

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
8:30 a.m., April 26, 2012  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
David C. Joseph Hearing Room  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, California

Item: 8

Subject: **Public Hearing** on Resolution No. R1-2012-0052, to approve an environmental assessment/initial study and adopt a mitigated negative declaration, and on Order No. R1-2012-0033, to consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for **Coast Guard Two Rock Wastewater Treatment Facility**, WDID No. 1B80051OSON, Sonoma County

#### DISCUSSION

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal Facility that provides sewerage service to residential and commercial parcels at the Petaluma Training Center (TRACEN) and the Two Rock Elementary School located outside of the TRACEN boundary. The TRACEN Facility currently supports a population of 1,350 people, with 127 family housing units, dining facilities for up to 600 students, and office, recreational and workspace areas for approximately 500 instructors, support and auxiliary personnel. In addition, the Facility has a recreational vehicle dump station approximately 3,000 feet from the headworks, and accepts sewage trucked from the U.S. Coast Guard Point Reyes Station housing site.

The existing Facility consists of the headworks with influent flow meter and grease trap; three facultative treatment ponds (with a capacity of approximately 11 million gallons); and chlorination facilities utilizing gaseous chlorine. The existing Facility also includes two effluent storage ponds and one emergency storage pond for a total storage volume of 5.1 million gallons, and 28.5 acres of pasture land owned by the Discharger that is irrigated with disinfected secondary effluent. The existing Facility is inadequately designed to meet the goal of storing treated effluent during the winter months and reclaiming disinfected, secondary effluent during dry months. For many years, the effluent has not consistently met water quality standards in Order No. 85-162. In addition, storage volume is insufficient to handle winter season wastewater flows, rainfall, and infiltration and inflow (I&I), and the Discharger has discharged disinfected, secondary effluent to land adjacent to Stemple Creek during the winter months to prevent overtopping of its storage ponds. These violations resulted in Cease and Desist Order No. 98-33 being adopted by the Regional Water Board on March 26, 1998.

The Discharger identified plans to expand the treatment capacity of the Facility to accommodate planned expansion of housing and classroom facilities at TRACEN and to address deficiencies with its current system. Specifically, the Discharger is planning to expand housing and classroom facilities in two phases. The first phase will result in a population increase from 1,350 (current) to 1,700 and the second phase will result in a population increase to 2,200.

The new Facility includes a new headworks including flow monitoring and automated screening and grit removal; a flow equalization basin; secondary treatment facilities including an activated sludge system with biological nutrient removal (BNR); chlorine disinfection facilities utilizing sodium hypochlorite; and sludge handling and storage facilities.

The new Facility will also include construction of a new storage pond and conversion of the existing treatment ponds to storage ponds. This will provide storage capacity of 70 million gallons. The Facility upgrade will include disposal of disinfected secondary treated effluent on 84 acres of agricultural spray fields owned by the Discharger and used by a local rancher to grow grass crop to be harvested and used as feed for dairy cows. Initially, the Discharger plans to develop 73 acres of agricultural spray field. An additional 11 acres of agricultural spray field will be added when expansion of the training facility campus requires the additional spray fields. This Order limits the Discharger's flows to the capacity of the spray fields until such time that the Discharger demonstrates that spray field capacity has been increased.

The new Facility will also include tertiary wastewater treatment facilities that will consist of coagulation, filtration, and ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection for reuse on 25 acres of urban landscape areas on the TRACEN property. The tertiary facility will be designed to treat 300 gallons per minute and will typically be operated 8 to 10 hours per day during the dry season to produce the volume of tertiary recycled water needed to meet the urban irrigation demand. The Facility includes a 380,000 gallon holding tank for temporary storage of tertiary recycled water. This volume corresponds to two days of maximum landscape irrigation demand.

The new Facility has been designed to meet the standards for disinfected secondary and disinfected tertiary recycled water contained in Chapter 3, Division 4, Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

The Regional Water Board is the lead agency under CEQA in connection with the proceeding to consider issuing waste discharge requirements for discharges to land. The California Code of Regulations (title 14, §15221) states that when a project requires compliance with both CEQA and NEPA, and the federal document is prepared first, the state agency should use the federal document rather than preparing its own. Consistent with this policy, the U.S. Coast Guard prepared an Environmental Assessment-Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA-IS/MND) for this project in order to meet federal requirements pursuant to the National Environmental Protection

Act (NEPA) and state requirements pursuant to CEQA. The EA-IS/MND evaluated the environmental impacts to groundwater and surface water quality associated with the construction and use of its proposed wastewater treatment, storage and reclamation facilities. The EA-IS/MND addresses cumulative and growth-inducing impacts, and identified mitigation measures to be implemented to ensure that project impacts are less than significant. Mitigation measures necessary to reduce or eliminate significant impacts on the environment are included as conditions of approval in this Order.

Resolution No. R1-2012-0052 approving the EA-IS and adopting the MND prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard is included in this agenda item. Resolution No. R1-2012-0052 must be adopted immediately before the Regional Water Board adopts the proposed waste discharge requirements (Order No. R1-2012-0033) to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code section 21000 et. seq.). As described more specifically in Resolution No. R1-2012-0052, all public noticing requirements were followed and the mitigated negative declaration reflects the Regional Water Board's independent judgment and analysis.

A copy of the draft permit and/or information to access the draft on the Regional Water Board website was mailed to the Discharger, interested agencies, and persons. This item was open for public comment from February 2, 2012, through March 9, 2012. The Discharger submitted a comment letter on March 8, 2012 (attached). The attached Response to Comments document provides responses to the Discharger's comments and identifies changes made to Order No. R1-2012-0033 in response to the Discharger's comments. By email dated March 15, 2012, the California Department of Health Services indicated that Order No. R1-2012-0033 includes all necessary language required pursuant to Title 22 and concurred with the Order.

Preliminary Staff  
Recommendation:

Adopt Resolution No. R1-2012-0052 first,  
followed by Order No. R1-2012-0033, as  
proposed.