

**9-10 JUNE 2022 BOARD MEETING
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 10

SUBJECT:

CITY OF TURLOCK REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL FACILITY AND CITY OF MODESTO WATER QUALITY CONTROL FACILITY, NORTH VALLEY REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM, STANISLAUS COUNTY

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0085316).

BACKGROUND:

The City of Turlock is the owner and operator of the City of Turlock Regional Water Quality Control Facility (City of Turlock RWQCF), a publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) located at 901 S. Walnut Road, Turlock, California. The City of Turlock RWQCF provides sewerage services for the City of Turlock and the community service districts of Denair and Keys and receives up to 2 million gallons per day (MGD) of primary treated effluent from the City of Ceres. The City of Turlock RWQCF serves a population of approximately 88,000. The City of Turlock RWQCF is designed to provide tertiary treatment for up to 20 MGD.

The City of Modesto is the owner and operator of the City of Modesto Water Quality Control Facility (City of Modesto WQCF), a POTW located at 1221 Sutter Avenue, Modesto, California. The City of Modesto WQCF provides sewerage services for the City of Modesto, the community of Empire, and a portion of the City of Ceres, serving a population of approximately 256,000. The City of Modesto is designed to provide tertiary treatment for up to 14.9 MGD.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Order R5-2016-0010 (NPDES Permit) on 19 February 2016, authorizing a surface water discharge from the Facilities to the Delta-Mendota Canal, a water of the United States, via the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWP) Joint Outfall. The NVRWP Joint Outfall conveys tertiary treated wastewater from the Facilities to the Delta-Mendota Canal, where it is beneficially reused by agricultural users within the Del Puerto Water District via diversions from the Delta-Mendota Canal at locations downstream of the outfall (up to 59,000 acre-feet per year at build out). The NVRWP also provides recycled water to supplement the irrigation of south of Delta refuges downstream of the Delta-Mendota Canal.

An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. For the City of Turlock RWQCF, the proposed Order removes effluent limitations for bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, aluminum, mercury, and electrical conductivity, the maximum daily effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS), and the mass-based limits for BOD, TSS, and ammonia from the previous Order. For the City of

Modesto WQCF, the proposed Order removes effluent limitations for electrical conductivity and mercury, the maximum daily effluent limits for BOD and TSS, and the mass-based effluent limitations for BOD, TSS, and ammonia from the previous order. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board have classified this discharge a major discharge.

ISSUES:

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 5 April 2022 with comments due by 5 May 2022. Timely comments on the tentative Order were received on 5 May 2022 from the City of Turlock, City of Modesto, Del Puerto Water District, and State Water Contractors. A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff. Changes have been made to the proposed Order based on the comments received.

City of Modesto

The City of Modesto requested that the Far-Field Dilution and Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Studies either be removed from the proposed Order or consider adding clarifying language. Board staff maintained the study requirements because the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking water requested an updated more robust Far-Field Dilution study and CEC information; therefore, additional clarifying language was added for both studies. The City of Modesto also requested removing effluent and receiving water monitoring for total phosphorus. Board staff do not concur and kept the monitoring requirements again due to Division of Drinking Water request to gather data on nutrients that can pose a threat to drinking water conveyance, storage facilities, and treatment facilities, including harmful algal blooms and taste and odor issues. Typographical corrections were provided by the City of Modesto and Board staff updated the proposed Order accordingly.

City of Turlock

The City of Turlock requested that the effluent limitation for chronic toxicity be removed from the proposed permit since the one sample that would have required inclusion of an effluent limit was collected during a plant upset. Board staff concur and removed the limit from the proposed Order. The City of Turlock also requested two pH samples be removed from the dataset due to pH instrument scaling issues. Central Valley Water Board staff concur, removed two pH values from the summer season ammonia effluent limitation calculations and revised the effluent limits accordingly. Typographical corrections were also provided by the City of Turlock and Board staff updated the proposed Order accordingly.

Del Puerto Water District

The Del Puerto Water District had similar comments as the City of Modesto about the Far-Field Dilution and the CEC Studies. As mentioned above, Board staff maintained the study requirements and added clarifying language for both.

State Water Contractors

The State Water Contractors reiterated their continued concerns about introducing recycled water to the Central Valley Project and State Water Project conveyance systems, but the comments were generally in support of the tentative Order, including the increased monitoring and study requirements. The State Water Contractors requested one change to a reopener provision that Board staff have made in the proposed Order.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt NPDES Permit.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:
Legal Review:

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

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

Internet Zoom Meeting