

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

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Rescission Order No. R1-2021-0018 (Rescission Order) to consider rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order Number R1-2016-0041 (Permit) and Cease and Desist Order R1-2016-0043 (CDO) for College of the Redwoods Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80121OHUM, NPDES No. CA0006700 (Justin McSmith)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Rescission Order No. R1-2021-0018. The Order will rescind the College of the Redwoods National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and the CDO.

BACKGROUND: The College of the Redwoods (Permittee) is a two-year community college that serves four counties in the North Coast Region. Its main campus is located in Eureka, in Humboldt County. The 156.4-acre main campus consists of residence halls, campus dining facilities, classrooms, multiple science labs, maintenance buildings, a community stadium, a greenhouse, and additional infrastructure. Activities at the college generate approximately eighty thousand gallons per day of domestic strength wastewater.

On December 15, 2016, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2016-0041 (NPDES Permit) Waste Discharge Requirements and Cease and Desist Order R1-2016-0043 (CDO) for the College of the Redwoods. Based on a failure to comply with effluent limitations for copper, ammonia and nitrate during the previous permit term, it was determined that a Cease and Desist Order was necessary. Specifically, the 2016 CDO required the Permittee to comply with copper, ammonia, and nitrate final effluent limitations by the earliest possible date, but no later than June 1, 2020.

The Permittee treated its wastewater at a package plant through activated sludge and clarification processes, then disinfected with sodium hypochlorite, and dechlorinated with sodium metabisulfite prior to discharge. The design treatment capacity of the original Facility was 0.1 million gallons per day. Treated wastewater was then discharged to White Slough, a tributary to Humboldt Bay.

The Permittee chose to abandon this package plant and to install a septic tank and leach field disposal system to comply with water quality-based effluent limitations required by the 2016 NPDES permit and the conditions of the CDO. The treated wastewater discharge from the package plant to White Slough was ceased on March 30, 2020.

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The Permittee's New Facility consists of an influent septic tank, a recirculating tank, two recirculating gravel filters, two leach fields and support facilities. The Permittee completed construction of the new influent septic tank and leach fields in March of 2020. The gravel bed filters, and the recirculating tank were completed by March 10, 2021 with final site grading, paving, fencing, and cleanup completed by April 22, 2021. The Permittee notified Regional Water Board staff that discharge to surface waters ceased and effluent was being discharged to the leach field on March 30, 2020.

On June 7, 2018, the Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Board issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) to the Permittee for enrollment under the State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (General Order). The NOA was issued prior to completion of the onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system (New Facility) to provide a permitting path for the New Facility. The New Facility is currently regulated under the General Order. Since the New Facility is discharging to land exclusively, the NPDES permit regulating the discharge to White Slough is no longer required.

The draft Rescission Order No R1-2021-0031 was released for 30-day public comment period on March 9, 2021. No comments were received from the Permittee or members of the public.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Rescission Order No. R1-2021-0018, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order R1-2021-0018
2. Notice of Public Hearing

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