

ITEM: 16

SUBJECT: City of Portola, Portola Wastewater Treatment Plant-Plumas County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and uncontested rescission of Cease and Desist Order No. 93-068 (Continuation from June 2009 Board Meeting).*

BACKGROUND: The City of Portola (hereinafter Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Portola Wastewater Treatment Plant (hereafter Facility). The Discharger provides sewerage service for the community of Portola and serves a population of approximately 2,300 residents. The facility average dry weather flow design capacity is 0.5 mgd. Secondary treated effluent from the Facility is discharged Seasonally (1 November to 31 April) to the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The proposed permit allows discharge only when there is a 50:1 ultimate dilution available in the River.

Cease and Desist Order No. 93-068 required that the discharger upgrade to its collection system by February 1995. In the late 1990's, the Discharger completed three projects to reduce Infiltration/Inflow (I/I). One project consisted of manhole replacement and repair, as well as replacement or repair of seven and one half miles of sewer system piping. The second project consisted of the rehabilitation of the lift stations in the sewer system. The third project consisted of the repair or replacement of laterals from individual homes. The collection system was not adequately challenged by high rainfall and snowmelt, to gauge its performance, until the winter of 2005/2006, at which time the collection system performed adequately.

The Discharger, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), and the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) submitted comments on the tentative NPDES Permit issued for public review on 13 April 2009 and heard on 13 June 2009. Those comments were addressed in the Response to Comments for the June Board meeting.

At the hearing, the Board and Discharger expressed concerns regarding the expense of studies required in the tentative WDRs, and the requirement for an outfall diffuser. The hearing was continued to allow Staff time to address these concerns. Staff has reevaluated the necessity of the studies and the requirement for an outfall diffuser, and has proposed modifications to the original tentative WDRs. Modifications include: 1) lowering the BOD percent removal limitations to 65 percent due to new information; 2) a reduction in the number of monitoring wells required at the facility; 3) removal of the requirement for an outfall diffuser; 4) modifications to requirements for determining leakage of the force

main crossing the Middle Fork of the Feather River; 5) changing the effluent limitation for electrical conductivity from an annual average to a monthly average; and 6) adding a monitoring station for electrical conductivity further downstream of the outfall. In addition, staff updated the Fact Sheet to be consistent with the State Water Board's City of Lodi Order No. 2009-0005.

Comments for the most recent issuance of the Tentative Order are not due until 30 September, due to the continuance of the Order from the June 2009 meeting. Any comments received and responses to those comments will be provided to the Board members as a late package.

ISSUES:

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review     LTO