

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, December 15, 2016
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Public Hearing to consider adoption of Order No. R1-2016-0043, requiring the College of the Redwoods to cease and desist from discharging or threatening to discharge effluent in violation of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2016-0041 for the College of the Redwoods Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80121OHUM, NPDES No. CA0006700 (*Justin McSmith*)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0043 (Proposed CDO) to replace current CDO No. R1-2010-0079. The Proposed CDO contains a time schedule for the College of the Redwoods (Permittee) to comply with final effluent limitations for copper, ammonia and nitrate.

BACKGROUND: Concurrent with the adoption of this Proposed CDO, the Regional Water Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2016-0041 (Proposed Permit)(See Agenda Item 2), which will serve as an NPDES permit for waste discharges to surface water. The Proposed Permit includes discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, and receiving water limitations (surface water and groundwater) for the Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). Specifically, the Proposed Permit includes effluent limitations for copper, ammonia and nitrate. The Permittee cannot immediately comply with these limitations. The Proposed CDO establishes tasks and compliance schedules for the Permittee to comply with the effluent limitations in the Proposed Permit.

In 2010, the Regional Water Board issued the Permittee a CDO requiring that the Permittee comply with the copper, silver, and lead effluent limitations by no later than December 2013. In 2013, the Regional Water Board granted the Permittee an extension to December 1, 2015, to comply with the final effluent limitations. Currently, the Permittee meets effluent limitations for lead and silver; however, it cannot consistently comply with copper final effluent limitations. Additionally, based on an evaluation of existing Facility performance, the Permittee will be unable to comply with the ammonia and nitrate effluent limitations in the Proposed Permit.

ISSUES: The Proposed CDO requires the Permittee to comply with the copper, ammonia and nitrate final effluent limitations in the Proposed Permit no later than June 1, 2020. In the meantime, the Permittee must meet interim effluent limitations calculated based on the existing performance of the Facility. The interim limitations for copper, ammonia and nitrate are intended to ensure that the Permittee maintains at least the existing performance while completing all tasks in the Proposed CDO. The compliance schedule established in the Proposed CDO allows the Permittee time to investigate and implement effective measures needed to achieve compliance with the final effluent limitations. Specifically, the Proposed CDO requires the Permittee to develop, submit and implement a copper monitoring and reduction workplan to identify and reduce/eliminate sources of

copper in its wastewater. The planned upgrades, which are scheduled to be completed by 2020, will enhance nitrification/denitrification capabilities at the Facility and should allow the Permittee to achieve compliance with the ammonia and nitrate final effluent limitations.

No comments were submitted during the public comment period on the draft CDO, thus no changes were made to the Proposed CDO.

Adoption of the Proposed CDO is uncontested by the Permittee.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2016-0043, as proposed.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2016-0043
2. Public Notice