

ITEM: 14

SUBJECT: City of Rio Vista, Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility, Solano County

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order.

BACKGROUND: The City of Rio Vista owns the Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility, and the Veolia Water Company operates the Facility. The Facility is regulated by Order No. 5-01-178, adopted on 14 June 2001, and is permitted to discharge an average daily flow up to 0.65 million gallons per day of secondary level treated wastewater to the Sacramento River. The residential sewer fee is \$36.15 per month per property. The City operates two small wastewater treatment facilities, the Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Northwest Plant is a new, "state of the art" tertiary facility. The Discharger is considering redirecting the sewage flows from the Beach Plant to its new Northwest Plant, due to stability (liquefaction) concerns at the Beach Plant.

The proposed Order includes new or more stringent effluent limitations for aluminum, ammonia, arsenic, chlorine residual, pathogens, copper, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, salinity, iron, lead, manganese, nitrate, nitrite, and pH. The Discharger may be unable to immediately comply with the new effluent limitation for iron; therefore, a Time Schedule Order is proposed to provide an interim limitation and a time schedule for compliance.

The Discharger failed to submit timely comments. Comments were received from the Discharger on 11 July 2008, three days after the public comment period ended. Consequently, the comments have not been addressed in the response to comments document. The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) submitted timely comments and is contesting the proposed Order. All comments from CSPA have been addressed in the response to comments document that is included in the agenda package.

ISSUES: The major issues included in CSPA's comments are summarized below:

Antidegradation Analysis: CSPA states that the proposed Order should not be adopted until the Discharger completes an adequate antidegradation analysis that assures the Discharger provides best practicable treatment and control (BPTC).

The proposed Permit does not include an antidegradation analysis because none is required for a reissued permit with no increase in flow or mass, or relaxation of final effluent limitations. A simple antidegradation finding is required for addition of the mixing zone.

Mixing Zones and Dilution Credits: CSPA states that the proposed Order grants mixing zones and dilution credits contrary to the Basin Plan, and to state and federal regulations.

The mixing zones and dilution credits allowed in the proposed Order are in compliance with the SIP and are adequately protective. The Sacramento River at the point of discharge is approximately 2,300 feet wide, and is tidally influenced. The acute and chronic mixing zone is 250 feet (upstream and downstream) by 40 feet and the applicable dilution credit is 20:1, based on the Discharger's dilution study. The proposed Order requires monitoring at the upstream and downstream edges of the mixing zone, and at a monitoring station outside the influence of the discharge. The proposed Order accounts for additive toxicity through whole effluent toxicity monitoring, and a toxicity reduction evaluation is required if necessary.

Aluminum and Specific Conductivity (EC) Effluent Limitations: CSPA states that the aluminum and EC effluent limitations should be regulated as average weekly and average monthly instead of as average annually in the proposed Order.

It is impracticable to calculate average weekly and average monthly effluent limitations. The aluminum effluent limitation included in the proposed Order is based on the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels, which are drinking water standards contained in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Title 22 requires compliance with these standards on an annual average basis. The EC effluent limitation is based on the performance of the Facility, and compliance on an average annual basis is appropriate due to EC fluctuations in the wastewater that are caused by changes in the municipal water supply EC.

Boron Effluent Limitation: CSPA objects to the lack of an effluent limitation for Boron.

There is insufficient information to determine if Reasonable Potential exists for boron. Therefore, the proposed Order requires the Discharger to conduct additional monitoring, and as this additional data becomes available the Reasonable Potential analysis will be revisited, and the proposed Order will be reopened to establish effluent limits, if appropriate.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

31 July/1 August 2008

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