

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 A.M., Thursday, June 13, 2013
Santa Rosa, California

- ITEM: 2
- SUBJECT: **Public Hearing** on Order No. R1-2013-0023 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for **University of California, Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory**, WDID No. 1B840350SON, NPDES No. CA0024333 (*Charles Reed*)
- BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R1-2013-0023. The Order replaces WDR Order No. R1-2008-0002 and will serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a period of five years.
- BACKGROUND: University of California, Davis (hereinafter Permittee) is the owner and operator of the Bodega Marine Laboratory (hereinafter Facility or BML), a teaching and marine research institution.
- Researchers at the Facility investigate population dynamics of marine invertebrates and fishes, fisheries management, fish health, aquaculture, invertebrate diseases, and many other topics. Annually, approximately 1,000 undergraduate students participate in classes and field trips, and marine science graduate students conduct thesis research at the Facility. The Facility is not a public aquarium, but tours are provided to approximately 10,000 visitors per year for public education regarding the science conducted at the laboratory and maintaining healthy coastal marine ecosystems.
- There are two points of discharge from the Facility to the Pacific Ocean. The first is Discharge Point 001, which discharges once-through seawater and filter backwash. The Facility utilizes a flow-through seawater system in the majority of the research laboratories. Seawater for the flow-through system is pumped continuously from the Pacific Ocean with two intake lines located approximately 260 feet offshore in Horseshoe Cove.
- The second discharge to the Pacific Ocean is storm water runoff from the grounds of the Facility that drains over the surrounding soil and vegetation before draining into a nearby freshwater marsh. The flow continues through the marsh to a culvert pipe and concrete trough, which carry storm water to Horseshoe Cove Beach at Discharge Point 016. As storm water flows over the vegetation and

through the marsh, natural treatment of the run off may occur. In addition, the Permittee implements appropriate storm water BMPs and storm water monitoring to minimize the discharge of pollutants in the storm water runoff that enters the freshwater marsh at Discharge Points 003 and 004 from the parking lot and operations support areas.

The Facility also discharges once-through freshwater at Discharge Point 002 to a groundwater recharge area. The Permittee utilizes freshwater produced from a well on its property in its Salmon Research Facility. The freshwater discharge to groundwater is subject to WDRs that are incorporated into this Order, but is not regulated under the NPDES program.

ISSUES:

The receiving water for the ocean discharges is designated by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) as the Bodega Area of Special Biological Significance (Bodega ASBS). The California Ocean Plan prohibits waste discharges to ASBS. The State Water Board contacted the Permittee on October 18, 2004, to inform the Permittee that its discharges into the ASBS are subject to the Ocean Plan waste discharge prohibition. On January 31, 2005, the Permittee applied for an exception to the California Ocean Plan for discharge into the Bodega ASBS. An Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) were circulated for public review, and on September 18, 2007, the State Water Board approved this Exception and the IS/MND with Resolution No. 2007-0058.

The State Water Board's 2007 exception resolution includes conditions of discharge for BML that were incorporated into the BML's 2008 NPDES permit. These conditions are retained as discharge requirements in this proposed Order. Consequently, the proposed Order includes no substantive changes from the previous NPDES permit.

A copy of the draft permit was mailed to interested agencies and persons and a public comment period was noticed in the local newspaper as well as on the Regional Water Board website. Comments were received from the Permittee. After consideration of these comments, Regional Water Board staff made minor changes to the draft Order that were deemed by Regional Water Board staff to be consistent with the State Water Board's Resolution No. 2007-0058. A copy of comments received and staff responses are attached to the agenda package.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2013-0023, as proposed.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2013-0023
2. Response to Comments
3. Comment Letter from University of California, Davis
4. Public Notice

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