

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: The Vendo Company, Groundwater Remediation System, Fresno County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (NPDES No. CA0083046)*

BACKGROUND: The Vendo Company is the owner and operator of a Groundwater Remediation System (Facility), which is a groundwater extraction and treatment facility. The Facility is in the City of Fresno (Pinedale area) at 698 West Locust Avenue. Past industrial activities polluted area soils and groundwater with various metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The Facility was established to remove contaminants from groundwater and consists of groundwater extraction wells and two 20,000-pound granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment units. Treated groundwater is discharged to the Bullard Canal, which is hydraulically connected to the San Joaquin River, a water of the United States.

WDRs Order R5-2006-0016 (NPDES No. CA0083046) currently regulates the discharge of treated groundwater from the Facility. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed WDRs/NPDES permit include final effluent limitations for flow, copper, zinc, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1,-dichloroethylene, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, pH, acute and chronic whole effluent toxicity.

ISSUES: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provided comments on the proposed permit. Comments and staff responses can be found in the Agenda Packet. The following are the major issues:

1. USEPA contends that there is not sufficient basis for removal of the technology-based effluent limitations for methylene chloride and total volatile organic compounds (VOCs, including chloromethane) in the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit.
2. USEPA contends that the proposed permit does not contain sufficient reasoning to consider the chromium (VI) maximum effluent concentration (MEC) of 19 µg/L to be an unrepresentative outlier.

Central Valley Water Board staff does not concur with USEPA's comments. Staff believes sufficient reasoning was provided in the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit for: (1) removal of the technology-based effluent limitations for methylene chloride and total VOCs, and (2) considering the chromium (VI) MEC of 19 µg/L as unrepresentative of the Facility's discharge and inappropriate for use in the reasonable potential analysis. Staff has modified the Fact Sheet of the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit to further clarify staff's reasoning.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

11/12 April 2013  
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