

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
Thursday, October 20, 2016
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2016-0034 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters following Extraction and Treatment of Groundwater Polluted with Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds, General NPDES No. CAG911001 (*Beth Lamb*)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2016-0034 (Proposed Permit). The Proposed Permit will serve as a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a period of five years (General Order).

BACKGROUND: On October 26, 1995, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. 95-88 "Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Extracted and Highly Treated Groundwater Resulting from Cleanup of Groundwater Polluted with Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds." Subsequently, on January 26, 2001, June 29, 2006, and May 5, 2011, the Regional Water Board reissued the General Order by adopting Order Nos. R1-2001-9, R1-2006-0048, and R1-2011-0028, respectively.

The purpose of this Proposed Permit is to regulate discharges of highly treated groundwater from a discrete point source to surface waters of the North Coast Region. Extraction and treatment of groundwater impacted by chemical pollutants as a result of an unauthorized release is a remedial option used to reduce or eliminate petroleum hydrocarbons or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from groundwater. This technology is also implemented for plume control by creating hydraulic control and reducing unwanted migration of pollution in groundwater. This Proposed Permit is intended to authorize similar discharges from groundwater treatment facilities at sites that have been impacted by petroleum related compounds and other volatile organic compounds associated with an unauthorized release of pollutants to groundwater.

Currently, there are three dischargers enrolled under the existing General Order.

SIGNIFICANT

CHANGES The Proposed Permit has only two notable changes from the existing General Order No. R1-2011-0028 as follows:

1. General Order Coverage for Existing Dischargers. Dischargers that are already covered under General Order No. R1-2011-0028, are automatically covered under this Proposed Permit, provided that the discharge is in compliance with all permit requirements and that the NOI submitted under General Order No. R1-2011-0028 adequately characterizes the discharge. The Executive Officer will issue a Notice of Applicability (NOA) letter to the three existing dischargers that coverage under the Proposed Permit will continue after the Board adopts Order No. R1-2016-0034.

2. Chronic Toxicity Requirements. The Proposed Permit includes new effluent monitoring and reporting requirements for chronic toxicity. The dischargers are required to evaluate the results of the toxicity tests using the Test of Significant Toxicity (TST) as the analytical approach in place of the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) approach that was required in previous permits. The TST is the appropriate analytical approach to evaluate the results of toxicity tests because it is consistent with the State Water Board's proposed toxicity amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California and it is supported by U.S. EPA as being more rigorous than the NOEC hypothesis test.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was received.

CHANGES TO THE

PUBLIC DRAFT: Discrepancies between the public review draft and the existing General Order were noted by staff after completion of the public review period. Changes were made after the public review to make the draft consistent with the existing permit. The changes were discussed with and acceptable to the three existing dischargers.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2016-0034, as proposed.

SUPPORTING

DOCUMENTS: Proposed Order No. R1-2016-0034
Public Notice