

ITEM: 17

SUBJECT: City of Tracy, Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Joaquin County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit renewal, Time Schedule Order, and Waste Discharge Requirements for land discharges.*

BACKGROUND: Three items are being considered for adoption: 1) issuance of a renewed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to regulate the surface water discharge from the City of Tracy Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2) a Time Schedule Order (TSO) that accompanies the proposed NPDES permit, and 3) issuance of separate waste discharge requirements to regulate the land discharge units from the City of Tracy Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City of Tracy (City) owns and operates the Tracy Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), which provides sewerage services to the City. The Facility discharges secondary treated wastewater to Old River, located within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a water of the United States. The discharge is currently regulated by Order No. 96-104, which was adopted on 3 May 1996 and expired on 3 May 2001. The terms of Order No. 96-104 have automatically continued in effect after the permit expiration date.

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. Since the hearing, Regional Water Board staff organized a stakeholder group that included representatives from the City, Mountain House Community Services District, South Delta Water Agency, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and DWR to develop appropriate scenarios for modeling the discharge using DWR's Delta Simulation Model II (DSM2) to evaluate the salinity impacts of the discharge. A detailed discussion of the modeling is provided in the attached Staff Report.

The proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) contain several new requirements, including increased disinfection requirements, and new effluent limitations for compliance with the Basin Plan and the California Toxics Rule. New effluent limitations for aluminum, ammonia, chlorodibromomethane, copper, dichlorobromomethane, iron, nitrate, and nitrite are proposed in the tentative WDRs. The City of Tracy is currently unable to immediately comply with several of the new effluent limitations; therefore, a Time Schedule Order is proposed to provide interim limitations and time schedules for compliance. Tentative orders for the City of Tracy Wastewater Treatment Plant were originally noticed on

5 December 2005 and 26 May 2006. Comments were received in both instances. Due to additional information provided by the modeling effort, the tentative orders were modified and re-noticed on 6 March 2007 for public comment.

The City of Tracy has proposed an expansion of the discharge flow to Old River from the currently permitted flow of 9 million gallons per day (mgd) to 16 mgd. As part of the expansion, the City of Tracy is constructing facilities to provide a tertiary level of treatment. The proposed Order approves the expansion contingent upon demonstration of compliance with the Order.

ISSUES:

Significant issues are discussed in detail in the attached Staff Report. The most significant issue relates to control of salinity since the discharge has high concentrations of salt.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

Regional Water Board Meeting
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
3/4 May 2007