

ITEM: 28

SUBJECT: Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements

REPORT: Following are the proposed waste discharge requirements that prohibit discharge to surface waters. All agencies and the dischargers concur or have offered no comments. Items indicated as updates on the summary agenda make the requirements consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.

a	<p><b>CARUTHERS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, FRESNO COUNTY.</b> Caruthers Community Services District owns and operates the Caruthers Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), which serves a population of about 2,500 people in the community of Caruthers in Fresno County. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 91-191 prescribes requirements for the WWTF, authorizing a discharge of up to 0.24 million gallons per day (mgd) of effluent to percolation ponds for disposal. The District completed major improvements to the WWTF in 2013, including a new influent pump station and headworks, a new blower building, a treatment system for nitrogen removal, a sludge digester, and concrete-lined sludge drying beds. The improved WWTF produces effluent low in total nitrogen, biochemical oxygen demand, and salinity, with capacity for a flow of up to 0.28 mgd. WDRs Order 91-191 no longer reflects conditions at the WWTF and needs to be updated. The proposed Order limits the concentration of effluent total nitrogen to no more than 10 mg/L, and includes provisions requiring the District to remove accumulated sludge from old treatment ponds, prepare a Salinity Management Plan, install replacement groundwater monitoring wells, and pursue recycled water projects. (SJP)</p>
b	<p><b>EQUINOX RESOURCES (CALIFORNIA) INC. AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, ZENDA MINE, KERN COUNTY</b></p> <p>Equinox Resources (California) Inc. (hereinafter Equinox) and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter jointly referred to as Discharger) each own a portion of the property on which the Zenda Mine is located. The United States Government, through the agency of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is the owner of a portion of the real property at which the discharge will occur. The BLM is responsible for ensuring compliance with these requirements on land over which they administer, but Equinox is responsible for day-to-day operations and monitoring.</p> <p>Equinox proposes to mine and process low-grade gold and silver ore on the mine property. Approximately 800,000 tons of ore and 1,000,000 tons of overburden and waste rock would be removed by open pit mining. The ore would be processed using a cyanide heap-leaching method. Mining operations, construction of the mining waste management units, and initiation of the heap leach extraction process have not commenced.</p> <p>The mining facility is currently regulated by Order No. 97-168, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 8 August 1997. Order No. 97-168 no longer reflects the plans and policies of the Central Valley Water Board. This revised tentative Order implements the applicable regulations for discharges of mining waste to land through Prohibitions, Specifications, Provisions, and monitoring and reporting requirements.</p>

c	<p><b>WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS TO IMPLEMENT OPERATION, CONSTRUCTION, APOST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE, AND CORRECTIVE ACTION, HIGHWAY 59 SOLID WASTE LANDFILL, MERCED COUNTY</b></p> <p>The Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates the Highway 59 Solid Waste Landfill (Facility) about six miles north of the City of Merced. The Facility is on a 609-acre property and contains four closed unlined Class III waste management units (Phases 1 to 4) covering a total of approximately 89 acres, one inactive single-composite lined Class III unit (Phase 5) covering 25 acres, one active single-composite lined Class III unit (Phase 6) covering 140 acres, two Class II surface impoundments, and three storm water retention basins.</p> <p>There has been a confirmed release to groundwater and the Discharger submitted an Evaluation Monitoring Program Report in November 2010. The nature of the release was demonstrated to be volatile organic compounds that appear to have migrated from the unlined area (Phases 1 to 4) of the landfill in the form of landfill gas. Inorganic waste constituents did not appear to have been released from the landfill.</p> <p>The Discharger submitted the Engineering Feasibility Study (EFS) and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) in July 2011 and December 2012, respectively. The EFS and CAP concluded that the most technically and economically feasible corrective action alternative was to install a dual phase (groundwater and soil gas) extraction and treatment system with landfill gas extraction as a source control.</p> <p>The proposed revised Order provides for the operation, construction, post-closure maintenance, and adds requirements for implementation of the approved corrective action plan in accordance with title 27.</p>
d	<p><b>VICTOR PACKING, INC., RAISIN PROCESSING AND DEHYDRATING PLANT, MADERA COUNTY.</b></p> <p>Victor Packing, Inc., (Discharger) owns and operates a raisin processing and dehydrating plant (Plant) in Madera County. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order 94-352 authorizes the discharge of raisin processing wastewater to land owned by the Discharger. The Plant processes and packs raisins for local growers year-round. The Plant also operates a dehydrator from late-August through October to dehydrate grapes and recondition rain damaged grapes and raisins. Order 94-352 authorizes an average discharge flow of up to 0.06 million gallons per day (mgd).</p> <p>Process wastewater generated at the Plant includes rinse water from washing raisins and grapes, water collected during the dehydration process, equipment wash water, and boiler blow down. Wastewater from the raisin processing and dehydrating operations is co-mingled in an aboveground settling tank before being discharged to the land application areas. From the settling tank, the wastewater is blended with fresh irrigation water and applied via furrow irrigation to approximately 100 acres of grape vines. When not irrigating the vineyard, the wastewater is applied to a 9-acre sprinkler field (expanded from the 4 acres specified in Order 94-352). Discharge to the sprinkler field occurs primarily between late August and October and between December and January- during the harvest and when the grape vines are being pruned. In addition, from August through November, the Discharger may use a portion of its wastewater for dust control around the Plant and on dirt roads around the land application areas.</p>

The proposed WDRs carries over the existing monthly average daily flow limit of 0.06 mgd and sets and annual discharge limit of 10 million gallons. The WDRs also set BOD loading limits, require nutrient and hydraulic loading to be at reasonable agronomic rates, and include a provision requiring the Discharger to install a monitoring well network to monitor groundwater beneath the site. (KC)
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RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed waste discharge requirements.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

9/10 October 2014

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting

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