

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
8:30 a.m., January 27, 2011  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
David C. Joseph Hearing Room  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A  
Santa Rosa, California

Item: 3

Subject: Public Hearing, to consider adoption of Order No. R1-2011-0003, Modification of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, for City of Rio Dell Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R1-2006-0021 (Revised February 8, 2007), NPDES No. CA0022748 WDID No. 1B83134OHUM

## DISCUSSION

The City of Rio Dell (hereinafter referred to as the Discharger) is currently discharging under Order No. R1-2006-0021 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0022748, revised and adopted on February 8, 2007 (hereinafter Order No. R1-2006-0021). Order No. R1-2006-0021 will expire on April 1, 2012.

During the term of Order No. R1-2006-0021 the Discharger has conducted an individual Water Effects Ratio (WER) study to determine the site-specific toxicity of copper in the receiving water at the point of discharge to the Eel River. The study was conducted in accordance with applicable USEPA guidance for Streamlined Procedure EPA-822-R-01-005 and concluded that a site specific WER of 8.75 for total recoverable copper applies to the discharge.

Using the worst-case measured hardness from the receiving water (96 mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub>), the USEPA recommended dissolved-total translator of 0.96, and the site-specific WER, the criterion for protection of aquatic organisms under chronic exposure conditions is adjusted to 75.7 ug/L, as total recoverable copper. The maximum effluent concentration measured for total copper in the City of Rio Dell's effluent is 16 ug/L, based on samples collected during the discharge season from February 2007 through March 2010. Applying the new WER information, effluent copper concentrations do not demonstrate reasonable potential to exceed water quality criteria for copper when compared to criteria for the most sensitive beneficial use to be protected. Had this information been available at the time of permit issuance, no effluent limitations for copper would have been included in Order No. R1-2006-0021. Therefore, Order R1-2011-0003 proposes to modify Order No. R1-2006-0021 by removing effluent limitations

for copper. The protection afforded under the modified permit condition will result in a level of protection for beneficial uses equal to the previous conditions of Order No. R1-2006-0021.

A copy of the draft Orders and/or information to access the drafts on the Regional Water Board website was mailed to the Discharger, interested agencies, and persons. This item was opened for public comment from November 11, 2010 to December 11, 2010. No comments were received.

**PRELIMINARY STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Order R1-2011-0003 and modifications to Order No. R1-2006-0021 as proposed.