

Executive Officer's Summary Report
9:00 a.m., May 5, 2011
Warfinger Building
#1 Marina Way
Eureka, California

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing** on Order No. R1-2011-0001, to consider modification of Waste Discharge Requirements for **Covelo Community Services District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, NPDES NO. CA0023574, W DID No. 1B83009OMEN**, Mendocino County

DISCUSSION

The Covelo Community Services District owns and operates a collection system and wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), which serves approximately 750 residential, commercial, and institutional users. The WWTF provides secondary treated wastewater using a flow-metering flume, bar screen and two oxidation ponds that can be operated in series or parallel, two holding ponds, and chlorination / dechlorination capability.

Over time the clay liners in the ponds have developed leaks; and other components of the WWTF have aged, requiring improvements to ponds and other areas of the WWTF. Covelo has initiated upgrades to the existing treatment facility including addition of a new headworks and septage receiving station, lining the oxidation ponds, and installing an ozone disinfection system. The third lined pond in the series will be planted with wetland vegetation to enhance treatment. Chlorination / dechlorination capability may be maintained as a back-up disinfection system for surface water discharges.

Upgrades to the WWTF result in an average annual treatment design capacity of 0.077 mgd and allow for discharge to either Grist Creek or an onsite percolation pond. Upgrades to the WWTF are expected to improve overall compliance and protection of water quality by providing enhanced treatment of conventional pollutants, nutrient removal, natural filtration and ozone disinfection. Final actions to complete the WWTF upgrades will take place during the summer of 2011.

Proposed Order No. R1-2011-0001 maintains the current requirements for discharges to Grist Creek, however; beginning October 15, 2011 the Discharger must comply with Land Discharge Specifications for the protection of groundwater

for effluent discharged to the percolation pond. Additional monitoring wells will be installed at the WWTF to evaluate groundwater conditions. In addition, new effluent limitations for nitrogen and increased surface water monitoring will take effect.

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 opened for public comment between February 25, 2011 and March 27, 2011. The Discharger submitted timely comments related to the difficulty of collecting composite samples for compliance evaluation. Staff considered the nature of the WWTF and determined that grab samples would be adequate to provide representative samples, given the extended detention times and mixing likely to occur in a pond system. Staff revised the Monitoring and Reporting Program accordingly. No comments were received from any other interested party. Copies of the Discharger's comments and staff's written response have been included as attachments with the full agenda package.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R1-2011-0001 as proposed.