

Executive Officer's Summary Report
9:00 a.m., June 7, 2012
Willow Creek Community Services District
Kimtu Cookhouse/Lodge
135 Willow Road
Willow Creek, California

Item: 7

Subject: **Public Hearing** on Order No. R1-2012-0050, to consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for **City of Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility**, WDID No. 1B81129OHUM, Humboldt County

DISCUSSION

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facility that provides sewerage service to residential and commercial parcels within the City of Blue Lake service area. The wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is comprised of a collection system; treatment facility that consists of four oxidation ponds, chlorine disinfection, a rock filter; and three percolation ponds for effluent disposal. The WWTF is designed to treat and dispose of up to 0.18 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater.

The wastewater system has 660 connections, of which 23 are industrial connections. Four of these industrial connections; the Mad River Brewery, the Blue Lake Rancheria, the Calgon Carbon Corporation and Blue Lake Power, are considered significant users.

The collection system is a conventional gravity system with two lift stations that pump wastewater to a headworks facility. At the headworks, wastewater is processed through the comminutor, and an inclined screening unit that grinds, washes, dewateres, and removes inert solids. Wastewater is then pumped to a 7.5 acre four-cell pond system for secondary treatment. The treatment ponds are designated Pond Nos. 1 through 4. Pond No. 1 is 2.7 acres and has an estimated 1-acre portion that is 11 feet deep. This pond contains three surface aerators. Pond Nos. 2 - 4 are stabilization ponds that vary from 5 to 6 feet deep and provide treatment including sedimentation, solids stabilization, and storage.

Treated effluent discharged from Pond No. 4 is disinfected with chlorine prior to passing through the rock filter or discharging into the percolation ponds. The chlorine contact chamber is a 400 foot long, 18-inch diameter pipe that at full flow has an average contact time of 30 minutes and at peak daily flow has a contact time of 5 minutes. The rock filter consists of 2.5 feet of pea gravel and was designed to treat 0.15 mgd of treated effluent. The rock filter is utilized during the summer months to remove algae.

Effluent from the treatment facility is discharged to three rapid infiltration basins. The three basins, designated Percolation Pond Nos. 1, 2 and 3, are located near the bank of the Mad River. Percolation Pond Nos. 1 and 3 have floor areas of approximately 1 acre. Percolation Pond No. 2 has a floor area of approximately 0.5 acres. Only one basin is used at a time.

A groundwater monitoring assessment plan is required by this Order to develop a monitoring network that establishes the local groundwater gradient and determines the appropriate locations to monitor discharges from each pond. Attachment C of this Order requires ongoing monitoring to ensure that concentrations of pollutants will not adversely impact beneficial uses.

A copy of the draft Order and information to access the draft posted on the Regional Water Board website was mailed to the Discharger, interested agencies, and persons. This item was open for public comment from April 3, 2012 through April 23, 2012. The Discharger submitted a comment letter dated April 19, 2012 (attached). The attached Response to Comments document provides responses to the Discharger's comments and identifies changes made to the draft Order No. R1-2012-0050 in response to the Discharger's comments.

Preliminary Staff
Recommendation:

Adopt Order No. R1-2012-0050 as proposed.