfall about 3,700 feet offshore.

The Revised Tentative Order contains updated requirements, including new bacteria and toxicity limits. Like the previous order, the Revised Tentative Order includes approval for planned upgrades to the plant, including a new headworks, enhanced secondary treatment via a membrane bioreactor system, and a supplemental biological treatment system to accommodate higher-volume wet weather flows.

The City of San Mateo submitted one comment (Appendix B) on a tentative order circulated for public review. The City requested that we adjust the deadline to conduct chronic toxicity species sensitivity screening to be within 18 months of its new treatment units coming online; this change would allow the screening results to be representative of the upgraded treatment plant's discharge. We agree and revised the draft order accordingly. We also made a few staff--initiated changes, the most substantive being an increase in the *Enterococcus* monitoring frequency to ensure year-round bacteria surveillance in the discharge. These revisions are detailed in Appendix C (Response to Comment and Staff-Initiated Changes). We expect the Revised Tentative Order to remain uncontested.

APPENDIX:

- A. Revised Tentative Order
- B. Comments
- C. Response to Comment and Staff-Initiated Changes

Appendix A
Revised Tentative Order

Appendix B

Comment

For an electronic copy of the comments, please contact
Alessandra Moyer via email at Alessandra.Moyer@waterboards.ca.gov
or at (510) 622-2116.

Appendix C
Response to Comment and
Staff-Initiated Changes