

ITEM: 25

SUBJECT: County of Shasta Redding Regional Septage Facility, Shasta County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Adoption of a Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The County of Shasta operates the Redding Regional Septage Disposal Facility located approximately 3.5 miles west of the City of Anderson. The Facility was constructed in 1976 and consists of 10 unlined ponds in series that cover a surface area of approximately 11.5 acres with a total capacity of 16.2 million gallons. Incoming septage enters the pond chain at the primary pond, where solids are allowed to settle out, and the liquid portion is decanted into the next pond in series. The Facility was originally designed for a flow rate of 270,000 gallons per month and now receives approximately 525,000 gallons per month. The waste discharge requirements prohibit any discharge from the pond system.

Historical data from monitoring wells indicates that the discharge has not impacted groundwater. The risk of future impacts to groundwater is minimal due to the nature of the underlying soil conditions and depth to groundwater. Regional groundwater is approximately 300 feet below ground surface and the underlying native materials consist of silty/gravel and interbedded clay soils that have very low permeability and are greater than 10 feet thick.

The Discharger violated Order No. 94-018 in March and April 2006. On 13 March 2006, Shasta County Department of Public Works notified Regional Water Board staff that wastewater was overtopping the final ponds in the series due to relatively high rainfall. Regional Water Board staff issued a Notice of Violation for discharging wastewater from the final two ponds at the facility and for not maintaining the required two feet of freeboard in all ponds. The county, in order to prevent additional violations during the remainder of the wet season, hauled the wastewater/rainfall mix, by truck, to the county operated Cottonwood WWTP. The Cease and Desist Order provides a time schedule for submittal of technical reports and completion of a proposed septage pond expansion project. The Cease and Desist Order also requires the Discharger to provide to the Regional Water Board a monthly analysis of the additional holding capacity of the ponds that will assure compliance with the freeboard requirement in Order No. 94-018, if wastewater flow to the ponds exceeds 425,000 gallons in any given 30-day period. The order also limits the maximum 30-day septage inflow volume to 650,000 gallons until the expansion project is completed.

Shasta County is not contesting the issuance of a cease and

desist order and stated they can comply with the proposed compliance time schedule.

ISSUES

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

15/16 March 2007
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