

ITEM: 22

SUBJECT: Tehama County Sanitation District No. 1, Mineral Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tehama County

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements, Mineral Wastewater Treatment Plant

BACKGROUND: The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant in the community of Mineral, Tehama County. The discharge is currently regulated pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2007-0098. This is a minor NPDES discharge.

The treatment system at the Facility consists of a preliminary influent bar screen, aeration basin, two evaporation/percolation ponds, pressure filter, chlorine disinfection and dechlorination unit. The design average dry weather flow capacity is 0.070 mgd and the wet weather hydraulic design treatment capacity is 0.75 mgd. During periods of discharge to South Fork of Battle Creek, wastewater is additionally treated by filtration (multi-media pressure filter), disinfected (chlorine disinfection unit), and dechlorinated (sulfur dioxide gas) prior to discharge to surface waters. The design filter loading rate is 0.576 mgd (400 gallons per minute). No chemicals are added to aid filtration. The multi-media filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination units only operate during periods of discharge to the South Fork of Battle Creek.

Between November 15 and April 15, wastewater may be discharged to South Fork Battle Creek, but only when the creek flow is 35 cubic feet per second or more. Additionally, discharge to the South Fork Battle Creek is prohibited from April 16 to November 14, unless approved by the Executive Officer.

Historically, discharge to South Fork Battle Creek has been infrequent. Typically, large snowmelt runoff in the spring is associated with discharge events. Discharge events occur at the same time the flow in South Fork Battle Creek is high from snowmelt in the hydrologic basin. Between 1997 and 2006, the Facility has only discharged a total of 11 days (10 days between 1997 and 2002, and only one day (December 30, 2005) between 2002 and 2006). Based on information submitted by the Discharger, dilution was approximately 131:1 for the December 30, 2005 discharge. The Facility has not discharged to South Fork Battle Creek during the term of the previous Order No. R5-2007-0098.

While discharge to surface waters did not occur during the previous permit term, the Discharger made modifications to the plant and conducted a simulated discharge that allowed wastewater to be routed through the

entire process (filtration, chlorination, dechlorination) without discharging to the receiving waters by returning the treated wastewater to the ponds. The Discharger also operated the filtration and disinfection system for a short period each year from 2008 through 2011 and also in 2013, and collected priority pollutant samples (effluent and receiving water) each year. The data was not representative of the effluent quality that would exist under a real (not simulated) discharge event and therefore was not appropriate to use for a Reasonable Potential Analysis.

The proposed order establishes effluent limitations for flow, pH, EC, total chlorine residual, BOD, TSS, total coliform, Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos. Priority pollutant sampling is required three times during the permit term, if a discharge to the receiving water occurs. If discharge to the receiving water occurs, the effluent data collected will be meaningful, a Reasonable Potential Analysis will be conducted, and effluent limitations will be established in the future as required.

ISSUES

At this time, interested parties are reviewing staff response to comments and revisions to the tentative permit. It is unknown at this time whether or not this item is contested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review BJS

Legal Review NJ

4/5 June 2015 Region 5 Board Meeting
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