

10 JUNE 2022 BOARD MEETING CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: 9

SUBJECT:

CITY OF CHICO, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT, BUTTE COUNTY

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Chico (Discharger) owns and operates the Chico Water Pollution Control Plant, a publicly owned and operated treatment works in Chico, Butte County. The treatment systems consist of screening for removal of large solids, grit removal, primary clarification, activated sludge treatment with secondary clarification, and chlorination/dichlorination. Sludge is anaerobically digested and dewatered using a centrifuge and hauled offsite for disposal. The facility is currently permitted to discharge up to 12 million gallons per day (average dry weather flow) of treated wastewater through a multiport diffuser outfall to the Sacramento River. In addition, the facility discharges treated or partially treated wastewater to existing evaporation/percolation ponds. The average monthly flow limitation to evaporation/percolation ponds is 2.5 million gallons per day.

A reasonable potential analysis was conducted for priority and non-priority pollutants, and water quality-based effluent limitations were calculated for those pollutants having reasonable potential. Specifically, effluent limitations are included for ammonia, chlorodibromomethane, copper, dichlorobromomethane, and nitrate plus nitrite, and chloroform. These effluent limits were calculated with dilution credits determined available at the Discharger's Sacramento River outfall.

Land discharge specifications for BOD5, TSS, total coliform organisms, and total nitrogen are included in the tentative Order for discharges to the evaporation/percolation ponds. The total nitrogen specification is new, and the Discharger cannot immediately comply with the new specification; therefore, a compliance schedule has been included in the tentative Order to allow time for the Discharger to design and implement needed upgrades.

Comments were received from a Fresno County resident and the Discharger. Staff made changes to the proposed permit in response to some of the comments. The most significant comments were regarding the land discharge and protection of groundwater quality. Staff's response to comments and the revised proposed permit are included with this agenda item. It is unknown currently whether the revisions satisfy the concerns of the commenters.

ISSUES:

This item is contested.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed order.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE