

ITEM: 23

SUBJECT: CalMat Co., Walter A. and Elizabeth A. Baun, and Darrell D. and Janet Delevan, Sanger Sand and Gravel Plant, Fresno County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Renewal of a NPDES Permit*

BACKGROUND: CalMat Co. operates the Sanger Sand and Gravel Plant (hereinafter Facility), a sand and gravel (aggregate) excavation and processing facility. Water is pumped from the adjacent Kings River and an onsite supply pond (which contains groundwater pumped from dewatering excavation pits) to wash aggregate at the Facility. No chemicals are added during washing. Wash water containing processing fines (clays and silts) is discharged to an unlined 27-acre-settling pond. From the supply pond, about 2.9 mgd of wastewater is discharged to the Kings River through a porous levee made of river stones and gravel that is approximately 10 feet high, 10 feet wide at the top, 30 feet wide at the base and 75 feet long (Discharge Point 001). The tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (TWDR) do not authorize an increase of flow, concentration, or mass of pollutants in excess of what was previously authorized by the Regional Board.

The TWDR requires the Discharger to evaluate the representative nature of the flows reported as discharged from Discharge Point 001. The Discharger is also required to evaluate the effectiveness of the Discharge Point 001 to provide adequate mixing of the discharge with the Kings River at the point of discharge and to determine if the existing receiving water sampling location is representative of a complete mixing of the effluent.

The effluent limitation for electrical conductivity (EC) was modified from the previously circulated TWDRs from an average monthly limit of 250 umhos/cm to an average monthly limit of 200 umhos/cm and a maximum daily effluent limit of 250 umhos/cm. The EC effluent limitation was modified based on current procedures utilized by USEPA. The TWDR does not authorize an increase of effluent EC from the existing Order and restricts effluent EC to levels currently representative of the discharge. Also, the Discharger is required to prepare a salinity evaluation and minimization plan to address sources of salinity from the Facility and to reduce the discharge of salinity to the receiving water.

The Discharger has not yet sampled for asbestos in accordance with the SIP. The Discharger is required to conduct a study to assess the potential affect of asbestos on surface water quality.

The most recent circulation of the TWDR did not include an effluent limitation for aluminum. The available information is not adequate to demonstrate that aluminum has a reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to, an excursion above an applicable water quality objective. The Discharger is required to conduct a study of aluminum to determine and verify whether reasonable potential exists.

To determine compliance with the manganese effluent and receiving water limits, the Discharger is required to conduct a study to characterize natural surface water quality in the Kings River for manganese and evaluate the sources of manganese in the Kings River.

The TWDRs requires the Discharger to submit a work plan, install groundwater monitoring wells, commence groundwater sampling in accordance with the proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program, and evaluate background groundwater quality for any impact the discharge may have on groundwater.

The TWDRs do not carry over the effluent limitation for total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPHd) from the existing Order. The discharge is not expected to have reasonable potential to exceed water quality objectives for TPHd nor expected to adversely impact beneficial uses of the receiving waters. The TWDR requires continued sampling of the effluent for TPHd and receiving water, and now includes requirements for monitoring and sampling groundwater for TPHd.

ISSUES:

California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) believes that the volume of wastewater discharge is not accurately measured. The TWDR requires the Discharger to evaluate and ensure the flows reported as discharged from Discharge Point 001 are representative.

CSPA objects to the lack of groundwater monitoring wells and Environmental Law Foundation believes groundwater degradation in violation of the Antidegradation Policy. The TWDRs do not allow groundwater degradation and require the Discharger to submit a work plan, install groundwater-monitoring wells, commence groundwater sampling, and evaluate groundwater quality for any impact.

Mgmt. Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review: \_\_\_\_\_

21/22 June 2007

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