

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: City of Placerville, Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility, El Dorado County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Order Amending Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2008-0054 (NPDES No. CA0078956)*

BACKGROUND: The City of Placerville (Discharger) owns and operates the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility (Facility), a wastewater collection and treatment system that serves the City of Placerville and a portion of the El Dorado County. The Facility discharges up to 2.3 million gallons per day of tertiary treated effluent. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) have classified this discharge as a major discharge. Treated wastewater is discharged into Hangtown Creek, a water of the United States.

On 25 April 2008, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2008-0053 (NPDES No. CA0078956) prescribing waste discharge requirements and containing in part, final effluent limitations for copper and zinc that become effective on 18 May 2010. Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2008-0054 was also adopted on 25 April 2008, providing time schedules for the Discharger to comply with final effluent limitations for nitrate, turbidity, and total coliform organisms, and a limitation for the temperature of the receiving water.

The Discharger has recently completed a \$45 million Facility upgrade project to provide the necessary treatment. However, operational fine-tuning of the upgraded Facility is not yet complete. Laboratory results indicate that the discharge continues to exceed the final effluent limits for copper and zinc. The Discharger submitted an infeasibility report and requested compliance schedule extensions for copper and zinc final effluent limitations in order to complete: 1) A full twelve months of treatment plant performance testing to determine the effect of improvements on effluent quality; 2) Additional effluent quality monitoring and data evaluation throughout all seasons to determine whether additional operations or treatment modifications are needed to achieve compliance; and 3) Further planning and implementation, if necessary, for subsequent site-specific water-effect ratio studies for adjustment of copper and zinc effluent limitations.

An Order Amending Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2008-0054 is proposed to provide a compliance schedule for copper and zinc final effluent limitations that extend the 18 May 2010 compliance date in the NPDES permit to the newly proposed 1 March 2015 compliance date.

ISSUES: None.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

18 March 2010
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670