

ITEM: 25

SUBJECT: City of Turlock, Regional Water Quality Control Facility, Stanislaus County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No. CA0078948)*

BACKGROUND: The City of Turlock is the owner and operator of the City of Turlock, Regional Water Quality Control Facility (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) located at 901 South Walnut Road, Turlock, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the City of Turlock and the community service districts of Denair and Keyes, serving a population of approximately 88,000. Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2010-0002-01, which permits the discharge of up to 20 MGD of tertiary treated wastewater to surface waters. Tertiary treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to the San Joaquin River, a water of the United States. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board (Board) have classified this discharge a major discharge.

Order R5-2010-0002-01 allowed for discharges to both the Harding Drain and the San Joaquin River upon completion of a dedicated pipeline to transport and discharge treated wastewater from the Facility directly to the San Joaquin River. The Discharger completed the project and began discharging to the San Joaquin River in July 2014, and has ceased discharging to Harding Drain. The proposed NPDES permit renewal does not allow for an increase in the discharge from the current permit. The proposed permit renewal includes new or revised effluent limitations for ammonia, bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, diazinon, chlorpyrifos, and electrical conductivity. In addition, the effluent limitations for boron, copper, lead, selenium, silver, chloride, iron, and manganese have been removed, because the discharge does not demonstrate reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an instream exceedance of the applicable water quality objectives.

The Tentative Order issued on 21 January 2015, included effluent limitations based on USEPA's 2013 recommended ammonia criteria. Because a separate basin planning effort is underway to evaluate the appropriate methodology to implement USEPA's 2013 criteria, on 3 March 2015, staff issued a supplemental notice to the Discharger and interested parties noting proposed changes to the Tentative Order that would follow USEPA's 1999 recommended ammonia criteria instead of the 2013 Criteria. The Order in the agenda package implements the 1999 Criteria. Included for the Board's consideration is a change sheet that identifies the necessary changes to the Order if the Board instead decides to regulate ammonia using the 2013 Criteria.

ISSUES: A Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the discharger and interested parties on 21 January 2015 for a 30-day public comment period. Public comments on the tentative NPDES permit were received on 26 February 2015 from the Discharger. The following is a summary of the comments on the major permitting issues and Central Valley Water Board staff responses. All issues have been resolved. Detailed comments and responses are included in the Staff Response to Comments document included in the agenda package.

Performance-Based Effluent Limit for Electrical Conductivity. The Discharger requested that the performance-based annual average effluent limitation for EC be increased from 1,100 µmhos/cm to 1,250 µmhos/cm to account for water

conservation and drought impacts on Facility influent and effluent salinity concentrations. Central Valley Water Board staff concurs that an increase of the proposed performance-based effluent limitation is reasonable considering the effects of water conservation and potential drought effects on influent and effluent EC concentrations at the Facility. The proposed permit has been modified accordingly to reflect the proposed performance-based annual average effluent limitation for EC of 1,250 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt NPDES Permit Renewal

Mgmt. Review __NM____

Legal Review __NJJ____

16/17 April 2015

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