

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: City of Dixon, Dixon Wastewater Treatment Facility, Solano County

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of a Cease and Desist Order

BACKGROUND: The City of Dixon owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) located in farmland to the southeast of the City of Dixon. The WWTF is regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 94-187, as well as by Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R5-2005-0078. The facility serves the City of Dixon, with a population of approximately 17,600, and consists of a headworks and approximately 420 acres of unlined wastewater treatment/storage ponds, percolation/evaporation ponds, and land application disposal areas. The City relies exclusively on percolation and evaporation to dispose of wastewater. The WDRs authorize a monthly average dry weather flow of 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd), while CDO No. R5-2005-0078 authorizes a flow of 1.82 mgd. Current influent flows to the treatment facility are approximately 1.3 million mgd.

Since adoption of WDRs Order No. 94-187 in 1994, the Regional Water Board has adopted three Cease and Desist Orders (CDOs) for the City's facility, primarily due to excessive inflow and infiltration (I/I); inadequate treatment, storage, and disposal capacity; and degradation and/or pollution of groundwater for salinity. The City did not fully comply with these Orders. In early 2008, the Executive Officer issued and settled a \$220,000 Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to the City for violations of the current CDO.

On 11 February 2008, Regional Water Board staff circulated a tentative Cease and Desist Order for the City of Dixon for public comment. The proposed CDO primarily addresses impacts to groundwater salinity at the City's WWTF and would require that the City take steps to control the sources of salinity entering its wastewater treatment plant. If the source control measures are not sufficient, then the City is required to implement physical improvements to the wastewater treatment plant such that it meets final sodium and chloride effluent limits by 2014. The final limits are intended to be protective of groundwater. The CDO also includes performance-based interim effluent limits, which would take effect immediately. These performance-based limits are based on the highest reported sodium and chloride concentrations, and are designed to prevent the groundwater from becoming any more impacted while the City implements its source control measures.

ISSUES: Regional Water Board prosecution staff has met with the Discharger numerous times over the last few months, and believes that the City is not contesting the Order. However, both the City and the Dixon

chapter of the Solano County Taxpayers Association may wish to address the Board. The accompanying staff report addresses the many issues that have been discussed recently, and includes the Prosecution Team's responses to the comments submitted regarding the tentative CDO.

RECOMMENDATION: The Prosecution Team recommends adoption of the Cease and Desist Order as proposed. The Board's advisors will provide a recommendation after the Board has heard all evidence.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review LTO

11/12 September 2008

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670