

ITEM: 16

SUBJECT: City of Kerman, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Kern County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Kerman (Discharger or City) operates a Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) for the community of Kerman, which has an estimated population of 13,500 people. Wastewater is treated in aerated treatment ponds. The undisinfected secondary treated effluent is stored in 12 acres of unlined stabilization/storage ponds. The existing WWTF is not meeting effluent limits, and is approaching hydraulic capacity.

The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for an Expansion Project that will include construction of an extended aeration biological treatment process to replace the existing mechanical surface aerated pond system. The new treatment system will be operated to allow for denitrification. The Expansion Project also includes constructing 38-acres of storage ponds and new sludge handling and storage facilities.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-00-050, adopted on 17 March 2000, limits the monthly average discharge flow to 1.2 mgd. Self monitoring reports (SMRs) document that the WWTF is currently operating at or near its average daily flow limit. In addition, the WWTF does not always meet effluent quality limitations for BOD and TSS. The Discharger has made interim improvements in an effort to improve treatment. However, the WWTF is nearing capacity, and therefore needs to complete the Expansion Project to ensure adequate disposal and treatment.

The estimated cost for the Expansion Project is \$3.2 million dollars. The City intends to obtain its funding through a State Revolving Fund loan and City bonds. The City has also been acquiring monies from new development connection fees in anticipation of the Expansion Project. Sewer rates are currently about \$19.00 per month and are expected to go up to \$23.50 to cover the costs of the expansion.

The proposed WDRs would carry over the current WDRs' monthly average discharge flow until the Expansion Project is completed. Once the Expansion Project is complete, the proposed WDRs would allow for an increase in flow.

A proposed cease and desist order (CDO) accompanies the proposed WDRs because the Discharger cannot immediately comply with the limits in the proposed WDRs due to lack of treatment and disposal capacity. Once the Expansion Project is

