

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: City of Mt. Shasta, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Siskiyou County

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

BACKGROUND: The City of Mt. Shasta (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant which provides treatment of the City's municipal wastewater. Effluent from the wastewater treatment plant (Facility) is discharged to either the Sacramento River (above Lake Shasta), or to a leachfield, or to a golf course for landscape irrigation, depending on the time of year. Discharge to the river from 15 June through 14 September is prohibited.

The proposed permit includes new effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), pH, bis-2-ethylhexyl-phthalate (B2EHP), dichlorobromomethane (DCBM), ammonia, nitrate, and total coliform bacteria. The new effluent limits for BOD and TSS are more stringent than in the current permit, and are intended to minimize the loading of oxygen demanding substances and suspended solids to this high quality stretch of the Sacramento River. The new or more stringent effluent limits for pH, B2EHP, DCBM, ammonia, nitrate, and total coliform bacteria are required because there is reasonable potential for the pollutant in the discharge to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality objective in the receiving water. The proposed permit also contains effluent limits on copper and zinc, but these limits are less stringent than in the current permit. The Discharger cannot immediately comply with some of the effluent limits, and therefore compliance schedules and interim limits (including in the accompanying Time Schedule Order) are proposed to allow the Discharger to be in compliance while any necessary facility improvements are made. For B2EHP, DCBM, copper, zinc, and ammonia, dilution credits are proposed that make the effluent limits less stringent than they would be without dilution credits, but facility improvements may still be required to comply with some of the effluent limits.

The proposed permit addresses several other issues including: (1) the effluent pipe and diffuser that carries the treated wastewater to the river has several problems and limitations including leaks and poor mixing dynamics; and (2) the Discharger has increased its reliance on the leachfield and therefore the proposed permit requires an evaluation of the adequacy of the leachfield disposal system.

ISSUES: Comments were received from USEPA, the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA), the Discharger, and organizations and individuals representing the white water recreation (kayaking) community. Staff made changes to the proposed permit in response to some of the comments. Staff's response to comments and the revised proposed permit are included with this agenda item. It is unknown at this time whether or not the revisions are acceptable to the interested parties. The main areas of comment were about dilution credits, compliance schedules, disinfection

requirements, and new limits on BOD and TSS.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed orders.

Mgmt. Review\_\_\_\_bjs\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review\_\_\_\_\_

4/5 October 2012

11020 Sun Center Dr. #200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670