

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
8:30 a.m., June 12, 2008  
North Coast Regional Water Board  
Hearing Room  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A  
Santa Rosa, California

Item: 9

Subject: McKinleyville Community Services District Wastewater Management Facility, Humboldt County, NPDES Permit for Wastewater Treatment Plant WDID No. 1B82084OHUM

### **DISCUSSION**

The McKinleyville Community Services District (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging under Order No. R1-2001-60 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0024490 adopted on June 28, 2001. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated January 24, 2006, and applied for an NPDES permit renewal to discharge an average dry weather flow of up to 1.61 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated wastewater from the McKinleyville Community Services District Wastewater Management Facility (hereinafter Facility).

The Discharger provides wastewater collection and treatment for approximately two-thirds of the estimated 14,000 residents of the unincorporated town of McKinleyville. Municipal wastewater is collected at five lift stations for pumping to a combined headworks comminuter at the wastewater treatment plant. Flows from the headworks enter two parallel facultative primary aeration ponds. The primary aeration ponds overflow to a series of two secondary aeration ponds followed by two emergent bullrush marshes for effluent polishing and a chlorine contact chamber for disinfection. Effluent can be dechlorinated by sulfur dioxide prior to discharge to the Mad River or reclamation for agricultural use. The facility is currently designed to treat an average dry-weather flow (ADWF) of 1.61 mgd and an average wet-weather flow (AWWF) of 3.02 mgd.

From October 1 through May 14, treated wastewater is discharged at Discharge Point 001 to the Mad River, a water of the United States. From May 15 through September 30, treated wastewater is applied to neighboring agricultural land.

The proposed Order No. R1-2008-0039 contains significant changes from the existing permit, Order No. R1-2001-60, as follows:

1. Effluent limitations equivalent to secondary treatment for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) have been modified as a result of improved treatment performance;

2. Effluent limitations a time schedule to achieve final effluent limitations for copper, lead, 4,4'-DDT, bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, alpha-BHC, and 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin) will be applied to the Facility for the first time;
3. The proposed Order requires increased monitoring of receiving waters, groundwater, and new monitoring requirements for the storm water treatment wetland.
4. The proposed Order requires the Discharger to conduct a special study to evaluate the summertime reclamation system in order to demonstrate appropriate salt, nutrient, and irrigation management practices.
5. The proposed Order requires the Discharger to conduct a special study to assess and ensure compliance with the Basin Plan's prohibitions against summertime discharges to the Mad River and discharges to the Mad River Estuary.

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 April 4 and May 4, 2008. The Discharger submitted comments on the draft permit on May 4, 2008. Regional Water Board staff and the Discharger resolved the Discharger's substantive comments and to the extent allowed by state law and best professional judgment, the draft permit was revised to incorporate the Discharger's comments and recommendations. The Regional Water Board staff's responses to comments on the draft Order are included as an attachment. Also included as an attachment is a comment letter was received from Mr. George Waller on May 12, 2008. Regional Water Board staff did not prepare a response to Mr. Waller's comments as the comment letter was received after the close of the 30-day comment period.

PRELIMINARY STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Order as proposed.