

ITEM:

SUBJECT: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Mule Creek State Prison, Amador County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of a Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) at Mule Creek State Prison. Wastewater from Mule Creek State Prison, the Preston Youth Correctional Facility, and the California Department of Forestry Fire Academy is treated secondary to standards before being discharged to sprayfields for disposal.

The Discharger has violated many provisions of its WDRs. These violations include documented spills to surface water drainage courses in the summer and fall of 2006, failure to report spills, exceeding the flow and effluent limits prescribed in the WDRs, failure to submit monitoring reports, and failure to comply with the 100-year precipitation design requirements. Compliance issues within the sprayfields include spray heads within the required 100-foot setback from creeks and drainages, sprayfields saturated from over-irrigation and overgrown with vegetation, lack of tailwater controls, and lack of access to sprayfields for maintenance. In response to the violations, the Executive Officer issued an NOV in September 2006.

ISSUES: The Discharger does not have sufficient treatment, storage, and disposal capacity at its WWTP because of increased inmate population at the prison. The proposed Order requires the Discharger to complete numerous tasks. Foremost is reducing wastewater inflows to the WWTP through various conservation methods and improvements to the sprayfields to prevent spills to Mule Creek. Seepage from the effluent storage reservoir must be contained and groundwater monitoring is required. The Discharger must also provide a long-term wastewater facility upgrade and financing plan.

Comments were received from the Discharger, the Amador County Environmental Health Department, and the City of Lone. These comments are addressed in the staff report.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

**7/8 December 2006**  
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