20 JUNE 2025 BOARD MEETING
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: 11

SUBJECT:

CITY OF STOCKTON, WASTEWATER RECOVERY CENTER, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0079138)

BACKGROUND:

The City of Stockton (Discharger) is the owner of the Regional Wastewater Control Center (Facility), located at 2500 Navy Drive, Stockton, CA 95206. The Discharger provides sewerage service for the City of Stockton, Port of Stockton, and surrounding unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County, and serves a population of approximately 350,000. Sources of wastewater in the service area are primarily domestic but also include both commercial and industrial connections. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2020-0007-01 (NPDES Permit No. CA0079138) authorizes the discharge of up to 55 million gallons per day of tertiary treated effluent to the San Joaquin River, a water of the United States and within the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2020-0007-01 (NPDES Permit), issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on 20 February 2020, and amended by Order R5-2023-0039 on 10 August 2023.

An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed Order includes updated effluent limitations for ammonia, bromoform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane. The proposed Order removes effluent limitations for acute whole effluent toxicity and electrical conductivity and includes new effluent limitations for chronic whole effluent toxicity.

ISSUES:

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 21 January 2025 with comments due on 19 February 2025. Public comments were received from the Discharger, the Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA), and Jo Anne Kipps. A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff.

On 4 March 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of the *City and County of San Francisco vs. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2025)* 145 U.S. 704, which challenged some of the limitations in NPDES permits. The Supreme Court ruled that "end result" limitations (i.e. receiving water limitations) are not allowed by the Federal Clean Water Act and that NPDES permits must have specific requirements to meet water quality objectives and protect beneficial uses.

Based on this ruling, a second 30-day public comment period was initiated on 6 May 2025 focused solely on proposed changes to six NPDES tentative permits (including the CAAP General Order) in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision. The second public comment period concludes on 5 June 2025 and a separate Response to Comments document addressing any comments received on the proposed changes will be available to the public prior to the 20 June Board Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed NPDES permit

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	AWL (email 5/23/25)
Legal Review:	CBM 5/25/25

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE