

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Executive Officer's Summary Report
June 17, 2021

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0016 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the City of Yreka Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1A84073OSIS (Roy O'Connor)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2021-0016 (Proposed Order).

BACKGROUND: The Proposed Order updates and replaces Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2003-0047.

The City of Yreka (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates facilities for the collection, treatment, and disposal of municipal wastewater from the City of Yreka. These facilities consist of a collection system, pumping stations, screening, activated sludge secondary treatment, aerobic sludge digestion, clarification, filtration, and disinfection by chlorination. The wastewater treatment facility (Facility) was originally constructed in 1972 and is located at the north end of the City, as shown on Attachments A, B, and C in the Proposed Order. Treated and disinfected effluent is pumped to four percolation ponds and to approximately 22.4-acre subsurface drip disposal fields located north of the Facility and adjacent to Yreka Creek. Treated effluent flows under approximately 1.0 million gallons per day (mgd) discharge to the subsurface drip disposal fields; treated effluent flows over 1.0 mgd discharge to both the subsurface drip disposal fields and the percolation ponds. The four percolation ponds are used primarily during high flow periods to accommodate larger effluent flows, while the subsurface drip disposal fields are used primarily during summertime low flow periods. The subsurface drip disposal fields were designed to accommodate up to 1.3 mgd of treated effluent disposal. Aerobically digested sludge is pumped to a centrifuge for mechanical dewatering and final disposal is at a permitted landfill.

The Facility has a design average dry weather flow (ADWF) of 1.0 mgd and a design peak wet weather flow (PWWF) of 6.8 mgd. The Discharger submitted a complete Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) on March 30, 2018. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2003-0047, adopted by the Regional Water Board on May 15, 2003, are currently in effect for the Facility.

DISCUSSION: The Proposed Order will have stricter discharge limitations, new source control provisions, new pretreatment provisions, stricter discharge prohibitions and stricter effluent flow monitoring than the previous Order No. R1-2003-0047. The Proposed Order requires weekly effluent sampling and monthly monitoring and reporting, and annual reporting summarizing the Discharger's effluent monitoring results, solids handling activities, permit compliance status, and source control activities for the previous year. The Proposed Order requires groundwater monitoring and evaluation of the potential impacts of the permitted discharge to surface waters and groundwater to ensure protection of the beneficial uses of groundwater and Yreka Creek, the Shasta River and the Klamath River. A source control program technical report is required by June 15, 2023 to assess industrial, commercial, and residential

discharges to the Facility and prevent toxic pollutants from passing through or interfering with the operation of the treatment system. An industrial waste survey and priority pollutant monitoring report is required by June 15, 2024. Additionally, the Proposed Order requires a disaster preparedness assessment report and action plan to ensure that Facility operations are not disrupted, compliance with conditions of this Order are achieved, and receiving waters are not adversely impacted by permitted and unpermitted discharges during natural disasters.

A copy of the draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from February 26, 2021, through March 30, 2021. The Discharger provided timely verbal comments on the draft Order. On March 29, 2021, Regional Water Board staff addressed these comments with the Discharger's Chief Plant Operator. All Discharger comments have been addressed. No other comments were received.

An explanation of the comments and staff responses are provided in the attached Response to Comments document. Staff anticipates that the Proposed Order will be uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2021-0016, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order R1-2021-0016
2. Staff Responses to Verbal Comments on Order R1-2021-0016
3. Notice of Public Hearing

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