

ITEM: 31

SUBJECT: City of Grass Valley, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No. CA0079898)*

BACKGROUND: The City of Grass Valley (Discharger) owns and operates the Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) located at 556C Freeman Lane, Grass Valley, CA. The Facility provides sewerage services for the city of Grass Valley with a population of approximately 12,100 residents. Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2009-0067 permitting an average dry weather flow of 2.78 million gallons per day (mgd) of tertiary-level treated effluent to Gas Canyon Creek. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board have classified this discharge a major discharge.

The proposed Order removes effluent limits for chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, trichloroethene, manganese, and methylene blue active substances (MBAS) because the discharge no longer exhibits reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable water quality objectives for these constituents.

ISSUES: A Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the Discharger and interested parties on 25 November 2015 for a 30-day comment period. Timely public comments on the tentative NPDES permit were received from the Discharger and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The following is a summary of the comments and Central Valley Water Board staff responses.

Pretreatment. The Discharger requested the removal of pretreatment program requirements in 2017 after collecting pretreatment data through 2016. The number of industrial dischargers has decreased from three to one over the past five years and the associated reduction in percentage of total wastewater flow to the Facility from industrial dischargers has decreased from as much as 40 percent to approximately 0.1 percent. Staff is in agreement with the Discharger and has modified the permit accordingly.

Chlorine Residual Monitoring. The Discharger requested removal of chlorine residual monitoring citing the Compliance and Enforcement Sections's 9 February 2010 letter allowing the Discharger to cease monitoring because they converted from chlorine to UV disinfection. However, the letter stated that ceasing chlorine monitoring was based on no chlorine use for treatment or plant maintenance. Currently, the Discharger uses chlorine containing compounds for plant maintenance. Staff does not concur with the Discharger and has modified the permit to allow for a year of chlorine residual monitoring and after a year of non-detects the Discharger can cease chlorine residual monitoring.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order

Mgmt. Review __NM____

Legal Review __SY____

18/19 February 2016 Central Valley Water Board Meeting
11020 Sun Center Drive # 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670