

ITEM: 25

SUBJECT: Quincy Community Services District, Quincy Wastewater Treatment Plant, Plumas County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Order to Amend Cease and Desist Order R5-2010-0033*

BACKGROUND:

Quincy Community Services District (hereinafter Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Quincy Wastewater Treatment Plant (hereafter Facility). The Discharger provides sewerage service for the communities of Quincy and East Quincy, which have populations of approximately 1,879 and 2,572, respectively. The facility average dry weather flow design capacity is 1.6 mgd. Prior to the 2011 discharge season, secondary treated effluent from the Facility was discharged to Spanish Creek via Clear Stream; in 2010, the Discharger installed a new outfall and diffuser for direct discharge to Spanish Creek.

The Discharger was unable to comply with new final effluent limitations for copper at the time the of the NPDES permit adoption in 2010; therefore, Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2010-0033 accompanied the NPDES permit. The CDO contained an interim copper effluent limitation and compliance time schedule to allow the Discharger time to come into compliance with the final copper effluent limitations.

Recently, the Discharger is not able to maintain compliance with the interim limitation in the CDO. In addition, the Discharger is not able to maintain compliance with the final lead limitations in the NPDES permit. Therefore, the CDO is being amended to include interim effluent limitations for lead and revised interim limitations for copper.

The Discharger submitted justification for a compliance schedule for lead and requested that the CDO be reopened and amended to include interim effluent limits for lead. The Discharger submitted evidence that diligent progress has been made toward bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitations and that the time schedule is as short as possible. The proposed Order amends Cease and Desist Order R5-2010-0033 and provides interim effluent limitations for lead and revised interim limitations for copper; the compliance schedule for lead matches the existing schedule for copper.

ISSUES: Comments were received from the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA). CVCWA supports the CDO amendment, but requested that the NPDES permit be reopened to establish new final effluent limits now, rather than waiting for the regular permit renewal

in March 2015. While RB staff has already started reviewing information for the permit renewal, staff will not be prepared to recommend new effluent limits until the permit is ready for renewal by March 2015. Attempting to reopen the permit now, instead of waiting for the planned renewal would result in other priority work slipping, and would likely require more information from the Discharger than is currently available. The proposed CDO amendment will protect the Discharger from mandatory minimum penalties until the permit is renewed.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review_BJS_____

Legal Review_____

3/4 October 2013
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670