

ATTACHMENT 1

**Response to Comments
City of Blue Lake
Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B81129OHUM
Order No. R1-2012-0050**

The City of Blue Lake (the City) provided the only comment letter regarding the April 3, 2012, draft Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs, Order, and permit) for the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The letter was dated April 19, 2012, signed by John Berchtold, City Manager.

- 1. Comment 1.** Section IV.A. of the permit includes the final effluent limitations for Discharge Point 001, as listed in Table 4. This section includes reference to total nitrogen limitations for discharges to land and sets the effluent limitations for total nitrogen for the discharge based on limits presented in other WDR permits in the region. To date, the City has not collected any total nitrogen data from Discharge Point-001. We request that this effluent limitation be removed from this permit cycle, and we will monitor total nitrogen as prescribed in table C-2 of the Draft Monitoring and Reporting Program. Our primary reason for this request is that because the City does not have any total nitrogen data for our Facility, we do not know whether we will be out of compliance upon issuance of the new permit. Under the monitoring program, we will establish a baseline for total nitrogen data. Additionally, the City spent the past two years under threat of litigation by River Watch, which was recently settled. The City is concerned that if we exceed the total nitrogen limit, we will be exposed to additional litigation.

Response: Staff concurs with the proposed changes as other facilities have been granted time to characterize their nutrient discharge prior to having an effluent limitation included in their permit. Staff has amended the draft Order accordingly.

- 2. Comment 2.** Section VIII. Q. General Provisions, Special Studies of the permit includes a requirement for a hydrogeologic Investigation work plan and subsequent summary report. The work plan is due within 12 months of permit adoption, and the associated summary report is due within 12 months of work plan approval. The City is in agreement with the schedule for the work plan submittal; however requests that the submittal of the hydrogeologic investigation summary report be submitted within 24 months of the work plan approval. The City needs to collect data in accordance with the work plan for one year to determine if there is seasonal variation.

Response: Staff concurs with the proposed changes and has amended the draft Order accordingly.

3. **Comment 3.** Section I.B. General Facility Information in the fact sheet states, “Three of these industrial connections – the Mad River Brewery, the Blue Lake Rancheria, and Blue Lake Power – are considered significant users.” The City requests that Calgon Carbon Corporation be added as a significant user, and the reference to “three of these industrial connections...” be modified to reflect this by stating “four of these industrial connections - the Mad River Brewery, the Blue Lake Rancheria, Calgon Carbon Corporation, and Blue Lake Power – are considered significant users.

Response: Staff concurs with the proposed changes and has amended the draft Order accordingly.

4. **Comment 4.** Section I.C. Existing Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility in the fact sheet states that “three of the industrial connections, the Mad River Brewery, the Blue Lake Rancheria, and Blue Lake Power are considered significant users.” The City requests that Calgon Carbon Corporation be added as a significant user, and the reference to “three of the industrial connections...” be modified to reflect this by stating “four of the industrial connections, the Mad River Brewery, the Blue Lake Rancheria, Calgon Carbon Corporation, and Blue Lake Power, are considered significant users.”

Response: Staff concurs with the proposed changes and has amended the draft Order accordingly.

5. **Comment 5.** Section I.C., Existing Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility in the fact sheet states that “this pond contains two surface aerators.” Approximately nine months ago, the City added an additional aerator to Pond 1. The City requests that the number of aerators be modified to reflect this by stating, “this pond contains three surface aerators.”

Response: Staff concurs with the proposed changes and has amended the draft Order accordingly.