

Item No. 11

Subject **Electronic Reporting of Compliance Data – Status Report**

Discussion This region remains the only wastewater regulatory agency in the country where effluent data for major NPDES dischargers are reported electronically. The Electronic Reporting System (ERS) now includes 55 dischargers, including all but three of the major dischargers. Every month it receives about 30,000 data points, which arrive in electronic format over the Internet and are automatically loaded into the Water Board's NPDES database.

Before this system went into effect several years ago, we received about five feet of paper per month to review and store. Reviewing all this paper for violations was tedious work, and it was possible to overlook some. Any analysis beyond compliance checking was all but impossible, since it first required that data be keypunched into the computer. This is time-consuming, and can be a source of errors. As of September 2004, the ERS captures well over 4 years monitoring data from all major dischargers in this Region. This represents a critical mass of discharger monitoring data for many Board important programs and functions (e.g., reasonable potential analysis for NPDES permit re-issuance, TDML and Basin Plan analysis) With ERS, we can check compliance immediately, and when desired we can, for example, easily analyze trends over time, calculate mass loadings for any desired pollutant and segment of the bay, and compare performance of different types of treatment plants. . The data submitted to the Board becomes living information, subject to ready analysis, now or later.

This system embodies several special achievements. One is that it was developed mostly in-house, using off the shelf software. Engineer Johnson Lam has been the guiding force for this project since its inception. Another noteworthy aspect is that it has been developed in close consultation with the discharger community. We received full support from the Bay Area Clean Water Agency (BACWA) members and the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) members (all five refineries in the Bay Region). We also received some funding from both industry associations for specialized programming elements. The system has been voluntarily adopted by all but a handful of major dischargers, and a number of minor dischargers.

We recently completed a development of ERS's version 3.0. The new system is fully web-based application. The web-based application will significantly reduce the ERS program support and maintenance cost. As a part of the California

Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) development, the State Board is developing a statewide NPDES electronic self-monitoring system (eSMR). According to the State Board staff, the statewide eSMR is modeled or based on Region 2's ERS design. We are working with the State Board staff to ensure that all critical elements in the ERS would be included in the eSMR. The State Board is hoping to implement the eSMR statewide by July 2006.

~~At this time we are working on some upgrades to the system. The most important is converting the system to one based on the web. This means that we would no longer have to supply each discharger in the system with the software, which can be a logistical burden as we do updates.~~