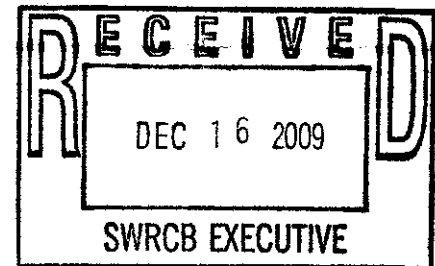


Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
Box 396 • Twain Harte, CA 95383 • (209) 586-7440 • FAX (209) 586-4986
Visit our website at: www.cserec.org or contact us at: johnb@cserec.org

December 11, 2009

Subject: Comments to A-1967 - January 5, 2010, Board Meeting

To: Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor [95814]
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



The following comments are submitted in response to Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2008-0162 (NPDES No. CA0084727) for the Tuolumne Utilities District, the Sonora Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Jamestown Sanitary District Jamestown Wastewater Treatment Plant.

CSERC staff on behalf of our members strongly SUPPORTS the proposed draft actions of the Board in this matter as described in the 10-page document SWRCB/OCC FILE A-1967.

The Board action would require a submerged outlet gate to be used when effluent is released to Woods Creek from Quartz Reservoir. It would require that Order. No. R5-2008-0162 be revised to restore effluent limitations for chlorine residual in order to be consistent with anti-backsliding requirements and exceptions (one-hour average of 0.019 mg/L and four-day average of 0.011 mg/L).

The proposed action would require that Order. No. R5-2008-0162 must be revised to require continuous monitoring for chlorine residual, to require new sampling data for chlorine residual, to require new Hach tests to be performed, and to include a new reopener clause. And finally, the proposed action would require the development of operating requirements to eliminate the potential for short circuiting in Quartz Reservoir from December 1 through May 15th of each year.

For many years our Center has opposed the discharge of treated effluent into Woods Creek due to concerns over ammonia, chlorine, and other contaminants. We have received anecdotal and unverified complaints of dead fish and other problems in past years from people who have done

gold panning or other activities along the stream below where the effluent discharge takes place. To our knowledge, there is no evidence to verify that any water quality or resource impacts are occurring during times of discharge. However, due to the fact that the receiving waters flow down into Don Pedro Reservoir and due to the fact that our Center believes that on-land spray dispersal is a legitimate, feasible alternative to the dilution-based discharge of wastewater into Woods Creek, we believe that it is both prudent and necessary to hold TUD and JASD accountable to high water quality standards.

In addition, the review of the administrative record shows that DWQ noticed that discharge monitoring reports revealed actual discharges of chlorine residual into Woods Creek from 2004 through 2007. This is exactly the kind of contamination that our Center fears periodically does affect aquatic species downstream from the discharge location.

~~Based on our Center's past involvement with the NPDES permit process, it is likely that the local water districts will state their strongest possible pledges of responsibility and provide strong assurances that manganese can be blamed for interference and that all exceedances were erroneous. **Our Center urges the Board to be skeptical of such assurances without evidence to prove such claims, and to err on the side of water quality and protection for aquatic resources -- by approving the draft actions (items 1-10) described in the 10-page document SWRCB/OCC FILE A-1967.**~~

Respectfully submitted,



John Buckley, executive director