

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Robert Schlipf)
MEETING DATE: February 8, 2006

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **Chevron, Richmond Refinery, Richmond, Contra Costa County** – Hearing to Consider Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) for Discharge of Partially Treated Wastewater to Waters of the State

CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not previously considered this matter

DISCUSSION: Chevron violated its NPDES permit's effluent limits eight times during the period between December 1, 2001, and September 30, 2005. Four of these violations are subject to MMPs for a total of \$12,000. This penalty will be suspended since Chevron has chosen to fund a supplemental environmental project (SEP).

Heavy rains are believed to have caused three of the four violations (two mercury and one oil and grease) that triggered this enforcement action. In such events, Chevron has indicated that exceptionally high flow rates may have caused scouring of solids that contained high levels of mercury and oil and grease in its effluent pipeline. In response, we issued a Notice of Violation indicating that Chevron needs to implement a more aggressive maintenance program to remove such solids before wet-weather conditions arrive. The cause of the other violation (heptachlor epoxide) is unknown.

Chevron has signed a waiver to a hearing (Appendix B), and proposes to undertake a SEP. While the specifics of the SEP have not been resolved at this time, Chevron plans to support creek restoration work on a nearby stream.

RECOMMEND-
ATION: No action required

File Number: 2119.1044 (RS)

Appendices: A. Complaint No. R2-2005-0065
B. Signed Waiver