

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Donner Summit Public Utility District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No. CA0081621)*

BACKGROUND: The Donner Summit Public Utility District (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Donner Summit Public Utility District Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). The Facility is authorized to discharge up to 0.52 million gallons per day of tertiary treated effluent to South Yuba River, a water of the United States, within the upper Yuba Watershed.

The proposed NPDES Permit includes new final effluent limitations for lead. The proposed NPDES Permit removes final effluent limitations for aldrin, alpha-BHC, chlorine residual, cyanide, dichlorobromomethane, electrical conductivity, silver, and zinc. The proposed NPDES Permit also relaxes final effluent limitations for copper, based on updated data, and for manganese, based on revised averaging periods.

ISSUES: Public comments on the tentative NPDES Permit were received from the Discharger, the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA), and the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL). Staff is in agreement with all the comments received and has made minor changes to the proposed NPDES Permit based on the comments. There are no unresolved issues. The following is a summary of the main comments and the staff responses:

Discharge Prohibition for Land Irrigation. The Discharger and SYCRL commented that the prohibition to discharge tertiary treated wastewater to land irrigation from 1 November to 30 June should be removed from the proposed NPDES Permit. The prohibition is part of the Discharger's current lease agreement with the landowner. The Discharger is pursuing removal of the prohibition from its lease and having the prohibition in the NPDES Permit would cause an undue restriction and would limit the operational flexibility of the Facility. Staff agrees and has removed the prohibition from the proposed NPDES Permit.

Mixing Zone. CVCWA commented that the tentative NPDES Permit should not require replacing the Facility's existing diffuser to assure a complete mix of effluent and receiving water prior to initiating a mixing zone study. Staff agrees and has removed the language regarding replacing the diffuser and requiring a complete mix discharge in the proposed NPDES Permit.

Salinity Plan Requirement. CVCWA commented that the salinity plan language should be revised to clarify that the intent of annual reporting regarding the salinity evaluation and minimization plan is to show that the plan is being implemented and effective, and not required to show a specific reduction of salinity in the discharge. Staff agrees and has revised the language in the proposed NPDES Permit.

Land Discharge Specifications. CVCWA commented that the land discharge specifications in the tentative NPDES Permit contained redundant

requirements. Staff has revised that land discharge specifications to clarify the requirements.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed NPDES Permit Renewal.

Mgmt. Review NM

Legal Review NJ

4/5 June 2015 Board Meeting

11020 Sun Center Dr. #200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670