

**Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region**

**Staff Summary Report  
February 8, 2024**

**ITEM: # 5**

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2024-0005 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Willow Creek Community Services District (CSD) Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B1414ORHUM (Mike Reese)

**BOARD ACTION:** The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2024-0005 (Proposed Order).

**BACKGROUND:** The Proposed Order includes new Waste Discharge Requirements for the Town of Willow Creek's soon to be constructed wastewater treatment facility.

The Town of Willow Creek (hereinafter Discharger) plans to construct facilities for the collection, treatment, and disposal of municipal wastewater from within the service area of the community of Willow Creek. These facilities will consist of a collection system, pumping stations, septic tanks, screening, and Orenco Advantex textile media secondary treatment. The wastewater treatment facility (Facility) is scheduled for construction in 2023 and will be located at the northeast end of the Town, as shown on Attachments A, B, C and D in the Proposed Order. Treated effluent will be pumped to a leach field located adjacent to the Facility and south of the Trinity River.

The Facility has a design average daily dry weather flow of 0.038 million gallons per day (mgd) and a design peak daily wet weather flow of 0.114 mgd. The Discharger submitted a complete Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) on January 19, 2021. Further information to complete the ROWD was received on February 24, 2022.

This is a new facility, as no centralized wastewater collection and treatment facilities exist in Willow Creek. The community has pursued grant funding for centralized wastewater collection and treatment since the 1970's. Numerous efforts have been made through the years to access grant funding without success. Within the last ten years, however, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance has awarded both planning and construction funding assistance to the community. To date, the Discharger has received nearly \$11,000,000 in grant assistance to construct the collection, treatment and disposal facilities associated with the project.

**DISCUSSION:** The Proposed Order has effluent limitations, source control provisions, discharge prohibitions and influent and effluent flow monitoring. 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 and the Trinity River. A source control program summary report is required by March 1 each year 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. 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 contents of the Proposed Order include the following:

1. An 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 a finding that the order is consistent with 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 a finding that the order is consistent with 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. Inclusion of a discharge prohibition that clarifies accepting septage at an approved septage receiving station only 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. Inclusion of a Compliance Determination section which provides clarity on how compliance with Order requirements will be determined. (Order section IX).
6. The Monitoring and Reporting Program, which 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 November 15, 2023, through December 15, 2023. Regional Water Board Staff (staff) received no comments.

Regional Water Board staff met with the Discharger on multiple occasions 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. R1-2024-0005, as proposed.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Proposed Order R1-2024-0005
2. Notice of Public Hearing
3. Response to Comments Document

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