

ITEM:

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SUBJECT:

Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Confined Bovine Feeding Operations

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of Adoption of the Waste Discharge Requirements

BACKGROUND:

On 10 February 2017, the Central Valley Water Board circulated tentative waste discharge requirements for discharges from confined bovine feeding operations (Bovine General Order). Written comments on the tentative Bovine General Order were due by 24 March 2017. The comment period was subsequently extended to 7 April 2017 at the request of the interested public. The proposed Bovine General Order and attachments have been revised based on comments received.

Confined bovine feeding operations include beef feedlots, auction markets, heifer-raising operations, and calf ranches. The proposed order applies to commercial bovine operations having 6 or more Animal Units on site, where an Animal Unit (AU) is defined as 1,000 pounds of live animal weight. For instance, a Holstein heifer is generally treated as 1 AU because the maximum weight for a Holstein heifer is 1,000 lbs.

The proposed Bovine General Order has a tiered approach. The Limited Time Operation tier would include operations that have a population that fluctuates significantly over a calendar month. Because the population of animals fluctuates, it is possible to completely clean animal housing during the low-population periods. Most auction markets are expected to qualify for this tier. The Limited Population Operation tier would include smaller operations (6 to 99 AUs) whose only wastewater is composed of corral runoff due to precipitation. Both the Limited Time and Limited Population tiers are subject to significantly reduced requirements under the proposed Bovine General Order. The Full General Order Coverage tier would include operations that have 100 or more AUs on site and are therefore identified as posing a higher threat to water quality. The proposed Bovine General Order would apply to both existing operations and also to operations that commence in the future, or which expand their operations, provided that the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) have been satisfied for the new or expanding operation.

To assess compliance with the *State Anti-Degradation Policy*, this Order requires Dischargers with Full General Order Coverage to monitor discharges to surface waters and to monitor first encountered groundwater. The requirements to monitor first encountered groundwater (the point in the aquifer where typically detection of changes to groundwater quality,

caused by the facility, would be first detected) are met when the Dischargers perform individual groundwater monitoring or participate in a Representative Groundwater Monitoring Program (RMP). The purpose of monitoring is to confirm that the discharges are effectively controlled by management practices and to evaluate compliance with this Order. Determination of compliance or non-compliance will be made in a Summary Report for individual monitoring or in a Summary Representative Monitoring Report for discharges enrolled in an RMP. Dischargers with a Limited Time or Limited Population Operation may be required to perform individual groundwater monitoring or participate in an approved RMP if directed by the Executive Officer.

If the Summary Report for individual monitoring or the Representative Monitoring Report for representative monitoring indicate that management practices are not protective of ground or surface water, the Dischargers are required to implement management practices/activities (BPTC for high quality waters or best efforts for waters that are not high quality) that will bring the facility into compliance with the Groundwater Limitation of this Order.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed waste discharge requirements.

Mgmt. Review DKP
Legal Review ASD

8/9 June 2017