

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: City of Tulare, Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Recycling Permit, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Tulare County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements and New Master Recycling Permit*

BACKGROUND: The City of Tulare owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system that provides sewage service for industry and about 60,000 residents. The Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is about seven miles southwest of the center of the City. The City disposes of WWTF effluent by percolation from ponds and distribution to recycled water projects on about 2,770 acres of nearby farmland (including about 530 acres of City land).

Pursuant to existing WDRs Order R5-2002-0185 and Cease and Desist Order R5-2002-0186, which cite numerous deficiencies in treatment and control of the discharge that had resulted in groundwater pollution with nitrate, iron, manganese, and salts, the City has installed additional groundwater monitoring wells, submitted a Facilities Plan, a Salinity Source Control Plan, groundwater assessments; implemented changes to its Industrial Pretreatment Program, increased recycled water application area, and completed significant modifications to the WWTF (new Domestic Plant headworks, 12 mgd sequential batch reactors in the Industrial Plant, nitrogen removal in both Plants, and installation of soil cement-lined sludge drying beds). Effluent from the WWTF is significantly improved since the Central Valley Water Board adopted the Orders in 2002. The City submitted a Report of Waste Discharge in 2009 describing the changes and requesting a Master Recycling Permit to facilitate expansion of recycled water projects. The tentative WDRs and Master Recycling Permit would update the existing WDRs and authorize the City to administer a water recycling program consistent with Water Code section 13523.1(b). A separate order proposes rescission of the CDO.

Based on comments received from the City, Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA), and Jo Anne Kipps, staff made primarily minor changes to the tentative WDRs. Staff has changed the effective date for applicability of a groundwater limit for sodium from 2018 to 2021 to reflect the timelines of CV-SALTS. For clarification, staff also revised requirements for assessment of the City's soil cement-lined sludge drying beds.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the WDRs.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review PEP

11/12 April 2013

11020 Sun Center Dr. #200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670