

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Staff Summary Report
April 4, 2024
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0006 to consider the adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Keysight Technologies Fountain Grove Site (Facility), WDID No. 1B82005OSON (Lynette Shipsey).

BOARD ACTION: The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will consider adoption of proposed Order No. R1-2024-0006 (Proposed Order).

BACKGROUND: Keysight Technologies is currently discharging pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 89-140. The revision of these waste discharge requirements is for the discharge to land of up to 0.07 mgd of treated industrial process wastewater from the existing manufacturing facility (Maximum Effluent Flow).

The discharger currently treats up to 200,000 gallons per day of industrial wastewater. Treated industrial wastewater is used to irrigate landscaped areas on the Discharger's property and is also discharged to the City of Santa Rosa wastewater treatment system. All domestic wastewater is discharged to the City of Santa Rosa wastewater treatment system.

The irrigation facilities consist of two 75,000 gallon storage tanks and a permanent spray and drip irrigation distribution system.

The Discharger diverts and stores up to 150,000 gallons per day of treated industrial wastewater for irrigation of approximately 26 acres of landscaped land (irrigation areas) owned by the Discharger and located in the NE 1/4 of Section 2, T7N, R9W, MDB&M, as identified in Attachment A incorporated herein and made a part of the Proposed Order.

Wastewater from the manufacturing processes is treated to remove contaminants and neutralize the pH prior to discharge to either the irrigation system or the sanitary sewer.

PROPOSED ORDER: The Proposed Order will have effluent limitations, discharge prohibitions, and effluent and influent flow monitoring. The Proposed Order requires quarterly reporting and annual reporting summarizing the Discharger's effluent monitoring results, solids handling activities, and permit compliance status.

The Proposed Order requires an Irrigation and Management Plan within 18 months of adoption, and an updated Operations and Maintenance Manual by July 1, 2025, to ensure best management practices are being implemented. The Proposed Order requires a disaster preparedness assessment report and action plan by July 1, 2025, to ensure that the Facility operations are not disrupted, compliance with conditions of the Proposed Order are achieved, and receiving waters are not adversely impacted by permitted and unpermitted discharges during natural disasters.

Other noteworthy items contained in the Proposed Order include:

1. Updated beneficial uses and receiving water limitations consistent with the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan);
2. Newly added cross-connection control specifications and monitoring and reporting requirements to protect the city water line in a manner that will be consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board's newly updated Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook;
3. Newly added specifications and monitoring and reporting requirements for irrigation management that are consistent with the Recycled Water Policy for equipment inspections, spill reporting, cross-connection controls, land application rates that prevent ponding and ensure vector control and sufficient storage during winter months, detection of leaks and prompt correction, and security protocols;
4. A newly added requirement to comply with the Santa Rosa Plain Salt and Nutrient Management Plan, when it is adopted into the Basin Plan; and

DISCUSSION: A copy of the Draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from January 7, 2024, through February 7, 2024. During the public comment period, Regional Water Board staff received one comment letter, from Keysight Technologies on February 7, 2024. Regional Water Board staff's response to comments is included as supporting documentation for this Staff Summary Report. Staff initiated changes were made to the Proposed Order to address editorial errors. No substantive changes have been made to the Draft Order that was released for public review on January 7, 2024.

Staff anticipates that the Proposed Order will be uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0006

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0006
Attachment A – Facility Location and Irrigation Areas Map
2. Notice of Public Hearing, Draft Order No. R1-2024-0006
3. Response to Comments on Draft Order No. R1-2024-0006