

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Kerry O'Connor  
MEETING DATE: June 12, 2024

**ITEM: 5B**

**West County Agency, West County Wastewater District, City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1; West County Wastewater District Treatment Plant, Richmond Municipal Sewer District Water Pollution Control Plant, and Wastewater Collection systems, Richmond, Contra Costa County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

**DISCUSSION:**

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the West County Agency, West County Wastewater District, and City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1. The West County Agency is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) whose members are the West County Wastewater District, City of Richmond, and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1. The JPA members plan to dissolve the JPA within this permit term, at which time West County Agency's obligations under this Tentative Order will be transferred to the West County Wastewater District, City of Richmond, and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1.

The West County Wastewater District owns and operates the West County Wastewater Treatment Plant and its associated sanitary sewer system and provides secondary treatment for about 7.2 million gallons of wastewater per day. The City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1 own the Richmond Municipal Sewer District Water Pollution Control Plant and its associated sanitary sewer system and provide secondary treatment for about 4.9 million gallons of wastewater per day. The effluent from the two plants is combined and dechlorinated before discharge to Central San Francisco Bay via the West County Agency Common Outfall.

The Revised Tentative Order would continue to allow the West County Agency, West County Wastewater District, City of Richmond, and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1 to discharge secondary treated wastewater to Central San Francisco Bay via the West County Agency Outfall.

During the previous order term, the City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1 constructed a new headworks with bar screens and grit removal, replaced mechanical surface aerators with a diffused aeration system, and jointly replaced the shared dechlorination system with the West County Wastewater District. These improvements were completed on January 4, 2024, and the City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1 have since not reported any effluent limit violations.

To further improve treatment reliability, the Revised Tentative Order requires the City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1 to replace their dissolved air flotation thickener with a rotary drum thickener. It also requires the City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District No. 1 to complete a condition assessment, conduct repairs, and prepare and implement a preventative maintenance schedule for their sludge leachate line. The sludge leachate line transports both sludge from the Richmond Municipal Sewer District Water Pollution Control Plant to the West County Wastewater District Water Pollution Control Plant, and leachate from the West County Contra Costa sanitary landfill to the Richmond Municipal Sewer District Water Pollution Control Plant for treatment.

We circulated the Tentative Order for public review and received comments (Attachment B) from the West County Wastewater District. It requested that we revise the minimum investment requirement for its gravity sewer improvement projects and allow the investment to apply to its entire sanitary sewer system. We prepared a response to the comments (Appendix C) that accommodates West County Wastewater District's requests and explains revisions made to the Revised Tentative Order. We also made a few minor editorial and formatting changes to the Revised Tentative Order. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

**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 Kerry O'Connor via email at [Kerry.OConnor@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kerry.OConnor@waterboards.ca.gov) or at (510) 622-2465.

Appendix C  
Response to Comments