

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: City of Alturas, City of Alturas Wastewater Treatment Plant, Modoc County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Alturas (Discharger) owns and operates a POTW (Facility) which provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services for the City of Alturas. The treatment system consists of an inlet screen, grit removal, a grinder, primary clarifier, trickling filter, two secondary clarifiers, chlorine contact basin, and dechlorination station. Wastewater is discharged to the Pit River, a water of the United States.

The previous permit established effluent limitations for copper, zinc, turbidity, and total coliform organisms with which the Discharger could not comply and included a compliance schedule allowing until 15 November 2008 to achieve final compliance for turbidity and total coliform organisms, and until 18 May 2010 to achieve final compliance for copper and zinc. The Discharger upgraded and even added several processes at the Facility to meet the requirements imposed by various effluent limitations, however some of the improvements did not operate properly and the Facility was in significant non-compliance with the previous Order from July 2008 through September 2009. The Discharger initiated an Interim Operations Plan (IOP) in October 2009 relying on chemicals to assist in the treatment process which significantly reduced the frequency of effluent limitation violations.

The Discharger submitted a final work plan on 28 February 2011 for copper and zinc compliance which proposed a long term solution of wastewater treatment through land discharge of the effluent and elimination of all surface water discharge.

The proposed permit includes new and more stringent effluent limits for aluminum, BOD₅, TDS, and TSS. The Discharger submitted a request for a compliance schedule for these constituents on 17 May 2012. A compliance schedule and interim limits is included in the permit for these constituents. If the Discharger implements the land discharge plan, then final compliance with effluent limits in the proposed permit would not be necessary.

ISSUES: Comments were received from USEPA and CVCWA. The main areas of comment from USEPA were about compliance schedule tasks, limited data, and a request for additional monitoring requirements. CVCWA comments were about inclusion of collection system regulatory requirements and reasonable potential for pathogens. Staff made changes in response to some of the comments. Staff's response to comments and permit revisions are included with this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Order and accompanying TSO.

Mgmt. Review_BJS_____

Legal Review_____

27/28 March 2014

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