

- SUBJECT:** Nevada County Sanitation District 1, Cascade Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County
- BOARD ACTION:** *Consideration of Time Schedule Order and NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No. CA0083241)*
- BACKGROUND:** The Nevada County Sanitation District (Discharger) owns and operates the Cascade Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) a publicly owned treatment works. The Facility serves the community of Cascade Shores with a population of approximately 200 residents, or 86 homes. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order R5-2008-0111 permits the Facility to discharge up to 0.026 million gallons per day of tertiary-level treated effluent to Gas Canyon Creek.
- The proposed NPDES Permit renewal contains turbidity specifications for a membrane filtration system and effluent limits for copper and zinc with which the Facility cannot immediately comply. Therefore a Time Schedule Order (TSO) is proposed that extends an existing time schedule to achieve compliance with the copper effluent limits, and a new time schedule to achieve compliance with the zinc effluent limits.
- Due to annual operational costs that exceeded facility revenue by approximately \$100,000/year the Facility is now bankrupt and receives funding through Nevada County's general fund. As such, the Discharger applied to the State Revolving Fund for \$3.6 million to abandon the Facility and convert to a land application (community septic) system. The Discharger anticipates that it will be at least three years before funds are available to initiate construction of the community septic system, which when complete will allow the discharge to be ceased to Gas Canyon Creek.
- The Tentative Order issued on 18 February 2015, included ammonia 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 18 February 2015 for a 30-day comment period. Timely public comments on the tentative NPDES permit were received by the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA). Below is a summary of the comments on the major permitting issues and Central Valley Water Board staff responses. Detailed comments and responses are included in the Staff Response to Comments document included in the agenda package.

A Supplemental Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the discharger and interested parties on 3 March 2015 for a 30-day public comment period noting the change from using the 2013 ammonia criteria to the 1999 ammonia criteria. Comments on the Supplemental Notice of Public Hearing are due 2 April 2015.

Remove Mercury Limits. CVCWA contends the effluent limit for total mercury should be removed. The discharge does not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable numeric criteria for mercury and the rationale in the Fact Sheet supporting the imposition of a mercury limit is inadequate. Central Valley Water Board staff concerns and the proposed Permit has been modified accordingly.

Collection System Language. CVCWA requested modifications to the discussion in the Fact Sheet (section VI.B.5.b) regarding the County's collection system to make the language consistent with other NPDES permits that have recently been issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Board.

Central Valley Water Board staff concurs. The Fact Sheet has been updated to reflect the language used in previous Central Valley Water Board NPDES permits.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order

Mgmt. Review __NM__
Legal Review _____

15/16 February 2015 Central Valley Water Board Meeting
1685 "E" Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2007