

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: City of Merced, Merced Wastewater Treatment Facility, Merced County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) (NPDES No. CA0079219) and Rescission of Time Schedule Order R5-2010-0904*

BACKGROUND: The City of Merced (hereinafter Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Merced Wastewater Treatment Facility (hereinafter Facility), a Publicly-Owned Treatment Works that serves a population of approximately 80,000.

The Facility was recently upgraded and now provides tertiary treatment with ultraviolet light disinfection. The Facility is permitted to discharge 12.0 million gallons per day (mgd). Based on demand, the Discharger has plans to complete two phased expansions at the Facility to increase the design daily average flow capacity up to 16.0 mgd and up to 20.0 mgd, respectively. Disinfected tertiary-treated wastewater is discharged to either the Harley Slough, a water of the United States, the Wildlife Management Area, or the Land Application Area.

The proposed WDRs/NPDES permit includes effluent limitations for 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅), total suspended solids (TSS), pH, ammonia as nitrogen, nitrate + nitrite and nitrogen, total recoverable copper, acute whole effluent toxicity, total coliform organisms, electrical conductivity (EC), chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and flow.

Time Schedule Order (TSO) R5-2010-0904 was issued on 18 May 2010 to provide the Discharger a timeline to complete upgrades to the Facility to come into compliance with effluent limitations for cyanide, dibromochloromethane, dichlorobromomethane, BOD₅, TSS, settleable solids, total coliform organisms, turbidity, and BOD₅/TSS percent removal contained in Order R5-2008-0027. The Discharger has achieved compliance with the effluent limitations by completing tertiary treatment upgrades, which were certified in a 16 May 2011 letter. Therefore, rescission of TSO R5-2010-0904 is appropriate.

ISSUES: Comments were received from the Discharger and the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA). Revisions were made to the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit to address some of these comments. Full responses to the comments are included in the Response to Comments in the agenda package.

The Discharger requested the following: elimination of influent EC monitoring; and a reduction in the frequency of monitoring the

upstream receiving water for priority pollutants from 2/year to once during the term of the WDRs/NPDES permit.

CVCWA requested a reduction to the scope of the Land Use and Groundwater Limitations Study and revised rationale for water quality-based effluent limitations for pathogens.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board adopt the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit and the proposed Order to rescind Time Schedule Order R5-2010-0904.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

7/8 August 2014
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670