

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Natlie Lee
MEETING DATE: October 11, 2023

ITEM: 4B

Sanitary District No. 5 of Marin County, Sanitary District No. 5 Main Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tiburon, Marin County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit

DISCUSSION:

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the Sanitary District No. 5 of Marin County Main Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection system. The District owns and operates the plant, which provides secondary wastewater treatment for about 8,400 people in the City of Belvedere, the Town of Tiburon, and unincorporated areas of the Tiburon Peninsula. The plant discharges treated wastewater through a deepwater outfall to Raccoon Strait in Central San Francisco Bay.

The Revised Tentative Order contains updated requirements, including new tasks requiring the District to rehabilitate its collection system to reduce wet weather flows and minimize wet weather bypasses. Like the previous order, the Revised Tentative Order includes explicit approval for wet weather bypasses subject to specific conditions. The plant can provide biological treatment for up to 2.3 million gallons per day, which is about four times the District's average dry weather flow. During peak wet weather, inflow and infiltration into the collection system can result in flows that exceed the plant's biological treatment capacity. To prevent microbial washout in biological treatment units, the plant sometimes bypasses the portion of primary-treated flows above its biological treatment capacity around biological treatment. This happened 13 times during the previous permit term.

We did not receive comments on a tentative order circulated for public review. However, we made a few staff--initiated changes as described in Appendix B, the most substantive being an increase in the enterococcus monitoring frequency to ensure year-round bacteria surveillance in the discharge. We expect the Revised Tentative Order to remain uncontested.

APPENDIX:

- A. Revised Tentative Order
- B. Staff-Initiated Changes

Appendix A
Revised Tentative Order

Appendix B

Staff-Initiated Changes