

Executive Officer's Summary Report
8:30 a.m., January 19, 2012
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
David C. Joseph Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing** on Order No. R1-2012-0006, Rescinding Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2007-0015 for Fort Bragg Municipal Improvement District No. 1 WDID No. 1B84083OMEN

DISCUSSION

The Fort Bragg Municipal Improvement District No. 1 (hereinafter the District) operates a municipal wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), located in the City of Fort Bragg, to collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater generated within the sewerage district. The District treats domestic waste to secondary standards, disinfects the wastewater using chlorine, and then discharges the treated effluent to the Pacific Ocean through an ocean outfall. Waste discharges from the District's WWTF are currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R1-2009-0030, adopted by the Regional Water Board on June 4, 2009. These WDRs also serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The District's wastewater collection system consists of approximately 30 miles of gravity pipeline and pressure mains and six pump stations. In 1973, an 8-inch diameter high-density polyethylene pipe force main was installed to provide sewer service to the MacKerricher State Park, which is located approximately 1 mile north of the City of Fort Bragg. A section of this force main, the Pudding Creek Force Main, runs approximately 2,900 feet from the Pudding Creek Pump Station, southward along the beach to Pudding Creek, south under Pudding Creek, and up the bluff where the pipeline terminates in a manhole at the intersection of Elm Street and Highway One.

The Pudding Creek Force Main had suffered numerous ruptures and spills since its installation in 1973. In 1985, a section of the force main that passes under Pudding Creek was enclosed in concrete after a rupture in the pipe caused an estimated 200 gallons of untreated wastewater to leak into Pudding Creek. The District also reported other ruptures of the force main in 1989, 1999, 2003, and 2005. On June 1, 2006, a rupture of the force main resulted in a discharge of untreated wastewater in excess of 2,500 gallons to an area adjacent to Pudding Creek. Just two weeks after the June 1st

spill, approximately 700 gallons were discharged to the beach as a result of a rupture of the same force main. In each case, the District took emergency actions to temporarily repair the leaking pipe.

On January 3, 2006, the District reported that the portion of the force main buried under Pudding Creek had become exposed, allegedly as a result of a release of an excessively large volume of water from a privately-owned dam on Pudding Creek, leaving the force main susceptible to damage or breakage from large floating debris. The Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2007-0011, pursuant to Water Code section 13304, to the District on January 29, 2007, requiring that the District take immediate action to address this problem.

On April 26, 2007, the Regional Water Board issued Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2007-0015 to the District for the threatened discharge of untreated wastewater from the Pudding Creek Force Main into Pudding Creek, a water of the State, in violation of the District's WDRs and the Basin Plan. The Order contained requirements to investigate, design, and implement permanent facility upgrades to the Pudding Creek Force Main. The Order contained a final compliance date of October 1, 2009.

To abate the threatened discharge, the District proposed a project to replace the Pudding Creek Force Main with a new 10-inch force main and relocate the exposed section of the force main running under Pudding Creek to the roadway on the Highway One bridge that spans Pudding Creek. The final project also included an alarm system with leak detection in the secondary containment section of the pipe section spanning Pudding Creek to provide additional protection for Pudding Creek and Pudding Creek Beach. The Fort Bragg City Council accepted a Notice of Completion for the project at a public meeting on January 12, 2009.

Since completion of the project in 2009, there have been no reported leaks or other problems associated with operation of the new Pudding Creek Force Main. Staff concludes that the project should be sufficient to correct the violations that led to the issuance of Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2007-0011 and Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2007-0015.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R1-2012-0006 as proposed.