

ITEM: 10
SUBJECT: City of Biggs, Biggs Wastewater Treatment Plant, Butte County
BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Biggs (Discharger) owns and operates a POTW which provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to the City of Biggs. The treatment system consists of two aerated lagoons, a ballast pond, three plug-flow rock filters in parallel, and chlorination/dechlorination facilities. Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point No. EFF-001 to the Lateral K agricultural drain (Reclamation District #833). Lateral K was constructed to drain or convey excess agricultural flows away from fields. Lateral K flows into the Cherokee Canal and ultimately may flow to Butte Creek near the Butte Sink Wetland. Butte Creek is a water of the United States, and is tributary to the Sacramento River within Butte Basin Hydrologic Area.

The tentative NPDES permit renewal proposes new effluent limits for ammonia, copper and total coliform organisms. A compliance schedule is proposed (within the permit) for upgrades to meet the disinfection/filtration requirements. A separate Time Schedule Order is also proposed to include a compliance schedule which allows the Discharger time to evaluate alternatives, secure funding, and complete construction of the selected alternative adequate to achieve compliance with the new ammonia effluent limits. The Discharger is able to immediately comply with the new copper effluent limit. The Discharger is evaluating proposals to go strictly to land discharge in the future, thus eliminating the surface water discharge component.

ISSUES: Comments were received from USEPA and CVCWA. Staff made changes in response to some of the comments. Staff's response to comments and permit revisions are included with this agenda item. It is unknown at this time whether or not the revisions are acceptable to CVCWA or USEPA.

The main issues are the new effluent limits for ammonia and the need for filtration (when there is dilution <20:1). The Discharger has submitted a compliance schedule justification for ammonia and for meeting the disinfection/filtration requirements. USEPA does not agree that the milestones in the compliance schedules are adequate.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed orders.

Mgmt. Review____bjs_____
Legal Review_____
4/5 October 2012
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