

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: City of Dunsmuir, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Shasta County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal*

BACKGROUND: The City of Dunsmuir (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant which provides treatment of the City's municipal wastewater. Effluent from the wastewater treatment plant (Facility) is discharged to either the Sacramento River (above Lake Shasta), or to a series of percolation ponds adjacent to the river, depending on the time of year. Discharge to the river from 15 June through 15 September is prohibited.

The proposed permit includes new effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), copper, dichlorobromomethane, zinc, ammonia, and nitrate. The new effluent limits for BOD and TSS are more stringent than in the current permit, and are intended to minimize the loading of oxygen demanding substances and suspended solids to this high quality stretch of the Sacramento River. The Discharger can immediately comply with the new BOD and TSS limits. Limited dilution credits for the other constituents are proposed and result in effluent limits that the Discharger can immediately comply with.

The Discharger has inadequate capacity to fully treat the wastewater received at the treatment plant during winter wet weather. When influent flows exceed the capacity of the treatment plant, treatment processes become washed out and diversion to the percolation ponds becomes necessary to avoid discharging partially-treated wastewater to the river. The Discharger has secured 75% grant funding to complete improvements to the wastewater treatment plant and the collection system. These improvements will increase the wet weather capacity of the treatment plant.

ISSUES: Comments were received from USEPA, the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA), and the Discharger. Staff made changes to the proposed permit in response to some of the comments. Staff's response to comments and the revised proposed permit are included with this agenda item. It is unknown at this time whether or not the revisions are acceptable to USEPA, CVCWA, or the Discharger. The main areas of comment were about dilution credits and compliance schedules.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review\_\_\_\_bjs\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review\_\_\_\_\_  
4/5 October 2012  
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