

ITEM: 10
SUBJECT: Olivehurst Public Utility District, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Yuba County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit No. CA0077836)*

BACKGROUND: The Olivehurst Public Utility District (Discharger) is the owner of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), located at 3908 Mary Avenue, Olivehurst, CA. The Facility provides sewerage services for the communities of Olivehurst and Plumas Lake, serving a population of approximately 19,500. Discharge from the Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2010-0074, permitting an average dry weather flow of 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD). Treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal, a water of the United States and a tributary to the Bear River, within the Bear River Watershed. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board have classified this discharge a major discharge.

The proposed Order removes effluent limits for tetrachloroethene and establishes discharge limits for copper. The discharge no longer exhibits reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable water quality objectives for tetrachloroethene. The background concentration of copper exceeded the upstream criterion and exhibits reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable water quality objectives for copper.

ISSUES: A Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the Discharger and interested parties on 10 November 2015 for a 30-day comment period. Timely public comments on the tentative NPDES permit were received from the Discharger and the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA). The following is a summary of the comments and Central Valley Water Board staff responses.

Mercury. CVCWA requested the removal of the effluent limit based on the absence of reasonable potential. Staff does not concur. The Lower Bear River, to which the facility discharges, is 303(d) listed for mercury, which bioaccumulates in fish tissue. Until a TMDL, which establishes a mercury waste load allocation for the Lower Bear River, is developed, the proposed permit for this facility will retain a mercury mass-based limit to protect beneficial uses.

Salinity. CVCWA requested the removal of the electrical conductivity (EC) effluent limit based on the absence of reasonable potential and contends that the requirement to update and implement the salinity evaluation and minimization plan will ensure that the Discharger continues to address and reduce salinity in the discharge where feasible and effective. Staff concurs with CVCWA's comment. The performance based EC limit was removed from the proposed permit and a trigger was added to review and update the Discharger's Salinity Evaluation and Minimization Plan if the effluent EC annual average is greater than 900 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt NPDES Permit Renewal, as proposed.

Mgmt. Review __NM____

Legal Review __SY____

18/19 February 2016 Board Meeting

11020 Sun Center Drive #200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670