

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sacramento County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order.*

BACKGROUND: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Discharger) provides wastewater treatment service to the Cities of Sacramento, Folsom, West Sacramento and the Sacramento Area Sewer District. The Sacramento Area Sewer District service area includes the Cities of Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova and Citrus Heights, the communities of Walnut Grove and Courtland, and portions of the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. The population served is approximately 1.3 million people. The Facility currently regulated by Order No. 5-00-188 discharges secondary-level treated wastewater to the Sacramento River at Freeport within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The existing secondary treatment at the facility consists of preliminary screening and grit removal, primary sedimentation, a pure-oxygen activated sludge treatment system, chlorination for disinfection, and dechlorination. The current permitted discharge is 181 million gallons per day (mgd) as an average dry weather flow. The current average discharge into the Sacramento River is 141 mgd.

The proposed NPDES Permit includes new effluent limitations for ammonia, aluminum, nitrate, manganese, electrical conductivity, carbon tetrachloride, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), dibenzo(ah)anthracene, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, pentachlorophenol, and Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MBTE). The proposed Permit also includes revised effluent limits for cyanide, and more stringent effluent limitations for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), total coliform, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, chlorodibromomethane, copper, dichlorobromomethane, methylene chloride, tetrachloroethylene, chlorine residual and mercury. The Discharger is not able to immediately comply with all the proposed limitations; therefore, a Time Schedule Order (TSO) is also proposed to provide a 10-year time schedule for compliance effluent limitations in which the Discharger is not able to immediately comply.

Public comments on the proposed NPDES Permit and TSO were received from the Discharger, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, the Central Valley Clean Water Association, various Water Agencies, Legislators, State and Federal Agencies, local governments, local businesses and local rate payers. Major and minor modifications were made to the tentative NPDES Permit in response to public comments received. Major tentative Permit modifications include changes in the nitrates and electrical conductivity effluent limitations, inclusion of ammonia interim limitations, and modification of the toxicity trigger for chronic toxicity and monitoring requirements. A thorough discussion regarding the tentative NPDES Permit and TSO is included in the Staff Report for this agenda item. All public comments, and Central Valley Water Board staff response to comments are summarized in the Staff Response to Comments document also included in the agenda package.

ISSUES: The main issues for the permit renewal are requirements for ammonia

removal (nitrification/denitrification) and tertiary filtration, the exception to the State Water Resources Control Board's Thermal Plan requirements, and the costs for the Discharger to comply with the proposed NPDES Permit. These issues are also discussed in a Staff Report and Response to Comments documents that is part of the agenda package.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

9 December 2010

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