

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: City of Marysville Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sutter County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Amendment of Cease and Desist Order
No. R5- 2008-0110*

BACKGROUND: The City of Marysville disposes treated wastewater primarily through discharge to evaporation and percolation ponds, which are subject to inundation by floodwaters in the Feather and Yuba Rivers. In 2004, the Regional Water Board adopted a Cease and Desist Order requiring the City of Marysville (Discharger) to submit plans to eliminate the threat of discharge from the ponds into surface waters. The Discharger selected an alternative of joining with a nearby wastewater agency, the Linda County Water District (CWD), to form a regionalized wastewater treatment system, thus eliminating discharge of wastewater to the ponds that are subject to flood inundation. In July 2008, the Regional Water Board adopted the existing Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. 2008-0110, prescribing a time schedule for by which the regionalization project with the Linda CWD would be accomplished, and requiring a work plan describing details of the interagency regionalization agreement between the City of Marysville and the Linda CWD to be submitted by 31 January 2009.

There has been growing interest in Yuba County to consider a wastewater regionalization project that incorporates other existing dischargers (in addition to the City of Marysville and the Linda CWD). A number of communities in the vicinity of these facilities face the need to expand or upgrade their wastewater treatment facilities to improve effluent quality, provide for increased capacity, or both. Combining some or all of the treatment and disposal systems may be more efficient than each community proceeding on its own upgrade/expansion project. An evaluation of feasible alternatives for regionalization has been started, but is not complete. Until that evaluation is completed the feasibility of regionalization is unknown.

By letter dated 24 November 2008, the City of Marysville and the County of Yuba jointly requested a 12-month extension of the time schedule in existing CDO No. 2008-0110 to allow time for additional consideration of regionalization of wastewater treatment systems in Yuba County. The City and County are concerned that time and funds spent on the project only for the two communities will divert resources away from the larger regionalization study efforts.

The proposed CDO Amendment requires the submittal of a feasibility study of regionalization alternatives that would resolve the Discharger's compliance issues. The Amendment also proposes extension of all other corresponding compliance dates by one year.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review_____

Legal Review _____

5 February 2009
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