

**17 JUNE 2021 BOARD MEETING  
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 14**

**SUBJECT:**

The following is a proposed permit for consideration of adoption. All agencies and dischargers concur or have offered no comments.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewals and Cease and Desist Order.

**BACKGROUND:**

**a. Sierra Pacific Industries, Quincy Division, Plumas County –  
Consideration of Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0080357)**

The Sierra Pacific Industries (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Quincy Division (Facility), located at 1538 Lee Road, Quincy, California. The Facility is a sawmill and wood burning cogeneration facility. Industrial storm water from the Facility is discharged at Discharge Point 001 to Mill Creek or at Discharge Point 002 via an unnamed storm drain tributary to Mill Creek. Mill Creek is a water of the United States tributary to Spanish Creek within the Feather River Watershed. The Discharge Points are located approximately 2.5 miles upstream of the confluence of Mill Creek and Spanish Creek.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2015-0070, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on 5 June 2015. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed permit includes new or updated industrial storm water action levels for total suspended solids and iron. The proposed permit prohibits discharge of process wastewater and therefore, removes the effluent limitations for process wastewater. The proposed permit removes industrial storm water effluent limitations for settleable solids because the discharge is not causing an exceedance of water quality objectives for settleable solids in the receiving water. The Discharger completed a Best Management Practices project to reduce pollutant levels in the discharge and the resulting discharge did not exceed action levels for copper, zinc, and

chronic toxicity and is not causing an exceedance of water quality objectives in the receiving water. Therefore, the proposed permit removes industrial storm water action levels for copper, zinc, and chronic toxicity. Removal of these effluent limitations and storm water action levels will not result in an increase in the pollutants or degradation of the receiving water.

The proposed permit was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 13 April 2021 with comments due by 13 May 2021. No comments were received.

**b. Original Sixteen to One Mine, Inc., Sixteen to One Mine, Sierra County – Consideration of Renewal (NPDES Permit CA008180)**

The Original Sixteen to One Mine, Inc. (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Sixteen to One Mine (Facility), an operating hard rock gold mine in Sierra County, California. Operations at the Facility include mining; milling operations ceased in 1999. Groundwater from the mine workings collects naturally and is pumped from the lower levels of the mine by a 25-horsepower pump into a water ditch prior to runoff via the 21 Tunnel Portal. Currently, there is no treatment or control on the discharge from the 21 Tunnel Portal to Kanaka Creek at Discharge Point 001.

Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2015-0002, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 5 February 2015. An Order is proposed to renew the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The proposed NPDES permit includes updated limits for antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, electrical conductivity, iron, lead, and nickel. The proposed NPDES permit removes existing effluent limitations for average daily flow and manganese. Manganese no longer demonstrates reasonable potential to cause or contribute to in-stream exceedances of the applicable water quality objective. Flow is not a pollutant; therefore, a prohibition for flow has been included in place of an effluent limit. Removal of these limits will not result in an increase in pollutants or in the degradation of the receiving water.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 13 April 2021 with comments due by 5:00 pm 13 May 2021. No comments were received.

**c. Chester Public Utility District, Chester Wastewater Treatment Plant, Plumas County – Consideration of Cease and Desist (CDO) Order (NPDES Permit CA0077747)**

The Chester Public Utility District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Chester Sewage Treatment Plant (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works located in Plumas County, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the community of Chester and serves a population of approximately 2,100. The Facility provides treatment through a series of facultative wastewater ponds with a design flow of 0.75 million gallons per day (MGD). Treated, disinfected wastewater may be discharged seasonally to Lake Almanor from 1 October to 31 May. Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2021-0022 (NPDES No. CA0077747), adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 22 April 2021, and CDO R5-2016-0005, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 18 February 2016.

Historically, the Discharger has been unable to consistently comply with NPDES permit effluent limits for BOD and TSS removal, total coliform, and ammonia. The Discharger has gradually made improvements to their collection system for the past 30 years to reduce inflow/infiltration, but compliance issues remain. Current projects being conducted by the Discharger pursuant to CDO R5-2016-005 include an alternatives analysis and developing supporting documentation for possible repair, replacement, and/or installation of new sewer collection pipes to enhance the sewer system capacity and reduce I/I. Despite these ongoing efforts, improvements to the Facility have not yet resulted in consistent compliance during periods when the Facility's storage capacity is reached and discharge to Lake Almanor is necessary. Therefore, the proposed CDO gives the Discharger additional time to conduct a feasibility study and pollution prevention plan and includes interim limits and a compliance schedule to meet final effluent limits for BOD and TSS removal, total coliform, and ammonia.

The tentative CDO was previously circulated for a 30-day public comment period beginning on 26 February 2021. No comments were received. The

tentative CDO was originally noticed for hearing on 22 April 2021 but was inadvertently omitted from the Central Valley Water Board's meeting agenda. Therefore, staff re-sent a notice notifying the public of its intent to consider adoption of the proposed CDO at its upcoming 17/18 June 2021 Board meeting. This Notice incorporates the previous comment period and procedure provided in the 26 February 2021 Notice of Public Hearing. No additional written public comment period will be provided; however, interested persons and the Discharger will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the NPDES Permit.

**REVIEWS:**

Management Review:	Various
Legal Review:	Various

**BOARD MEETING LOCATION:**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

***Internet Zoom Meeting***