

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
9:00 a.m., March 6, 2008  
River Lodge Conference Center  
1800 Riverwalk Drive  
Fortuna, California

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Public Hearing for the Loleta Community Services District, Humboldt County, NPDES Permit for Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80081OHUM

### **DISCUSSION**

The Loleta Community Services District (CSD), hereinafter the Discharger owns and operates a municipal wastewater collection system and treatment facility which serves a residential population of approximately 750 residents, a cheese making plant owned by the Loleta Cheese Company and a creamery owned by the Humboldt Creamery Association. The wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) has a design capacity of 100,000 gallons per day (GPD) and includes an aeration basin, clarifier, sludge storage vault, and chlorination/dechlorination capability. Treated wastewater is currently discharged to a wetland, which is tributary to an unnamed slough (hereinafter slough), and the Eel River, at Discharge Point 001, approximately 3,500 feet southwest of the treatment plant. The receiving water is located within the Eel River Hydrologic Unit and is a water of the United States. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit/ Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No. R1-2001-59, adopted by the Regional Water Board on June 28, 2001, presently governs the Loleta WWTF.

The proposed draft permit carries over similar effluent limitations from the previous permit. The draft permit includes new effluent limits for chronic toxicity, which was identified during the last permit cycle to have reasonable potential to cause water quality concerns in the receiving water.

Under the expiring permit, the Discharger was only required to monitor BOD and TSS on a monthly basis. However, regulations for WWTF include treatment standards for concentrations of these constituents in the effluent that are expressed numerically as both a monthly (30 day) and weekly (7 day) average. Most NPDES dischargers are required to sample for secondary treatment standard parameters at least weekly. The draft NPDES permit requires the Discharger to sample at least weekly to provide the minimum amount of information required for comparison to regulatory standards.

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A copy of the draft permit was mailed to interested agencies and persons and a public comment period was noticed in the local newspaper as well as on the Regional Water Board website. Comments were received from Loleta CSD regarding design flows, pH effluent limitations, the seasonal prohibition period, and receiving water monitoring stations. After consideration of the public comments, Regional Water Board staff made a change to the receiving water monitoring stations required under the draft permit, which requires reporting of flows from only the Scotia flow gauging station, since this flow measurement will consistently show sufficient data for which the monitoring is intended. A copy of the public comments received as well as staffs' responses are attached to the agenda package.

PRELIMINARY STAFF

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Order as proposed.