

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Cathleen Goodwin  
January 11, 2011

Executive Officer's Summary Report  
8:30 a.m., January 27, 2011

Item: 7

Subject: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2011-0007, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for **Sonoma County Junior College District Shone Farm Reservoir and Frost Protection System**, 7450 Steve Olson Way, Forestville, California WDID NO. 1B10078RSON, Sonoma County

## DISCUSSION

Sonoma County Junior College District (hereinafter Discharger) proposes to construct a recycled water storage reservoir and frost protection system at its Shone Farm property located at 7450 Steve Olson Way, Forestville, CA. and as shown on Attachment 1. Construction of the proposed recycled water reservoir is scheduled to be completed during the summer and fall dry season in 2011.

The proposed project involves the construction and operation of an 8 million gallon earth dam and reservoir and associated pumping facilities on approximately two acres of the 365 acre Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm property, use of the reservoir to store recycled water produced by the Town of Windsor's wastewater treatment plant, and use of the recycled water for frost protection of vineyards on the Shone Farm property. The proposed reservoir is surrounded by farm fields owned by Shone Farm. Routine irrigation with recycled water on the Shone Farm property is covered by Windsor's master reclamation permit (Order No. R1-2007-0013).

The proposed Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waiver) is needed to satisfy the need to demonstrate that the proposed recycled water reservoir qualifies for an exemption from California Code of Regulations Title 27 requirements for waste storage ponds. Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) contains regulations to address certain discharges to land. Title 27 establishes a waste classification system, specifies siting and construction standards for containment of classified waste, and requires extensive monitoring of groundwater.

Section 20090 of Title 27 identifies several conditional exemptions to meeting the prescriptive standards of Title 27. Section 20090(b) allows conditional exemptions for discharges of wastewater to land, including, but not limited to evaporation ponds, percolation ponds, or subsurface leachfields if the following conditions are met: (1) the applicable Regional Water Board has issued WDRs, reclamation requirements, or waived such issuance; (2) the discharge is in compliance with the applicable water quality control plan; and (3) the wastewater does not need to be managed according to CCR Chapter 11, Division 4.5, Title 22 as a hazardous waste.

The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) on July 6, 2010 that describes the proposed recycled water storage reservoir and associated frost protection system and a detailed evaluation of the pond to demonstrate that construction and operation of the pond will not cause a degradation of groundwater that exceeds water quality objectives. The ROWD also identifies actions and submittals that the Discharger will take as conditions for a waiver of waste discharge requirements. The proposed Waiver includes the specified actions and submittals as compliance conditions.

The Discharger's evaluation of the proposed recycled water storage reservoir is presented in a report titled *Technical Memorandum: Impacts to Groundwater Quality from Shone Farm Reservoir and Frost Protection* that is included with the ROWD. The evaluation included a comparison of the measured constituent concentrations in the recycled water with those in the groundwater at the reservoir site and in the Russian River aquifer and used a water balance model to demonstrate that water quality

objectives for the protection of the beneficial uses of groundwater will not be exceeded. The Technical Memorandum identified the potential for minor degradation of groundwater with regard to several constituents, including specific conductance, total dissolved solids, sodium, chloride, sulfate and zinc, but no potential for exceeding water quality objectives.

The Discharger will obtain all necessary permits prior to construction of the proposed reservoir, including enrollment under the statewide construction stormwater permit and will develop and follow a stormwater pollution prevention plan.

The proposed reservoir, pumping system and reclamation system will be operated and maintained by the Discharger. The reservoir will be filled with recycled water (tertiary treated, disinfected municipal wastewater effluent) by the Town of Windsor's reclamation distribution system through an existing 16-inch recycled water irrigation main that currently serves the Shone Farm site. The reservoir will retain approximately 7 MG of recycled water during the period of February 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup> for vineyard frost protection. The reservoir and pumping facilities will also provide recycled water to supplement recycled water supplied directly by the Town of Windsor to irrigate Shone Farm agricultural fields during the summer months.

The Town of Windsor operates its wastewater treatment, reclamation and disposal facility under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2007-0013, adopted by the Regional Water Board on June 14, 2007. Order R1-2007-0013 is on the January 27, 2011 agenda for modifications that include addition of a new discharge point to the Geysers recharge pipeline and to remove copper effluent limitation. Order No. R1-2007-0013 allows the Town to deliver its recycled water to agricultural use sites, thus Order No. R1-2007-0013 is not being modified to specifically identify the Shone Farm reservoir.

The Waiver includes a monitoring and reporting program to demonstrate that the operation of the recycled water reservoir and frost protection system are in compliance with Waiver conditions and protective of water quality.

A copy of the draft Order and/or information to access the draft Order on the Regional Water Board website was mailed to the Discharger, interested agencies, and interested persons. This item was open for public comment from November 21, 2010 to December 21, 2010.

One comment letter was received from the Discharger and is included as Attachment 2 to this staff report. A Response to Comments document is included as Attachment 3 to this staff report. Regional Water Board staff recommends minor changes to the Waiver as identified in the Response to Comments document. The recommended changes are also identified in underline and strikeout format in the Order that is part of this agenda package.

PRELIMINARY STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION: