

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2011

Prepared on November 4, 2011

ITEM NUMBER: 8

SUBJECT: **Resolution for Adopting the Negative Declaration for the Whittaker Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System Expansion, San Benito County (Resolution No. R3-2011-0227)**

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KEY INFORMATION

Facility Name: Whittaker Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System
Facility Owner: Whittaker Corporation
Location: 2751 San Juan Road, Hollister, California
Discharge Type: Industrial, Cleanup Site
Design Capacity: 0.20 million gallons per day (140 gallons per minute)
Treatment Type: Bioreactor (biological treatment) and carbon adsorption units
Disposal Method: Treated groundwater disposal via an onsite injection well
This Action **Adopt Resolution No. R3-2011-0227 approving CEQA findings of Negative Declaration**

DISCUSSION:

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) is considering adopting *Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2011-0224* (WDR), which allows Whittaker to proceed with expansion of their Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System (GETS) (see agenda item No. 7). Whittaker needs to operate the GETS in order to comply with Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2009-0015, which requires hydraulic capture and cleanup of polluted groundwater. The GETS expansion, which includes treatment system upgrades, construction and piping for more extraction wells, and a new injection well to discharge treated water to the deep (Unit 5) aquifer, is considered a "project" pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The attached Resolution No. R3-2011-0227 (Resolution) adopts the Negative Declaration for the project and considers the CEQA findings associated with the Negative Declaration of the GETS expansion. Per CEQA Guidelines section 15070, the Negative Declaration contains provisions to the project plans agreed to by Whittaker that will avoid the impacts and comply with local and state permits such that no significant environmental effects will occur as a result of the GETS expansion. Through compliance with state and local permits, the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore does not require mitigation measures.

On September 13, 2011, Central Coast Water Board staff provided a Notice of Intent to adopt the Negative Declaration to the public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and other interested persons, which initiated a 30-day public review period. Central

Coast Water Board staff did not receive any comments. The Negative Declaration, Initial Environmental Study, and announcement notices are available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov> and http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/public_notices/public_notices.shtml. Within five days of adopting this Resolution, Central Coast Water Board staff will file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse, thus completing the CEQA process.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt proposed Resolution No. R3-2011-0227 approving the Negative Declaration, which allows Whittaker to proceed with GETS expansion and the cleanup of waste constituents in groundwater in order to comply with their Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2009-0015.

ATTACHMENT

1. Proposed Resolution No. R3-2011-0227
2. Negative Declaration

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