

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 29-30, 2015

Prepared on January 23, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: 9

SUBJECT: Draft Proposed Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2010-0011, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0048143 for the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Facility, City of Santa Barbara

KEY INFORMATION: The City's consultant discovered an error in one of the City's original documents used by staff to make the findings in the permit amendment. The consultant provided updated information including the correct calculations.

ISSUE:

1. Joe Monaco of Dudek, environmental consultant for the City of Santa Barbara, highlighted that the 1994 Environmental Impact Report by the City of Santa Barbara used the incorrect intake volume in calculating entrainment effects. This calculation of plankton mortality was used in the findings of the permit amendment to explain mitigation measures. However, new calculations using the corrected, increased intake volume show the range of plankton mortality to be within the same range as was previously published. Thus, the finding made in the permit that entrainment effects from the intake were less than significant is still valid.

Staff Response: Staff recommends correcting the permit as indicated by the following amendments.

Add footnote 1 to Amended Order No. R3-2010-011, page G-6, at the end of paragraph 1 (insertions underlined):

...plankton data collected offshore of Ormond Beach, down coast of Santa Barbara, between 1982 and 1984, where average plankton volumes varied between 100 cc and 1,200 cc of plankton per 1,000 cubic meters (cm) of seawater; (2) a conservatively high seawater flow volume estimate of 500,000 gallons per day (or 560 AFY); and (3) a constant seawater intake velocity of 0.1 feet/second (3 cm/second).¹

THE FOLLOWING TO BE INCLUDED AS A FOOTNOTE:

¹ The volume of water cited for the plankton mortality in Appendix D of the 1994 EIR was incorrect. The assumed volume (500,000 gpd, or 0.5 mgd) was inaccurate; the production capacity analyzed in the EIR was up to 10,000 AFY, or about 9 mgd rather

than 0.5 mgd. The assumed intake velocity of 0.1 ft per second does correspond to the stated intake flow rate of 15,898 gpm. Using the correct intake volume, the estimated plankton mortality range is between 86.72×10^2 to and 0.104×10^6 cubic centimeters of plankton per day. This still falls within the 1994 EIR's estimated range of 1.8×10^2 to 2.1×10^6 cubic centimeters of plankton per day.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Intake impact calculations from 01-19-2015
2. Existing design of screen panels for intake rate and velocity

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Amendment to Order No. R3-2010-0011, including this clarifying text, as proposed.