

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Charles Reed  
February 19, 2008

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

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: U.C. Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Sonoma County, NPDES Permit  
for Marine Laboratory, WDID No. 1B84035OSON

### **DISCUSSION**

The University of California owns and operates the Bodega Marine Laboratory, a teaching and marine research facility. The primary surface water discharge from the Bodega Marine Laboratory is seawater from a once-through seawater system that provides seawater for the research and education needs of the laboratory. This discharge point (Discharge Point 001) is located in near shore waters of the Pacific Ocean, near Horseshoe Cove, waters of the United States. The maximum pumping rate for waste seawater at Discharge Point 001 is 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The average daily discharge flow is 0.6 mgd. A secondary surface water discharge is storm water runoff from the grounds of the facility that drains to and is discharged from a nearby freshwater marsh to Horseshoe Cove. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit/ Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-23, adopted by the Regional Water Board on March 23, 2000, presently regulates the Bodega Marine Laboratory.

The receiving water for the ocean discharges is designated by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) as the Bodega Area of Special Biological Significance (Bodega ASBS). The California Ocean Plan prohibits waste discharges to the state's ASBS. The State Water Board contacted the Discharger on October 18, 2004 to inform BML that its discharges into the ASBS are subject to the Ocean Plan waste discharge prohibition. On January 31, 2005, BML applied for Exception to the California Ocean Plan for discharge into the Bodega ASBS. An Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was circulated for public review, and on September 18, 2007, the State Water Board approved this Exception and the Mitigated Negative Declaration with Resolution No. 2007-0058 (Attachment).

The tentative permit includes a significant number of new requirements mandated by Resolution No. 2007-0058 or otherwise required to protect water quality and maintain beneficial uses of waters of the United States and waters of the State. The new requirements include:

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1. A Storm Water Management Plan/Program (SWMP) must be developed that addresses the prohibition on non-storm water runoff and the reduction of pollutants in storm water discharges to the ASBS and the freshwater marsh.
2. A quantitative survey of intertidal benthic life must be performed near the discharge and a reference site at least once per permit term.
3. A bioaccumulation study using Californian mussels must be performed near the discharge and a reference site once per permit term.
4. Sampling for the waste seawater effluent and the reference station must occur twice the first year of the permit term, and annually thereafter for analysis of Table B parameters, pH, salinity, and temperature.
5. Storm water runoff and the Horseshoe Cove receiving water must be sampled once annually for Table B parameters and Ocean Plan indicator bacteria.
6. Storm water runoff from the grounds of the facility to the freshwater marsh must be sampled twice annually and visually monitored quarterly.
7. Subtidal sediment in Horseshoe Cove must be sampled annually for Table B parameters.
8. A Program for prevention of Biological Pollutants must be developed and implemented.
9. A waterfront and marine operations non-point source management plan must be prepared.

The tentative permit also includes new effluent limitations for cadmium, copper, and silver, which were determined to have reasonable potential to exceed Ocean Plan Water Quality Objectives, and a requirement to continuously monitor total residual chlorine in the seawater effluent.

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 the Bodega Marine Laboratory and the State Water Board. After consideration of these comments, Regional Water Board staff made changes to the draft Order. A copy of comments received and staff responses are attached to the agenda package. A copy of State Water Board Resolution No. 2007-0058 is provided as an attachment at the end of the hearing agenda package.

**PRELIMINARY STAFF**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the Order as proposed.