

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: 3

Subject: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2011-0098, to consider Rescission of Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2004-0097, for Garberville Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), WDID 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. In 2004, circumstances within the Garberville community had resulted in a cycle of inadequate performance for the WWTF, requiring major upgrades to meet acceptable treatment standards. Specifically, the WWTF did not have adequate capacity to provide wastewater treatment as specified in Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-58. On November 29, 2004, the Regional Water Board issued Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2004-0097 to the Discharger for chronic violation of effluent limitations, and hydraulic loading exceeding the design capacity of the WWTF. Order No. R1-2004-0097 required the Discharger to perform several tasks to address treatment and capacity violations. In addition to these tasks, Order No. R1-2004-0097 prohibited the addition of new flows of wastewater to the WWTF from new residential, commercial, industrial, and/or governmental connections until such time that it could be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Regional Water Board that more connections would not result in additional violations of the waste discharge requirements.

Recent upgrades to the WWTF provide additional treatment capacity at the facility 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.

Documentation submitted by the Discharger as well as inspection of the WWTF confirm that actions necessary to provide adequate treatment capacity for current and future

influent flows and improved ability to comply with waste discharge requirements at the WWTF have been completed. Based on work conducted by the Discharger and current conditions at the WWTF, staff finds the conditions in Order No. R1-2004-0097 to have been met and that more connections to the WWTF would not in themselves result in additional violations of the waste discharge requirements.

A copy of the draft order 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 consideration of updated waste discharge requirements for the WWTF included in the agenda materials.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R1-2011-0098 as proposed.