

ITEM: 29

SUBJECT: Placer County Department of Facility Services
Sewer Maintenance District No. 3 WWTP, Placer County

BOARD ACTION: *Continuation of Hearing for Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Cease and Desist Order.*

BACKGROUND: The Placer County Department of Facility Services (Discharger) owns and operates the Sewer Maintenance District No. 3 Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves the community of Granite Bay and surrounding areas. Treated wastewater is discharged to Miners Ravine, a tributary to Dry Creek, the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal, Bannon Slough, and the Sacramento River. The tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) renewal of existing Order No. 5-00-118 proposes a significant number of new effluent limitations.

On 3 May 2007, the tentative NPDES permit and Cease and Desist Order were considered by the Regional Water Board for adoption. During the public hearing, the Regional Water Board elected to continue the hearing for this Item to allow public comments on issues corresponding to the following late revisions to the tentative NPDES permit:

- Addition of a Compliance Schedule for Proposed Turbidity Effluent Limits,
- Addition of Compliance Determination Language for Regulated Flow,
- Addition of Organochlorine Pesticide Effluent Limits and corresponding Compliance Schedule, and
- Correction of technical errors in the calculation of the proposed Ammonia and Mercury Effluent Limitations.

The tentative NPDES permit was re-issued on 4 May 2007 for a 30-day public comment period limited to the four issues identified above.

ISSUES: Public comments for this item are due after agenda week for the June 2007 Regional Water Board meeting. The following is a brief summary of the major issues in which public comments may address.

Compliance Schedule for Turbidity: The proposed NPDES permit renewal includes turbidity limitations for when the receiving water-to-effluent flow ratio is less than 20-to-1. The proposed turbidity limitations are in accordance with Department of Health Service Title 22 Regulations to protect human contact beneficial uses. The proposed turbidity effluent limitations include a 2 NTU daily average limitation and a 10 NTU instantaneous maximum limitation.

The Discharger submitted a request for a 4-year time schedule for compliance with the new turbidity limitations; Staff, however, did not accept the submitted time schedule request, due to insufficient justification demonstrating why the existing filtration process at the

WWTP cannot achieve the performance necessary to comply with the newly proposed turbidity requirements. On 24 April 2007, the Discharger submitted a revised time schedule request that included an analysis of turbidity data from 2004 through 2006, estimating non-compliance with the proposed limitations 7.7 percent of the time. Staff accepted this request and incorporated a 3-year compliance schedule in the proposed NPDES permit.

Average Dry Weather Flow: To address the Discharger's concerns regarding the definition of the proposed regulated flow, the following language has been added to the Compliance Determination section of the tentative permit:

Average Daily Discharge Flow Effluent Limitations (Sections IV.A.2.b., IV.A.3.b., and IV.A.4.b.). The Average Daily Discharge Flow represents the daily average flow when groundwater is at or near normal and runoff is not occurring. Compliance with the Average Daily Discharge Flow effluent limitations will be determined annually based on the average daily flow over three consecutive dry weather months (e.g. July, August, and September).

Organochlorine Pesticide Compliance Schedules: The tentative permit contains "non-detect" effluent limitations for organochlorine pesticides, in accordance with Basin Plan water quality objectives. A five-year compliance schedule for these "non-detect" effluent limitations is included in the tentative permit. However, in accordance with federal regulations, for the Organochlorine pesticides that are also California Toxic Rule (CTR) constituents and demonstrate a reasonable potential to exceed CTR criteria, the Discharger must comply with numerical CTR criteria-based effluent limitations by 18 May 2010. Therefore, CTR criteria-based effluent limitations, and a corresponding 18 May 2010 compliance date, has been added to the tentative permit.

Technical Corrections for Ammonia and Mercury Limitations: The Discharger submitted information documenting an error in the calculation of the proposed "fixed" ammonia effluent limitations and use of incorrect maximum reported effluent concentration for the mercury mass loading limitation. Staff's review of the information confirms that the technical errors were due to the use of an incorrect multiplier value for the calculating the ammonia limitations and the use of a lower reported mercury concentration for the mercury limitation. The limitations have been recalculated and the technical errors corrected. The resulting corrected limitations are greater in value (less stringent) than those proposed in the tentative documents circulated for public review. The modifications are strictly based on the correction of technical errors.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

21/22 June 2007

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