

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: City of Atwater, Wastewater Treatment Facility, Merced County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal*

BACKGROUND: The City of Atwater owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system (WWTF) that provides municipal sewerage service to residents of the City (population 25,700), Castle Aviation and Development Center, and the unincorporated community of Winton (population 11,000). The WWTF discharges disinfected secondary-treated wastewater under a NPDES permit to the Atwater Drain, a water of the United States.

A public hearing concerning renewal of NPDES No. CA0079197 was held on 7 December 2006. New effluent limitations for copper, lead, zinc, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane, 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin), chlorine residual, nitrite, nitrate, oil and grease, and turbidity, upgrade to tertiary treatment, compliance schedules for new effluent limitations, and interim effluent limitations were determined appropriate. The hearing was continued for further consideration of limitations and monitoring for ammonia. On 13 April 2007, staff recirculated tentative waste discharge requirements (TWDRs) for public comment. The TWDRs reflect what was determined appropriate in the December hearing and propose revised ammonia effluent limitations and monitoring. Staff also circulated a summary of two ammonia alternatives with the TWDRs.

The City, USEPA, and Mr. John Whiting (Attorney for Gallo Cattle Co.) submitted comments on the recently circulated TWDRs. Regional Water Board staff has responded to the comments and those responses are included in the agenda package.

ISSUES: Ammonia: Issues concerning the effluent limitations and monitoring for ammonia appear to be resolved.

Time schedule: The City requests that the due dates in the TWDRs be extended approximately six months given that adoption has been delayed six months, except for the due dates based on the State Implementation Policy compliance date for California Toxic Rule constituents. Due dates for several work plans and other tasks will have passed prior to the June 2007 public hearing. Staff could not revise the dates due to the constraints of the

continuation, but the public notice states the Regional Water Board may, at its discretion, elect to extend the dates.

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

21/22 June 2007  
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