

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 22-23, 2014
Prepared on April 4, 2014

ITEM NUMBER: 8

SUBJECT: Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048551 for Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency Regional Treatment Plant, Monterey County, Order No. R3-2014-0013

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KEY INFORMATION

Location: 14811 Del Monte Boulevard, Marina, Monterey County
Place ID/Type: 241740/municipal wastewater treatment plant with industrial user pretreatment program
Type of Discharge: Secondary Treated Wastewater and Brine Wastes
Permitted Flow: 81.2 million gallons per day (MGD) (ultimate wet weather flow)
Average Daily Flow: Influent flow to the secondary treatment system shall not exceed 29.6 MG average dry weather flow and 75.6 MGD peak wet weather flow.
Water Reclamation: Facility provides up to 29.6 MGD of tertiary treated recycled water to irrigate 12,000 acres of farmland in the northern Salinas Valley to offset well pumping and inhibit seawater intrusion by the Salinas Valley Reclamation Project (SVRP). The SVRP portion of the MRWPCA facility and use of reclaimed water is regulated via separate water reclamation requirements.
Type of Discharge: Treatment processes include aerated grit removal, primary clarifiers, trickling filters, solids contact, secondary clarifiers, and filtration.
Disposal Method: Pacific Ocean discharge via a diffuser, positioned 11,260 feet offshore at a depth of approximately 100 feet.
Solid Wastes: Dried solids are hauled to the Monterey Regional Waste Management District's landfill in Marina, California, adjacent to the Regional Treatment Plant, where it is used as compost and as alternative daily cover.
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2008-0008
This Action: Adopt Order No. R3-2014-0013

DISCUSSION

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging pursuant to Order No. R3-2008-0008, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0048551. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD), dated November 21, 2012, and applied for an NPDES permit renewal to discharge up to 81.2 MGD of treated wastewater from its facility. Water Board staff deemed the application complete on March 15, 2013.

The MRWPCA currently serves a population of approximately 252,000 by providing regional wastewater treatment, disposal, and reclamation facilities for the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, Del Rey Oaks, Sand City, Marina, and Salinas; the Seaside County Sanitation District; the Castroville, Moss Landing and Boronda Community Services Districts; and Fort Ord. Each member entity retains ownership and operating/maintenance responsibility for wastewater collection and transport systems up to the point of connection with interceptors owned and operated by the Discharger. Residential, commercial, and industrial wastewater is conveyed to the MRWPCA Regional Treatment Plant, which has a design treatment capacity of 29.6 MGD and currently treats approximately 21 MGD. The Facility began operation in 1990, replacing six local wastewater treatment facilities.

The MRWPCA currently accepts 30,000-50,000 gallons per day (gpd) of brine wastes by truck from business entities which would otherwise be discharging to the sanitary sewer system. Such wastewaters include softener regenerant wastes and reverse osmosis brines, which are now trucked to the Regional Treatment Plant instead of being discharged to the collection system. Because irrigation uses of reclaimed wastewater are sensitive to elevated levels of total dissolved solids (TDS), the MRWPCA has sought to keep such elevated TDS wastewaters segregated from the influent flow of the Regional Treatment Plant. Brine wastes are held in a 375,000 gallon (approximate) lined holding pond at the Regional Treatment Plant and ultimately discharged directly to or blended with secondary treated wastewater before being discharged through Discharge Point 001.

COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Please refer to page F-10 in the Fact Sheet for a summary of the Discharger's compliance history. Based on the effluent data available for the period from July 2008 to November 2012, the Discharger did not violate effluent limitations.

CHANGES FROM THE EXISTING ORDER

The proposed Order is structured in accordance with the statewide NPDES permit template. The proposed Order is consistent with the previous Order with the exception of the following changes/modifications, which are also discussed in detail in the proposed permit fact sheet:

- Updated the Central Coast Standard Provisions in Attachment D-1 to be consistent with the January 2013 revision.
- Updated references to most recent version of the SIP or Ocean Plan.
- Based on results of the RPA, WQBELs are established for chromium (VI), cyanide, selenium, and total residual chlorine and removed for ammonia, arsenic, chromium (III), copper, mercury, nickel, zinc, and DDT (total). All other Ocean Plan Table 1 pollutants are retained in this Order. The Regional Water Board is also establishing WQBELs for whole effluent, acute and chronic toxicity.
- Clarified the table identifying sampling frequency and electronic self-monitoring reporting requirements.

COMMENTS

Public notice was provided and posted for the consideration of this proposed permit. Central Coast Water Board staff received three written comments from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). There were also editorial comments from the Discharger submitted during the comment period. Staff has responded to those comments and made minor edits to the draft order as a result of these comments. Not all of the Dischargers comments were incorporated into the draft order because the same information was in a different section of the permit (i.e. duplicative language). A complete discussion of the comments from both MBNMS and the Discharger can be found in the order in the Fact Sheet section VIII.B (beginning on page F-40).

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2014-0013, as proposed.

ATTACHMENT

For copies, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2014/2014_agendas.shtml

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2014-0013, including the following attachments:
 - Attachment A – Definitions
 - Attachment B – Map
 - Attachment C – Flow Schematic
 - Attachment D – Standard Provisions
 - Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)
 - Attachment F – Fact Sheet

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