

ITEM: 24

SUBJECT: Lincoln Center Environmental Remediation Trust, Groundwater Treatment System, San Joaquin County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Order Amending Time Schedule Order No. R5-2005-0145 (NPDES No. CA0084255)*

BACKGROUND: The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Time Schedule Order No. R5-2005-0145 on 21 October 2005, for the Lincoln Center Environmental Remediation Trust (Discharger) Groundwater Treatment System (GWTS), San Joaquin County. The Discharger operates the GWTS as part of a remedial action to clean groundwater polluted with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including perchloroethene (PCE) solvent contamination. The VOCs are considered carcinogenic and thus a threat to public health in groundwater designated for use as drinking water in the vicinity of the Lincoln Center remediation site. Therefore, pumped groundwater is treated by air stripping and granular activated carbon. The treated groundwater is discharged to Fourteen-Mile Slough via the City of Stockton's storm drain system.

Time Schedule Order No. R5-2005-0145 provides a compliance schedule for meeting the final effluent limitations for barium and arsenic in the Discharger's NPDES permit (Order No. R5-2005-0144). The Discharger provided a mixing zone study, which concludes that assimilative capacity and dilution is available in the receiving water for arsenic and barium. The proposed amendment would allow additional time for the Central Valley Water Board to review the mixing zone study and amend the water quality-based effluent limits for arsenic and barium in the NPDES permit, as appropriate.

Currently, the final date for compliance is 1 March 2010. On that date, unless the Discharger suspends groundwater extraction and treatment activities, the Discharger will violate final effluent limitations for arsenic and barium. If violations of the final effluent limitations occur after 1 March 2010, the Discharger will be exposed to mandatory minimum penalties of \$3,000 per violation, as well as potential discretionary penalties. If the Discharger suspends groundwater extraction and treatment activities in order to avoid violating effluent limitations, the system may potentially lose hydraulic control of the PCE plume and not be able to regain it once the system is restarted.

The proposed amendment extends the compliance schedule for compliance with the final effluent limits for arsenic and barium by approximately 8 months, from 1 March 2010 to 21 October 2010.

ISSUES: None

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

29 January 2010
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

