

Information Sheet

PROPOSED CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD

GENERAL NPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATERS THAT MEET APPLICABLE WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES AT THE POINT OF DISCHARGE

Overview

The Clean Water Act section 402 requires that a discharge of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to surface waters that are deemed waters of the United States, with certain exceptions, be regulated by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) regulates the dischargers of treated wastewater to surface waters with individual NPDES permits. However, when discharges have similar characteristics, the dischargers can sometimes be regulated using region-wide general NPDES permits. A general NPDES permit is crafted to regulate a group of dischargers rather than develop an individual NPDES permit for each discharger.

This proposed General Order NPDES Permit (General Order) would be for municipal wastewater facilities, with discharges to surface water that do not need dilution credits for their discharge, i.e., discharges that meet all applicable water quality criteria/objectives at the point of discharge.

What would the General Order do?

The General Order would regulate discharges from wastewater treatment plants that meet all applicable criteria/objectives at the point of discharge and provide a consistent and efficient permitting mechanism for protection of beneficial uses of surface waters. The permit would include effluent limits and monitoring requirements for all constituents required by federal and state regulations (as applicable to each permittee).

The General Order would provide an efficient, consistent process for permitting discharges from these facilities throughout the region.

How would the General Order work?

The discharger would submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered by the General Order. Upon the Region's receipt of the NOI, any supplemental information, and the required fee, a Notice of Applicability (NOA) would be issued by the Executive Officer indicating regulatory coverage for the discharge under the General Order. Upon issuance of the NOA, the existing individual NPDES Permit applicable to the discharge would be rescinded where applicable.

When would the General Order be available?

The General Order is planned for consideration of approval at the June 2016 Board Meeting. If adopted by the Board in June 2016, the effective date would be 1 August 2016. New enrollees could apply for coverage under the General Order immediately following Board approval. Individual discharges would be covered under the General Order as soon as a complete application is received and approved, and a NOA is issued by the Executive Officer.

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Stakeholder Involvement:

A Workshop will be held at the office of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 1 February 2016. Details for the Workshop will be posted to the Regional Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/announcements/

Potential questions for stakeholders to consider and discuss at the Workshop:

- Would you enroll under the General Order if it is available?
- What other discharges would you like to see be covered under this General Order, or another general order?
- What type of monitoring should be included in the General Order?

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