
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2017-0008

Rescission of Cease and Desist Order Numbers R1-2003-0046 and R1-2005-0034

for the

CITY OF RIO DELL
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

NPDES Permit No. CA0022748
WDID No. 1B83134OHUM

Humboldt County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. The City of Rio Dell (hereinafter Permittee or City) owns and operates a municipal wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and associated wastewater collection and disposal facilities.
2. On February 24, 2000, the Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R1-2000-0015, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0022748 for the City of Rio Dell WWTF, which was subsequently replaced by WDR Order Numbers R1-2006-0021 adopted on May 17, 2006, and revised on February 8, 2007, and R1-2011-0054 adopted on September 29, 2011. Concurrently with this cease and desist order rescission, the Regional Water Board will consider adoption of a renewed NPDES Permit, Order No. R1-2017-0007.
3. On May 15, 2003, the Regional Water Board adopted Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R1-2003-0046, to the Permittee for potential chronic violations of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) seasonal discharge

prohibition which prohibits effluent discharges to the Eel River and its tributaries from May 15 through September 30 each year. On June 21, 2005, the Regional Water Board adopted CDO No. R1-2005-0034, amending and supplementing CDO No. R1-2003-0046. Both CDOs included restrictions on the addition of new wastewater flows into the WWTF until it could be demonstrated that the effluent could be properly disposed during the seasonal discharge prohibition period.

4. The Permittee previously discharged disinfected secondary effluent to a percolation pond constructed in the gravels of the Eel River between May 15 and September 30 each year. Previous studies demonstrated that this discharge was an NPDES discharge due to the hydrologic connection between the Eel River and the percolation pond, and is thus in violation of the Basin Plan seasonal discharge prohibition.
5. To abate discharges in violation of the Basin Plan seasonal discharge prohibition, the Permittee proposed to evaluate discharge alternatives and move the dry season discharge to a location that would not allow discharges to reach the Eel River during the seasonal discharge season. The Permittee ultimately elected to construct an irrigation system on agricultural property located 2.5 miles northwest of the WWTF to land apply its effluent.
6. Documentation submitted by the Permittee confirms that actions necessary to provide for effluent disposal during the seasonal discharge prohibition period have been completed.
7. Regional Water Board action to rescind Cease and Desist Order Numbers R1-2003-0046 and R1-2005-0034 is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15061(b)(3).

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Cease and Desist Order Numbers R1-2003-0046 and R1-2005-0034 for the Permittee are rescinded.

Ordered by _____
Matthias St. John
Executive Officer

August 17, 2017