

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Executive Officer's Summary Report
June 9, 2022

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2022-0011 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Happy Camp Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1A75211OSIS (Roy O'Connor)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2022-0011 (Proposed Order).

BACKGROUND: The Proposed Order updates and replaces Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 98-2.

The Happy Camp Sanitary District (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates facilities for the collection, treatment, and disposal of municipal wastewater from the town of Happy Camp. These facilities were completed in 1979, and consist of a collection system, pumping stations, screening, and aerated lagoons secondary treatment. The wastewater treatment facility (Facility) is located west of the Klamath River as shown on Attachments A, B and C in the Proposed Order. Treated effluent is pumped to two percolation ponds located south of the Facility and west of the Klamath River.

The two percolation ponds are used year-round and are designed to accommodate up to 0.32 mgd of treated effluent disposal. The Facility has a design average dry weather flow (ADWF) of 0.32 mgd and a design peak winter weather flow (PWWF) of 0.48 mgd. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 98-2, adopted by the Regional Water Board on February 26, 1998, is currently in effect for the Facility.

DISCUSSION: To ensure the protection of the beneficial uses of surface and groundwater, the Proposed Order will have stricter discharge limitations, new source control provisions, stricter discharge prohibitions and stricter effluent flow monitoring than the previous Order No. 98-2. The Proposed Order requires monthly 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, Indian Creek, and the Klamath River. 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.

Other noteworthy changes to the Proposed Order from the Previous Order include the following:

1. Expansion of the explanation of how the Proposed Order complies with the Antidegradation Policy to clarify maintaining higher quality water consistent

- with the maximum benefit to the people of the State and protection of the present and anticipated beneficial uses of water. (Order section II.G).
2. Inclusion of the Human Right to Water Policy which provides that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. (Order section II.H).
 3. Inclusion of the Recycled Water Policy. Although the Facility does not currently produce recycled water, the Discharger is required to submit monitoring data in accordance with the Recycled Water Policy and State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2017-0012, Comprehensive Response to Climate Change (Order section II.J).
 4. Addition of a new discharge prohibition that clarifies accepting septage at an approved septage receiving station upon approval of a septage management program by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. A written septage management plan would need to be submitted for such approval. (Order section III.J).
 5. A Special Study Provision is included requiring evaluation of the potential impact to surface water and groundwater to confirm that the discharge of treated municipal wastewater complies with the groundwater limitations set forth in the Proposed Order, and does not threaten the beneficial uses of Indian Creek and the Klamath River. (Order Section VIII.R).
 6. A Compliance Determination section provides clarity on how compliance with Order requirements will be determined. (Order section IX).
 7. The Monitoring and Reporting Program includes annual volumetric reporting requirements to implement requirements of the State Water Board Recycled Water Policy (MRP section IV.B.4).

A copy of the draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from February 22, 2022, through March 24, 2022. No public comments were received. Regional Water Board staff met with the Discharger on March 21, 2022, and discussed the updated draft Order and explained new provisions and requirements contained in the draft Order.

Staff anticipates that the Proposed Order will be uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2022-0011, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order R1-2022-0011
2. Notice of Public Hearing