

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

**STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Debbie Phan
MEETING DATE: February 11, 2026**

ITEM: 6A

**Novato Sanitary District, Novato Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant and
Sanitary Sewer System, Novato, Marin County – Reissuance of NPDES Permit**

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DISCUSSION:

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the Novato Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant and sanitary sewer system, which serves a population of approximately 60,000 within the City of Novato. The facility provides secondary treatment of domestic and industrial wastewater and has an average dry weather design flow of 7.0 million gallons per day and a peak wet weather capacity of 47 million gallons per day. The treated wastewater discharges to San Pablo Bay through a multiport diffuser located about 950 feet offshore.

The Revised Tentative Order reflects updated state and regional policies and regulations. It would also remove the receiving water limitations contained in the previous order that served as backstops for unanticipated circumstances or changes to effluent quality that could affect water quality. This is consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *City and County of San Francisco, California v. Environmental Protection Agency* (2025) 145 S.Ct. 704, which held that, under the Clean Water Act, NPDES permits issued by the U.S. EPA may not include end-result requirements. The Revised Tentative Order does not include additional requirements in lieu of receiving water limitations because the proposed effluent limitations are sufficient to protect water quality. The Revised Tentative Order would retain provisions that prohibit the treatment of pollutants and the storage and treatment of sludge and biosolids from creating a nuisance. The nuisance provisions would implement state law only and would not be enforceable under the Clean Water Act.

We did not receive formal comments on a draft circulated for public review. We made staff-initiated changes (Appendix B) to add an additional reopen provision related to chronic toxicity and correct typographical errors. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

APPENDICES:

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

Appendix A

Revised Tentative Order

Appendix B

Staff-Initiated Changes