

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: City of Colfax, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Placer County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Colfax (Discharger) owns and operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) that provides sewerage service for the City of Colfax and serves a population of approximately 1,800. The Facility was initially designed to dispose of effluent on land, but was unable to operate without some degree of surface water discharge. Consequently, the Facility has been subject to regulation under an NPDES permit since 1974. The discharge from the Facility to an unnamed tributary to Smuthers Ravine is currently regulated by Order 5-01-180, adopted on 14 June 2001. At the same time, the Regional Water Board adopted CDO No. 5-01-181 that established time schedules for meeting the discharge prohibitions and effluent limitations based on tertiary treatment under Order No. 5-01-180.

To comply with the permit and CDO, the Discharger modified the old wastewater treatment system by adding an interim tertiary treatment system. The interim system provides for domestic wastewater, collected seepage from an on-site storage reservoir, and storm water to be treated and discharged to the unnamed tributary to Smuthers Ravine, a water of the United States. Smuthers Ravine is a tributary to the North Fork of the American River via Bunch Canyon, within the Sacramento River Watershed. With installation of the interim tertiary treatment system, the Facility ceased discharging to land.

The proposed Order continues the requirements of the current order for tertiary treatment and includes new water quality-based effluent limitations for aluminum, ammonia, bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, copper, cyanide, electrical conductivity, iron, manganese, nitrate, and persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides. Compliance time schedules are included in the proposed Order for copper, ammonia, and 4,4-DDE and the upgrade to Title 22 equivalent tertiary treatment. The Discharger must be in compliance with all final effluent limitations for discharges from the new wastewater treatment plant beginning 1 January 2009. The Discharger is planning a major upgrade of the facility to provide the Title 22 level of tertiary treatment and comply with all effluent limitations.

The proposed CDO provides a time schedule for the discharger to eliminate seepage of wastewater from the storage reservoir.

ISSUES:

Public comments for this item are due after agenda week for the June 2007 Regional Water Board meeting. Therefore, issues to be raised in comments are unknown at this time. The Staff Report provides additional detail on the facility, planned changes to the facility, compliance history, and major permit changes or additions.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

21/22 June 2007

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