

**22 April 2021 BOARD MEETING
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 14

SUBJECT:

The following is a proposed permit for consideration of adoption. All agencies and dischargers concur or have offered no comments.

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal

BACKGROUND:

a. Bell-Carter Olive Company, Inc. and City of Corning, Bell-Carter Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tehama County – Consideration of Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0083721)

The Bell-Carter Olive Company, Inc. (Bell-Carter) owns and operates the Bell-Carter Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). The Facility treats storm water and industrial wastewater from two olive processing facilities owned by the Bell-Carter Olive Company, Inc. and discharges up to 0.75 million gallons per day (annual average) into the Sacramento River near Corning, CA.

Wastewater from the olive processing facilities is discharged to seven lined treatment ponds at the Facility. The treatment system at the Facility consists of a two-stage extended aeration pond system (consisting of axial aerators and downdraft mixers for biological treatment and brush aerators to allow sedimentation) and an ultrafiltration membrane solids separation process. The discharge of wastewater from the Facility is regulated under existing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2015-0030 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0083721.

Bell-Carter made operational changes at the Facility to meet the requirements of the current WDRs. To meet the compliance schedule for discharge color in the receiving water, Bell-Carter now discharges almost 100% of effluent flow during nighttime hours. A discharge prohibition is included in the tentative Order restricting effluent flow to

less than 50 gallons per minute during the daylight hours to minimize the color of the discharge in the receiving water. Additionally, due to recurring odor complaints during the current permit term, Bell-Carter made operational changes to now maintain the dissolved oxygen level in the treatment ponds above 1 mg/L; the tentative Order includes treatment pond operating requirements to reflect this.

An Order is now proposed to renew the NPDES permit. In addition to the changes noted above, the tentative Order adds new effluent limitations for electrical conductivity (9,370 μ mhos/cm as an annual average) and methylene chloride and increases the monitoring frequency for chronic whole effluent toxicity to 1/quarter for Ceriodaphnia Dubia only. The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 17 February 2021 with comments due by 5:00 pm 19 March 2021. Minor editorial comments were received from Bell-Carter, and the tentative Order was revised to address those comments. No other comments were received.

b. Chester Public Utility District, Chester Sewage Treatment Plant, Plumas County – Consideration of Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0077747)

The Chester Public Utility District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Chester Sewage Treatment Plant (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works located in Plumas County, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the community of Chester and serves a population of approximately 2,100. The Facility provides treatment through a series of facultative wastewater ponds with a design flow of 0.75 million gallons per day (MGD). Treated, disinfected wastewater may be discharged seasonally to Lake Almanor from 1 October to 31 May. Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2016-0004 (NPDES No. CA0077747) and Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2016-0005, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 18 February 2016.

An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit along with an accompanying proposed Cease and Desist Order. The proposed NPDES permit includes new or updated effluent limitations for ammonia, copper, zinc, and electrical conductivity.

Historically, the Discharger has been unable to consistently comply with NPDES permit effluent limits for BOD and TSS removal, total coliform,

and ammonia. The Discharger has gradually made improvements to its collection system for the past 30 years to reduce inflow/infiltration, but compliance issues remain. Current projects being conducted by the Discharger pursuant to CDO R5-2016-005 include an alternatives analysis and developing supporting documentation for possible repair, replacement, and/or installation of new sewer collection pipes to enhance the sewer system capacity and reduce I/I. Despite these ongoing efforts, improvements to the Facility have not yet resulted in consistent compliance during periods when the Facility's storage capacity is reached and discharge to Lake Almanor is necessary. Therefore, the proposed CDO gives the Discharger additional time to conduct a feasibility study and pollution prevention plan and includes interim limits and a compliance schedule to meet final effluent limits for BOD and TSS removal, total coliform, and ammonia.

The tentative Orders were issued for a 30-day public comment period on 26 February 2021 with comments due by 29 March 2021. No comments were received.

c. Donner Summit Public Utility District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County – Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Issuance of Time Schedule Order (NPDES Permit CA0081621)

The Donner Summit Public Utility District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works located at 53823 Sherritt Lane, Soda Springs, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the Discharger, the Norden and Soda Springs areas, the Sugar Bowl and Soda Springs ski resorts, the Serene Lakes subdivision, the Sierra Lakes County Water District, and Caltrans rest areas, and serves a population of approximately 2,000. The Facility provides tertiary treatment for up to an average dry weather flow of 0.52 million gallons per day (MGD). Tertiary-treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to the South Yuba River, a water of the United States.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2015-0068-01, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on 4 June 2015, and amended by Order R5-2017-0114 on 8 December 2017. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit and a Time Schedule Order (TSO) is proposed prescribing interim effluent limits for copper, lead, nickel, silver, and zinc, to allow the Discharger time to complete a compliance

project by 23 October 2023 in order to meet the final effluent limitations in the proposed permit. The proposed permit includes new or updated effluent limits for ammonia nitrogen, electrical conductivity, copper, lead, nickel, silver, zinc, pH, and nitrate plus nitrite. The proposed permit will remove existing effluent limits for manganese, maximum daily effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids, and mass-based effluent limits for ammonia nitrogen, biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids. Removal of these limits will not result in an increase in the pollutants or in the degradation of the receiving water.

The proposed permit was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 10 February 2021 with comments due by 12 March 2021. A single comment was received from the Discharger requesting a TSO and time to review it before adoption of the proposed permit. The tentative TSO was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 12 March 2021 with comments due by 12 April 2021. As of 29 March 2021, comments have not been received on the tentative TSO.

d. Olivehurst Public Utility District, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Yuba County – Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0077836)

The Olivehurst Public Utility District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works located at 3908 Mary Avenue, Olivehurst, California. The Facility provides sewerage service for the communities of Olivehurst and Plumas Lake, serving a population of approximately 10,000. The Facility provides tertiary treatment for up to 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD). Tertiary-treated, disinfected wastewater from the Facility is discharged to the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal, a water of the United States, tributary to the Lower Bear River.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2016-0001 issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 18 February 2016. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed Order includes new or updated effluent limitations for pH, nitrate plus nitrite, copper, ammonia nitrogen, electrical conductivity, and diazinon and chlorpyrifos. The proposed permit removes existing effluent limits for mercury, maximum daily effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids, and mass-based effluent

limits for ammonia nitrogen, biochemical oxygen demand, and total suspended solids. Removal of these limits will not result in an increase in the pollutants or in the degradation of the receiving water. The Proposed permit does not carry forward the receiving water limitations based on the Basin Plan's temperature objective. The discharge exhibited reasonable potential for chronic toxicity; therefore, the Discharger requested a compliance schedule in the permit to allow time to study and remedy the cause of the toxicity. The proposed Order includes a compliance schedule for chronic toxicity, prescribing interim effluent limits to allow the Discharger time to complete a compliance project by 31 May 2028 to meet the final effluent limitations in the proposed permit.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 18 February 2021 with comments due by 22 March 2021. No comments were received.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the NPDES Permit

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	Various
Legal Review:	Various

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Internet Zoom Meeting