

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Thursday, April 18, 2019  
Regional Water Board Office  
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA

**ITEM:** 3

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2019-0010 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the Calpella County Water District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID # 1B77162OMEN (Ben Zabinsky)

**BOARD ACTION:** The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2019-0010.

**BACKGROUND:** The Calpella County Water District (Discharger) owns the Calpella County Water District Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), a municipal wastewater treatment facility that serves approximately 149 domestic connections within the community of Calpella, in Mendocino County. The Discharger has a service contract with Willow County Water District for operations and maintenance.

The Facility is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 86-116 (Order No. 86-116), which authorizes the discharge of treated municipal wastewater to percolation ponds. The Facility has an average dry weather design capacity of 0.080 million gallons per day (mgd) and a peak wet-weather treatment capacity of 0.530 mgd. The system is comprised of two aerated lagoons, a facultative pond, a chlorine contact pipe, and three percolation ponds. Other components include an influent pump station, headworks, and a control building. Effluent from the facultative pond is directed to the chlorine contact chamber and slide gates control effluent flow rates to the percolation ponds. Disposal in the ponds is accomplished by a combination of evaporation and percolation. The percolation ponds are located approximately 60 feet to the west of the Russian River on the east side of Highway 101 in an agricultural and rural residential setting approximately two-thirds of a mile south of Calpella.

**DISCUSSION:** Order No. R1-2019-0010 (Proposed Order) includes effluent limitations for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Settleable Solids, pH, and Total Coliform Organisms to evaluate the performance of the Facility. These effluent limitations were retained from the previous Order No. 86-116. The Proposed Order also includes new requirements for maintaining an updated Operations & Maintenance Manual, for implementing source control functions to restrict discharges of toxic materials to the collection system, and to prepare and implement a special study to confirm that the discharge of treated effluent to the percolation pond complies with groundwater limitations set forth in the Proposed Order.

A copy of the Draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from January 11, 2019 through February 12, 2019. The Discharger submitted comments on the Draft Order after the comment period ended.

The Discharger requested additional time to assess appropriate method(s) to demonstrate compliance with the groundwater limitations set forth in section VII.A. of the Draft Order. In response to this comment, Regional Water Board staff revised the Draft Order to require the Discharger to submit a preliminary scope of work to evaluate compliance with groundwater limitation to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer **within 18 months after Order adoption**, followed by submittal of a final work plan to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer **within 6 months after approval of the preliminary scope of work**. If it is determined that the Facility discharge is not attaining compliance with groundwater limitations, the Discharger is required to develop and implement a workplan to bring the discharge into compliance with groundwater limitations. A written response to the Discharger's comments is provided in the Response to Comments document. Additionally, Regional Water Board staff spoke with the Discharger to discuss and clarify requirements of the draft Order. As an outcome of the discussion, Regional Water Board staff have updated the Facility design flows and the Discharge Prohibitions to reflect the existing plant capacity.

The Proposed Order is uncontested.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Order No. R1-2019-0010, as proposed.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2019-0010
2. Staff Response to Comments
3. Calpella County Water District Comments (email)
4. Public Notice