

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Wednesday, June 20, 2019
Eureka City Council Chambers
City Hall
531 K Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Humboldt County

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2019-0013 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Geyserville Sanitation Zone Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B771170SON (Ben Zabinsky)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2019-0013.

BACKGROUND: The Sonoma County Water Agency (Discharger) owns the Geyserville Sanitation Zone Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), a municipal wastewater treatment facility that serves the unincorporated areas of Geyserville in Sonoma County.

The Facility is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 97-67 (Order No. 97-67), which authorizes the discharge of treated municipal wastewater to percolation ponds. The Facility has an average dry weather design capacity of 0.092 million gallons per day (mgd). The system is comprised of a collection system, an influent pumping station, two aeration ponds, one settling pond, and a disinfection facility. The final effluent is discharged to two evaporation/percolation ponds that are used alternately. Disposal in the ponds is accomplished by a combination of evaporation and percolation. The percolation ponds are located approximately one quarter of a mile to the west of the Russian River on the east side of Highway 101 in an agricultural and rural residential area on the southern end of Geyserville.

DISCUSSION: Order No. R1-2019-0013 (Proposed Order) includes effluent limitations for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), pH, and Total Coliform Organisms to evaluate effluent quality and Facility performance. These effluent limitations were retained from the previous Order No. 97-67. The effluent limitations for settleable solids were removed at the request of the Discharger because the effluent limitations for total suspended solids are sufficient to assess effluent quality and system performance. 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 March 26, 2019 through April 25, 2019. The Discharger submitted timely comments on the Draft Order. In response to this comment, Regional Water Board staff revised the Draft Order in several areas. A written response to the Discharger's comments is provided in the Response to Comments document.

The Proposed Order is uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2019-0013, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2019-0013
2. Staff Response to Comments
3. Sonoma County Water Agency Comments
4. Public Notice