

ITEM: 24

SUBJECT: Valley Waste Disposal Company and Cawelo Water District, Kern Front No. 2 Treatment Plant - Cawelo Reservoir B, Kern County

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

BACKGROUND: Valley Waste Disposal Company (VWDC) owns and operates Kern Front No. 2 treatment plant in the Kern Front oil field. The treatment plant receives produced water from several oil producers in the Kern Front oil field. The treatment plant provides treatment through gravity separation in a series of two unlined ponds and final polishing from two Wemco air flotation units. Treated produced water is then pumped through a pipeline to Cawelo Water District's (CWD) Reservoir B. CWD blends the treated produced water with treated produced water from Chevron USA, Inc., and with fresh surface water imports from the Beardsley Canal. The blended produced water is then discharged from Reservoir B through a distribution canal and used to supplement irrigation deliveries throughout the CWD. In winter months, when irrigation demand decreases, produced water in Reservoir B may be discharged through the distribution canal into Poso Creek, a water of the United States. The proposed Order includes new effluent limitations for arsenic. The NPDES permit regulates the infrequent and seasonal surface water discharge, but the greatest potential water quality impact occurs from the infiltration of waste constituents into groundwater after reuse. The complexity of the Order relates to ensuring the infiltration of waste remains consistent with the Basin Plan. A basin study indicates that it is.

ISSUES: The circulated TWDRs included provisions concerning a mechanism for exceptions to the average annual effluent EC limit for VWDC's discharge to Reservoir B. These were removed for multiple reasons set forth in the transmittal of response to comments.

Mgmt. Review: _____

Legal Review: _____

21/22 June 2007

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670