

ITEM: 24

SUBJECT:

General Order for Centralized Dairy Manure Anaerobic Digester or Centralized Dairy Manure Co-digester Facilities

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of a Resolution to adopt Final Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Centralized Dairy Manure Anaerobic Digester or Centralized Dairy Manure Co-digester Facilities (General Order) as in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) and Findings

BACKGROUND:

The General Order will serve as General Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges from centralized dairy manure anaerobic digesters or centralized dairy manure co-digesters not situated on an operating dairy. Dairy operations that supply dairy manure to a centralized dairy manure-only digester and receive back from the digester an equivalent mass and character of waste (solid or liquid) are not required to seek coverage under this Order. Dairy operations that supply manure to a digester and receive back a greater mass of waste or waste of a different character (solid or liquid) are subject to this Order for the discharge of the returned waste.

The General Order was modeled on the General Order for Dairies with Manure Anaerobic Digester or Co-digester Facilities, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5 2010-0130 (Dairy Digester General Order), which was adopted by the Central Valley Water Board in December 2010. This General Order contains many requirements similar to those contained in the Dairy Digester General Order. Provisions and monitoring requirements have been added where differences between discharges from dairy-only and dairy with digester facilities exist. Like the Dairy Digester General Order, this General Order does not serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

ISSUES

A draft of this General Order was circulated for 30-day public review beginning 5 April 2011. One comment letter was received by 5 May 2011. Responses to the letter have been prepared and are contained in the Response to Comments document.

RECOMMENDATION Adopt the Resolution as proposed.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

9/10 June 2011

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