

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: Colusa Industrial Properties, Inc., Colusa Industrial Properties  
Wastewater Treatment Facility, Colusa County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements*

BACKGROUND: Colusa Industrial Properties, Inc. (CIP) owns and operates an industrial park, which has separate wastewater management systems for domestic wastewater and industrial process wastewater. Currently, two seed washing facilities generate industrial process wastewater, but previous discharges included a large tomato cannery. The wastewater is applied to land to grow crops. CIP proposes changes including new sources of process wastewater; management of all industrial process wastewater in a lined pond; discharge of process wastewater during the rainy season for rice straw decomposition; and additional domestic wastewater disposal capacity. The proposed new sources of process wastewater are rainy season contact storm water from a mushroom grower's composting operation and year round non-contact cooling water from a proposed biomass combustion plant.

ISSUES: Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardoza submitted comments on behalf of Colusa County Citizens for Responsible Industry. Their comments focused on the premise that the Tentative Order improperly exempts the biomass plant from environmental review. It was not staff's intent for the Board to accept CEQA lead agency status for construction and operation of the biomass plant, and staff was not aware that the County's CEQA and Use Permit process had not been completed. In order to address this concern, the Tentative Order was revised to prohibit wastewater discharges from the biomass plant to CIP's industrial wastewater disposal system until approval of the Use Permit, submittal of a Report of Waste Discharge that completely characterizes the wastewater flow and quality, and revision of the WDRs as appropriate.

Board staff believes that the CEQA concerns related to the biomass plant have been resolved by prohibiting this waste stream until County approvals are granted and a new ROWD is submitted.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Order.

Mgmt. Review RDB  
Legal Review PLP

5/6 June 2014  
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