

ITEM: 19

SUBJECT: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, El Portal Wastewater Treatment Facility, Mariposa County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) (NPDES No. CA0081759) and Rescission of Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0906*

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park (Discharger) owns and operates the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) which serves a population of approximately 2,200 permanent residents and up to 20,000 visitors per day to Yosemite National Park.

The Facility provides tertiary treatment with ultraviolet light disinfection. The Facility is permitted to discharge up to an average monthly daily flow of 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD). Disinfected tertiary-treated wastewater is discharged to percolation ponds that percolate to the Merced River, a water of the United States, or directly to the Merced River.

The proposed WDRs/NPDES permit includes effluent limitations for 5-day biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, pH, ammonia, phosphorus, nitrite plus nitrate, copper, zinc, total coliform organisms, acute whole effluent toxicity, and flow.

Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0906 was issued on 15 September 2011 to provide the Discharger an interim copper effluent limitation and a time schedule to come into compliance with the final effluent limitation for copper contained in Order R5-2008-0060. The Discharger can immediately comply with the final copper effluent limitations contained in the proposed tentative WDRs/NPDES permit, which rescinds previous Order R5-2008-0060. Therefore, rescission of Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0906 is appropriate.

ISSUES: The Discharger submitted comments on the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit. The Discharger requested the effluent monitoring requirements for copper and ammonia be relaxed and the nitrite plus nitrate (as N) effluent limitation be reduced or removed. The Discharger also requested changes to the influent monitoring requirements and that the requirement for

posting of the Notice of the Public Hearing in the newspaper be removed. The Discharger also commented there were inaccuracies with the compliance record in the Fact Sheet (Attachment F) and that a different chemical than what was listed in the Fact Sheet is being used to remove phosphorous at the Facility.

Central Valley Water Board staff's responses to these comments are provided in the Response to Comments document. Revisions to the tentative WDRs/NPDES permit were made in response to the Discharger's comments, along with other changes to correct typographical errors and to provide more clarity.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit and the proposed Order to rescind Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0906

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

5/6 June 2014  
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