

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
September 10, 2008

- ITEM: 7
- SUBJECT: Master Reclamation Permit with Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Marine Corps: Discharges of Reclaimed Water for Landscape Irrigation at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California (tentative Order No. R9-2008-0089). (Robert Pierce)
- PURPOSE: The Regional Board will consider adoption of a Master Reclamation Permit and waste discharge requirements for the discharge of tertiary treated water for landscape irrigation. The discharger, the United States Marine Corps (USMC), has constructed the Southern Region Tertiary Treatment Plant (SRTTP) to replace and/or upgrade the wastewater treatment service of four older sewage treatment plants. The SRTTP is connected to a reclaimed water conveyance and distribution system constructed to enable reuse through recycling of as much tertiary treated wastewater effluent as feasible.
- PUBLIC NOTICE: A public notice of the tentative Order was published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on July 26, 2008. The tentative Order was posted on the Regional Board web site on August 11, 2008. Selected federal, state and local agencies as well as the USMC were notified of the tentative Order and opportunity to comment in letters or emails sent August 13, 2008.
- DISCUSSION: The Regional Board received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) and Engineering Report for the SRTTP, located at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, dated February 14, 2008. The document was prepared by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command- Southwest Division and the contracted plant operator (Camp, Dresser, McKee). A Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by the USMC and dated April 2004 with Supplemental Environmental Assessment dated February 2007. CEQA equivalent NEPA documents are available online at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

The SRTTP will recycle wastewater for reuse as irrigation at Camp Pendleton. The uncontrolled discharge (recycling) of treated wastewater poses a potential threat to the designated and existing beneficial uses of ground water. Recycled water, resulting from adequate treatment of wastewater, is suitable for direct beneficial use. The Master Reclamation Permit and waste discharge requirements describe the design and operating standards for the SRTTP intended to protect the beneficial uses of water resources.

The Department of the Navy finalized the Record of Decision, on June 17, 2004, for construction of the SRTTP. If adopted, the Tentative Order would allow the SRTTP to recycle as much tertiary treated wastewater as practically feasible. The SRTTP will operate as a replacement for Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) 1, 2, 3, and 13, which will be converted to pump stations to convey raw sewage toward the SRTTP for tertiary treatment. New piping will be installed to convey the tertiary treated wastewater effluent (recycled water) for discharge/reuse as irrigation water within the boundaries of Camp Pendleton. Irrigation with tertiary treated wastewater will be limited to uses at a golf course, horse pasture, parade grounds, and for landscaping. The Lemon Grove Ponds, with current storage capacity at 300-acre-feet, will be used for storage of reclaimed water. An alternative discharge point for treated wastewater effluents is the Oceanside Ocean Outfall, under a separate National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit (CA0109347), as the fail-safe discharge point in the event the reclaimed water volume exceeds the storage and reuse capacity. This Tentative Order does not authorize a discharge to waters of the U.S.

KEY ISSUES:

The California Water Code sections 13511 and 13512 specifically describe the intent of the State of California in the efficient use of water including conservation and reclamation. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) policies' encourage the development of recycled water facilities while recognizing the need to protect beneficial uses.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

- No. 1- Location Map
- No. 2- Tentative Order No. R9-2008-0089 with errata.
- No. 3- Draft Technical Report for Order No. R9-2008-0089
- No. 4a- Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to
Comment
- No. 4b- Notice of Intent to Rely on Final Environmental
Impact Statement to comply with the CEQA
- No. 4c- Affidavit of Publication for Notices
- No. 4d- Distribution List for Notice of Intent
- No. 5- CEQA Checklist

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Regional Board staff recommends adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2008-0089 with errata.