

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: University of California, Davis, Main Wastewater Treatment Plant, Solano and Yolo Counties

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No.CA0077895)*

BACKGROUND: The University of California, Davis (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the UC Davis Main Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). The Facility is authorized to discharge up to 3.6 million gallons per day of tertiary treated effluent to two locations, the South Fork of Putah Creek, a water of the United States, and the Arboretum Waterway, a water of the state and tributary to the South Fork of Putah Creek.

The proposed NPDES Permit includes new final effluent limitations for electrical conductivity, and mercury. The proposed NPDES Permit removes final effluent limitations for aluminum, cyanide, iron, and selenium.

ISSUES: Public comments on the tentative NPDES Permit were received from the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA). The following is a summary of CVCWA's comments and staff responses.

Salinity Plan Requirement. CVCWA comments that the Discharger has performed several salinity studies and proposed control projects and therefore, the requirement to prepare a salinity evaluation and minimization plan should be removed from the NPDES Permit, or at a minimum, the NPDES Permit should be revised to only include an update to existing plans. Staff agrees that preparation and submittal of a new salinity plan by the Discharger is not necessary, and instead, the Discharger should update, summarize, and report on the continuing efforts made to reduce salinity in the Facility discharge.

Effluent Limitation for Boron. CVCWA comments that the effluent limitations for boron should be removed because there is no reasonable potential and no legally sound basis to impose water quality based effluent limitations. Staff agrees. The maximum annual average effluent concentration for boron is below the site-specific objective to protect the agricultural beneficial use, and therefore, the boron limit is not contained in the proposed NPDES Permit.

Staff has made appropriate changes to the proposed NPDES Permit to address all comments.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed NPDES Permit Renewal.

Mgmt. Review ____

Legal Review _____

4/5 December 2014 Board Meeting

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