

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: City of Willows, Willows Wastewater Treatment Plant, Glenn County

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

BACKGROUND: The City of Willows owns a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) in Willows, Glenn County. SouthWest Water Company (contract operator) operates the wastewater treatment plant. The treatment system at the facility consists of a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system and provides sewage service to the City of Willows. The treatment system includes influent screening, extended aeration (biolac system), activated sludge with two secondary clarifiers, nine continuous backwash sand filters, disinfection with sodium hypochlorite, dechlorination using sodium bisulfite injection, equalization and emergency storage ponds, and sludge storage lagoons. Wastewater is discharged from the Plant to Agricultural Drain C, a tributary to Logan Creek or to the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Lateral 26-2, waters of the United States, and tributaries to the Colusa Basin Drain.

The tentative NPDES permit renewal proposes new effluent limits for electrical conductivity, ammonia, nitrate, dichlorobromomethane and chlorodibromomethane. A Time Schedule Order is also proposed to include a compliance schedule which allows the Discharger time to evaluate alternatives, secure funding, and complete construction of the selected alternative adequate to achieve compliance with the new effluent limits.

Public comments were received from the Discharger, U.S. EPA, and Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA). Detailed comments and responses are included in the Staff Response to Comments document included in this agenda item.

ISSUES: The main issue is the municipal/domestic water supply (MUN) beneficial use designation. The Discharger's previous NPDES Permit does not apply the MUN designation to the receiving waters; however, the proposed NPDES Permit does based on State Water Board's Resolution No. 88-63, which establishes that all waters should be considered potentially suitable for municipal or domestic supply. The Discharger and CVCWA disagree and comment that the exception in Resolution No. 88-63 for agricultural drains applies to this discharge, and that the Central Valley Water Board only need to find that the exception for agricultural drain applies to this discharge. Central Valley Water Board staff does not concur. Although the agricultural canal, which serves as the receiving waters, may qualify for an exception to Resolution No. 88-63, the Central Valley Water Board may only grant such an exception through a formal Basin Plan Amendment process. Thus, the newly interpreted MUN designation of the receiving waters must be applied in the proposed NPDES Permit until the Basin Plan is amended.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review_____

Legal Review_____

9/10 June 2011

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