

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: Mountain House Community Services District – Wastewater Treatment Facility

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order.*

BACKGROUND: Mountain House Community Services District (CSD) is the operator of the Mountain House CSD Wastewater Treatment Facility. The wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is located on land owned by Mountain House CSD. The WWTF discharges wastewater to Old River, a water of the United States. Mountain House CSD applied for renewal of its NPDES permit to discharge an average daily flow of 5.4 mgd of treated wastewater from the wastewater treatment facility. Since obtaining its original NPDES permit in 1998, the WWTF has not actually been discharging until recently. Mountain House CSD initiated discharge from the WWTF facility for the first time on 13 March 2007.

The wastewater discharge from the WWTF contains pollutants including aluminum, ammonia, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, bromoform, cyanide, dibromochloromethane, dichlorobromomethane, Group A pesticides, iron, total dissolved solids, total trihalomethanes, biochemical oxygen demand, suspended and settleable solids, nitrate, and salt. Effluent limitations and/or best management practice requirements are included for these constituents. Immediate compliance with new effluent limitations for bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, cyanide, group A pesticides, and iron is not possible or practicable. Therefore, a Time Schedule Order is proposed to provide interim limitations and a time schedule for compliance with these limitations.

The Regional Water Board held a lengthy hearing on a proposed NPDES permit and TSO at the August 2006 Board meeting, with salinity issues being the major topic of testimony and Board discussion. The hearing was continued pending a better assessment of the impacts of the discharge on Delta salinity and development of alternative means of regulating salinity for Board consideration. The Regional Water Board directed staff to work with the Discharger, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and other stakeholders to model the affects of the discharge in the southern Delta. Since the hearing, Regional Water Board staff organized a stakeholder group that included representatives from Mountain House Community Services District, the City of Tracy, South Delta Water Agency, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and DWR to develop appropriate scenarios for running DWR's Delta Simulation Model II (DSM2) to evaluate the salinity impacts of the discharge. A summary of the modeling can be found in the document titled, *DSM2 Modeling Evaluation*, dated 29 March 2007, which is included in the agenda package. Additional information regarding the salinity issues can be found in the Staff Report included in the City of Tracy NPDES permit renewal agenda item for the May 2007 Board Meeting.

ISSUES: Comments are due after agenda preparation, however staff anticipates comments related to the need for salinity effluent limitations. Staff response to comments will be provided to the Regional Water Board and interested parties as soon as possible after receipt of comments.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

3/4 May 2007
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