

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, April 7, 2016
Eureka City Hall
Eureka, California

- ITEM: 2
- SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2016-0006 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Mendocino County Water Works District No. 2, Anchor Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B83118OMEN, NPDES No. CA0024040 (*Cathleen Goodwin*)
- BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2016-0006. The Order will serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a period of five years.
- BACKGROUND: The Mendocino County Water Works District No. 2 (Permittee) owns and operates the Anchor Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), a domestic wastewater treatment plant that treats domestic and commercial wastewater from the unincorporated community of Anchor Bay, including 66 residences, the Anchor Bay Campground, and a small commercial business district.
- The Facility has an average dry weather design treatment capacity of 24,000 gallons per day (gpd) but is permitted to discharge up to 19,600 gpd as a monthly average based on a request from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in 1992 to mitigate CDFW's concern regarding potential impacts to marine communities near the discharge point.
- Treatment processes at the Anchor Bay Facility consist of headworks units, a 320,000 gallon aerated pond, a 300,000 gallon settling pond, a chlorine contact chamber and dechlorination facilities. Treated and disinfected wastewater is discharged either to the Pacific Ocean, after dechlorination, or to irrigate 3.3 acres of forest land. Discharge to the Pacific Ocean is located within a sea cave, which provides a minimum initial dilution of 35:1. Discharge to the Pacific Ocean occurs intermittently, approximately 75 times per year, primarily from November through April for a duration of approximately 3 hours per discharge.
- During the summer and other periods of dry weather, disinfected wastewater is used to irrigate two forested irrigation zones. The

maximum estimated irrigation capacity of the land disposal system is 10,000 gpd.

ISSUES:

Order No. R1-2016-0006, as proposed, continues to prescribe technology-based effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS), and effluent limitations for total coliform bacteria, oil and grease, settleable solids, turbidity, pH, and total residual chlorine based on the Ocean Plan for discharges to the Pacific Ocean. The proposed Order also retains land discharge specifications for BOD, TSS, pH, and total coliform bacteria and adds narrative land discharge requirements to ensure that land applied effluent meets all requirements of the Order, including requirements to properly operate and maintain irrigation infrastructure to minimize the potential for runoff or overspray, prevent nuisance conditions (odors and vectors), and to protect groundwater.

The proposed Order includes new effluent monitoring and reporting requirements for chronic toxicity. The proposed Order did not retain effluent limitations for TCDD-equivalents¹ for the ocean discharge from the current permit because there is no reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives for the protection of ocean waters. Monitoring and reporting frequencies for discharges to land have been reduced for aluminum, nitrate, ammonia, total dissolved solids, chloride and sodium because monitoring during the previous permit term did not exceed any applicable water quality objectives, yet limited monitoring is needed to continue to verify that these pollutants are controlled in a manner to prevent exceedance of applicable water quality objectives.

No written comments on the draft Order were received. Minor changes were made by Regional Water Board Staff in the proposed Order. These changes are described in the attached Change Sheet. Adoption of the proposed Order is uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2016-0006, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Change Sheet
2. Proposed Order No. R1-2016-0006
3. Public Notice

160314_AnchorBay_NPDES_EOSR

¹ The sum of the concentrations of chlorinated dibenzodioxins (2,3,7,8-CDDs) and chlorinated dibenzofurans (2,3,7,8-CDFs) multiplied by their respective toxicity factors identified in the Ocean Plan.