

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 a.m., November 3, 2011
Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

Item: 2

Subject: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2011-0096, to consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Garberville Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), W DID No. 1B83120OHUM, Humboldt County

DISCUSSION

The Garberville Sanitary District (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates a municipal wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and associated wastewater collection and disposal facilities that serve the community of Garberville. Recent upgrades to the WWTF provide additional treatment capacity, increasing from an average dry weather treatment capacity of 0.060 million gallons per day (mgd) to 0.162 mgd. The upgrades include the addition of a new primary pond (pond one), modifications to flow through existing waste stabilization ponds two and three, and conversion of additional existing ponds into a series of four wetland treatment cells. Improvements to the disinfection system include a hypochlorite generation and injection system.

Disinfected effluent is discharged at Discharge Point 001 year round to percolation ponds, which have a combined area of 0.74 acres. The percolation ponds are located on top of a gravel deposit 500 feet west of the open low-flow channel of the South Fork Eel River. The Discharger performed a Hydrogeologic Study (Study) to evaluate the fate and transport of wastewater constituents associated with existing WWTF disposal practices. The Study concluded that the percolation ponds are located on an uplifted fluvial terrace sequence and that the lower terrace is in hydraulic connection with the South Fork Eel River. The Study suggests that once the new wetland treatment cells mature, constituent concentrations will attenuate prior to reaching the river. Ongoing groundwater monitoring will be implemented throughout the term of proposed Order No. R1-2011-0096 to verify these projections.

A copy of the draft permit and/or information to access the draft on the Regional Water Board website was mailed to the Discharger, interested agencies, and persons. This item was opened for public comment from September 7, 2011 to October 7, 2011. No comments were received.

This item is associated with an Order rescinding a Cease and Desist Order adopted previously for the WWTF and included in the agenda materials.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R1-2011-0096 as proposed.