

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Calaveras County Water District, Saddle Creek Golf Course, L.P., and Copper Cove Wastewater Reclamation Facility, Calaveras County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of new NPDES Permit and Time Schedule Order*

BACKGROUND: The Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system that provides sewerage services to the Copperopolis Development Area (Copper Cove Sub-Division). Currently, CCWD operates a secondary wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity of 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD). After treatment, the disinfected secondary treated effluent is pumped to a storage reservoir for subsequent irrigation and restricted reclamation to a designated woodlands area on the District's property during the summer months. This existing discharge is regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 5-00-136.

The existing effluent storage and land disposal facilities are inadequate to prevent treated wastewater from overflowing the storage reservoir during intense rainfall events or very wet precipitation years. Due to the unique foothill location, additional land is not available for expansion of the storage reservoir or land disposal area. As a result, CCWD is proposing to extract secondary wastewater from the storage pond and treat it to a tertiary level acceptable for CCR Title 22 recycling on the Saddle Creek Golf Course. This tertiary treatment facility will have a design capacity of 0.95 MGD and will utilize a UV disinfection process. After tertiary treatment and disinfection, wastewater would then be recycled on the Golf Course during the irrigation season (1 April through 31 December), and used as make-up water for an adjoining jurisdictional wetlands, which is regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (CWA 404 Conditional Use Permit No. 99100807).

CCWD has applied for a NPDES permit to encompass incidental runoff associated with the seasonal recycled water application to the Golf Course and the direct discharge to the jurisdictional wetlands. [Incidental runoff from reclamation areas is not normally regulated by an NPDES Permit, but is handled by the Reclamation Permit. In this instance, because the proposed project involves both a reclamation discharge (golf course irrigation) and an NPDES discharge (makeup water for the wetlands), incidental runoff provisions are included in the NPDES Permit, but it is not intended that the incidental runoff is deemed to be an NPDES discharge.] Currently, the source of Golf Course irrigation water and wetlands make-up water is surface water from Lake Tulloch. This proposed recycling method would replace the use of surface water from Lake Tulloch, maximize the land disposal of tertiary treated wastewater, and significantly

reduce the threat of uncontrolled release of wastewater to surface waters.

This proposed new permit establishes requirements for the treatment and discharge of reclaimed wastewater directly to Golf Course, and for the direct discharge of make-up water to the jurisdictional wetlands. This proposed new permit includes technology and water quality based effluent limitations at the point of discharge from the tertiary treatment facility to the irrigation water storage pond (NC-2D). Water quality based effluent limitations for ammonia, aluminum, chloroform, electrical conductivity (EC), iron, manganese, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are included in this permit. Where appropriate, schedules for compliance with these effluent limitations have been placed in the permit. Where effluent limitations are based on existing numeric or narrative Basin Plan standards, schedules for compliance have been established in a separate Time Schedule Order (TSO).

During precipitation events, runoff from the Golf Course and the wetlands flows to Littlejohns Creek. This permit establishes receiving water monitoring locations in Littlejohns Creek upstream and downstream of all incidental runoff locations, and includes receiving water limitations within Littlejohns Creek.

Comments on the tentative permit and TSO were received from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), Stockton East Water District, and CCWD. The most significant comments, and responses to those comments, are summarized below. Based upon these comments, changes were made to both the proposed permit and TSO. Redline/strikeout versions of these documents will be made available to any interested person who requests a copy.

ISSUES:

California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) comments:

CSPA commented that the tentative permit did not include effluent limitations for chlorine and tri-halomethanes (THMs) for the effluent disinfected with the UV system. CSPA contends that in addition to disinfection with UV, chlorine is commonly used in wastewater treatment as part of filter backwashing and to maintain a potable water chlorine residual up to the tap. Therefore, the use of UV for disinfection may not eliminate the formation and discharge of THMs in the effluent. The proposed permit was modified to include effluent limitations for chlorine and THMs.

CSPA commented that the effluent limitation for electrical conductivity of 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ is not protective of agricultural uses and should be revised considering the agricultural goal of 700 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$. The proposed new permit establishes a final EC limit of 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ considering the MUN

beneficial use and the 'recommend level' (most stringent) secondary maximum contaminant level. Currently there is no information on downstream agricultural uses that may be influenced by the discharge, and there is insufficient information to determine whether effluent EC levels could cause or contribute to a violation of a water quality standard considering the AGR beneficial use. This Order requires the Discharger to conduct a site-specific study that identifies downstream agricultural and municipal supply uses, and assess the impact of the discharge on background water quality and these uses. The findings of this study shall be used to determine whether the final effluent limitations for EC should be adjusted up or down considering site-specific conditions and the potential and/or existing beneficial uses of the receiving water.

Stockton East Water District (SEWD) Comments:

SEWD commends the Discharger and the Regional Board for the proposed permit that is responsible and provides creative solution for reuse, recycling, and protection of downstream beneficial uses of the receiving water. SEWD's only concern is that they would like to be noticed of unusual monitoring results or any spills that may occur from the facility. The Discharger has agreed to comply with SEWD's request.

CCWD's Comments:

CCWD requested re-opener provisions in the permit for pH, and ammonia. Necessary studies and re-opener provisions have been included in the proposed permit.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

3/4 August 2006 Region 5 Board Meeting
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