

**Response to Written Comments
Draft Waste Discharge Requirements
Order No. R1-2023-0013
for
Hopland Public Utility District
Wastewater Treatment Facility
WDID No. 1B80154OMEN**

Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region

June 15 and 16, 2023

Comments Received

The deadline for submittal of public comments regarding draft Waste Discharge Requirements for Order No. R1-2023-0013 (Draft Permit), for the Hopland Public Utility District (PUD), Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) was February 24, 2023. Regional Water Board staff (Staff) received no written comments from the Permittee or the public regarding the Draft Permit's notification period.

Regional Water Board staff communicated with the Discharger during the public comment period to discuss the Draft Permit and the Discharger did not identify any significant concerns.

This Response to Comments document includes a summary of staff-initiated changes made to the Permit. Text added to the Proposed Permit is identified by underline, and text to be deleted from the Proposed Permit is identified by strike-through in this document. The term "Draft Permit" refers to the version of the permit that was sent out for public comment. The term "Proposed Permit" refers to the version of the permit that has been modified by the staff-initiated changes and is being presented to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) for consideration.

Staff Initiated Changes:

The following sections describe changes made to the Draft Permit, initiated by Regional Water Board staff to update and provide clarification to the Proposed Permit. The modified sections are identified by their section numbers as indicated in the Proposed Permit. Regional Water Board staff virtually met with representatives for the Hopland PUD on March 20, 2023, to discuss the changes made to the Draft Permit and the Discharger did not have any objections to the proposed changes.

1. Paragraph one, Section IV.B.8 of Attachment B of the Draft Permit was modified to clarify that the referenced prohibition and groundwater limitations are specified in the Proposed Permit as follows:

Special Study to Evaluate Potential Impacts to Groundwater and Surface Water. The Discharger shall conduct an evaluation to confirm that the discharge of treated municipal wastewater from the evaporation/percolation ponds to groundwater complies with the prohibition and groundwater limitations set forth in section III.A Discharge Prohibitions, and section VII Receiving Water Limitations, respectively, of the Order. At a minimum, the evaluation must include preparation and submission of a preliminary scope of work that describes the proposed investigative work to be undertaken, a final work plan that includes work tasks and milestones to complete the evaluation, and a final report that presents the results and conclusions of the evaluation. In the event that the final report concludes that the discharge from the evaporation/percolation ponds is causing or contributing to exceedances of groundwater limitations, the final report shall include a work plan with a proposed compliance schedule to bring the discharge into compliance with the groundwater limitations as soon as practicable.