

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
Thursday, October 19, 2017  
Weed City Council Chambers  
Weed, California

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: Presentation on the Tulelake Wastewater Treatment Facilities upgrade and disposal modifications. (*Justin McSmith of Water Board, Brett Nystrom, Director of Public Works, and Henry Ebinger, Mayor, City of Tulelake*)

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item. No action will be taken by the Regional Water Board.

BACKGROUND: The City of Tulelake (Permittee) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling facility that provides sewerage service to the City. The wastewater system serves a population of approximately 1,010 and has 439 connections, of which 46 are commercial connections including a supermarket and agricultural potato storage facilities.

Over the past ten years the Permittee has made significant progress on the performance of the facilities. The purpose of this information item is to update the Board on this progress.

Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLC) No. R1-2006-0070 was adopted on June 21, 2006. The ACLC assessed 165 mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) for the period of January 1, 2000, through April 30, 2006. On July 18, 2006, the Permittee waived its public right to a public hearing and requested approval to conduct a Compliance Project (CP) in lieu of paying the MMPs of \$495,000.

The Regional Water Board received a proposed CP from the Permittee on May 15, 2007. The CP proposed a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to upgrade the treatment system, collection system and increased operator man-hours. On July 25, 2007, Administrative Civil Liability Order (ACLO) No. R1-2007-0045 was adopted. The ACLO contained a compliance schedule and a list of tasks that required the Permittee to complete the CP and prepare a final report certifying completion of the CP. The final compliance date for the ACLO was July 25, 2012.

The Permittee was unable to comply with the compliance dates as set forth in the ACLO. Progress reports, require by the ACLO, identified financial constraint as the primary reason for not completing the CIP to achieve full compliance with WDRs. On June 7, 2012, the Permittee established a grant funding agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board's State Revolving Fund in the amount of \$3,794,350 for planning, design and construction of the CIP.

The Permittee was regulated under Order No. R1-2013-0029, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0023272 (NPDES Permit) and Cease and Desist Order R1-2013-0030 (CDO). The CDO required the Permittee to complete and operate the CIP to allow the reuse of wastewater for irrigation and thereby eliminate the need to discharge to Tulelake Irrigation District Drain No. 44-B-1, a tributary of the Tule Lake Sump, Tule Lake Refuge, and Lower Lost River. Completion of the CIP, in November of 2017, resulted in a rehabilitated headworks with new influent pumps, conversion of a sand filter into a treatment lagoon (No. 3), dredging of lagoon No. 1 and lining of lagoons 1 and 3 with synthetic liners, construction of two irrigation storage ponds with an irrigation pump station and development of a recycled water irrigation field.

In anticipation of the wastewater reuse, the Board adopted waste discharge requirements (WDR) Order No. R1-2015-0002 to comply with Title 22 regulations. With the completion and operation of the CIP, the Permittee has completed all tasks in the CDO and no longer requires the CDO or NPDES Permit. The Mayor of Tulelake, Henry Ebinger, and the Director of Public Works, Brett Nystrom, will speak to the Board on the success of the work in upgrading the Facility.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A.

SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS: None