

ITEM: 15 b

SUBJECT: Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Dairies with Manure Anaerobic Digester or Co-digester Facilities

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of a Resolution to adopt Final Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Dairies with Manure Anaerobic Digester or Co-digester Facilities (General Order) as in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) and Findings*

BACKGROUND: Prior to consideration of this General Order, the Central Valley Water Board will certify the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for Waste Discharge Regulatory Program for Dairy Manure Digester and Co-digester Facilities (Program EIR).

The General Order will serve as General Waste Discharge Requirements for dairies with anaerobic digester or co-digester facilities that use only manure generated onsite, and dairies with digesters that use imported manure or organic feedstock to supplement manure feed stocks. Existing dairies currently covered under Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies, R5-2007-0035 (Dairy General Order) that construct and operate a manure-only digester using only manure generated onsite could retain regulatory coverage under the Dairy General Order.

The General Order was modeled on the Dairy General Order and contains many requirements similar to those contained in the Dairy General Order. Provisions and monitoring requirements have been added where differences between discharges from dairy-only and dairy with digester facilities exist. Like the Dairy General Order, the General Order does not serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

ISSUES A draft of this General Order was sent out for public review on 29 September 2010. Seven comment letters were received by 1 November 2010. Responses to those letters have been prepared and are contained in the Response to Comments document.

RECOMMENDATION Adopt the Resolution as proposed.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review ___APM___

10 December 2010
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