

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Executive Officer's Summary Report
April 18, 2019
Regional Water Board Office
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2019-0007 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Reclamation Requirements for the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility, WDID No. 1B841240SON, (*Cathleen Goodwin*)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Reclamation Requirements, Order No. R1-2019-0007.

BACKGROUND: The Sonoma County Water Agency (Discharger) owns and operates the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Wastewater Treatment Facility and associated wastewater collection, recycling, and disposal facilities (Facility) for treating primarily domestic wastewater for a population of approximately 9,400 people. The Facility also serves some industrial and commercial facilities.

The Facility is currently regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2001-0069 for water recycling of disinfected secondary-23 and disinfected tertiary recycled water. The Facility has an average dry weather design capacity of 0.9 million gallons per day (mgd) and a peak wet-weather treatment capacity of 5.0 mgd. The treatment system includes a headworks, three aeration ponds, two settling ponds, microfiltration, and chlorine disinfection. Solids generated during the treatment process accumulate in the aeration and settling ponds, where they undergo anaerobic digestion and compaction. Solids are removed as necessary (approximately once every ten years) and disposed of at a legal point of disposal. Solids were last removed in the summer of 2018.

Recycled water is stored year-round in the Discharger's recycled water storage ponds. The Discharger has 95 million gallons (MG) of secondary recycled water storage capacity and 198 MG of tertiary recycled water storage capacity for a total of 293 MG of storage capacity. The Discharger currently has signed agreements with twelve individual recycled water users and currently provides disinfected tertiary recycled water for irrigation of up to 500 acres of vineyards, 10 acres of pasture, 5 acres of grass, and 20 acres of nut trees. In addition, the Discharger periodically applies secondary or tertiary recycled water to 210 acres of grasslands at the Sonoma County Airport. The Discharger also maintains agreements with the City of Santa Rosa and the Town of Windsor to transfer tertiary recycled water to these two entities when the Discharger needs assistance to maintain its water balance and the City or the Town has adequate storage and/or disposal capacity to assist.

The Discharger preferentially produces disinfected tertiary recycled water but has the capability to store and use disinfected secondary-23 recycled water. All recycled water that is produced, is used for irrigation and frost control. If secondary treated recycled water is produced, it is used for pasture irrigation on restricted access land at the Sonoma County Airport. Tertiary treated recycled water is used for agricultural irrigation, landscape irrigation, and frost control. The production of recycled water is permitted in these WDRs while the use of recycled water is permitted through the Discharger's enrollment under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, *Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use* (Recycled Water General Order). On June 1, 2018, the Discharger submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage of the Discharger's recycled water uses under the Recycled Water General Order. The NOI included a title 22 recycled water engineering report (title 22 report) that was reviewed by State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) staff. The revised NOI and title 22 report were submitted to the Regional Water Board and DDW on February 25, 2019. Since DDW approval of the title 22 report is pending, the effective date of the proposed WDR is set for July 1, 2019 in order to provide time for DDW to complete the approval. The Regional Water Board Executive Officer will issue a Notice of Applicability of Enrollment under the Recycled Water General Order upon receipt of DDW's approval of the title 22 report and prior to the effective date of the Proposed Order.

DISCUSSION: Order No. R1-2019-0007 (Proposed Order) replaces WDR Order No. R1-2001-0069 (previous Order) and includes effluent limitations that apply to the production of recycled water at the Facility. Effluent limitations for the constituents Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and pH are retained from the previous Order to evaluate the performance of the Facility. The Proposed Order also includes filtration process and chlorine disinfection system requirements that implement water recycling criteria established in Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Filtration process requirements for turbidity are necessary to ensure that the chlorine disinfection process can meet Title 22 requirements for the inactivation of viruses and removal of coliform bacteria and other disease-causing microorganisms. The use of recycled water is regulated in the Discharger's enrollment under State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, *Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use*.

The Proposed Order also includes the following new requirements:

1. Source Control and Pretreatment Provisions. These requirements are included to ensure that the Discharger properly manages discharges of industrial waste to the Facility.

2. Disaster Preparedness Assessment Report and Action Plan. This is a new requirement that has been developed in light of recent fire, storm, and flood events to ensure that dischargers assess their facilities and develop a plan to ensure that operations are not disrupted, compliance with conditions of this Order are achieved, and receiving waters are not adversely impacted by permitted and unpermitted discharges.

A copy of the Draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from January 4, 2019, through February 4, 2019. The Discharger submitted timely comments on the Draft Order. In addition, Regional Water Board staff met with the Discharger to discuss the Draft Order. Staff made some modifications to the Proposed Order in response to the Discharger's comments as discussed in the Response to Written Comments. Staff anticipates that the Proposed Order will be uncontested.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Adopt Order No. R1-2019-0007, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2019-0007
2. Staff Response to Written Comments
3. Sonoma County Water Agency Comments
(letter and email)
4. Public Notice