

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Michael T. Chee)
MEETING DATE: July 11, 2007

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **City and County of San Francisco, Combined Sewer System, San Francisco -**
Hearing to Consider Imposition of Administrative Civil Liability for Discharge of
Untreated Wastewater into Waters of the State

CHRONOLOGY: The Water Board has not previously considered this matter.

DISCUSSION: We issued an administrative civil liability complaint in March 2007 to the City and County of San Francisco in the amount of \$626,000, which includes \$22,000 in staff costs, for a November 2006 sewage spill. A manhole cover on San Francisco's combined sewer system blew out during a storm. This allowed 475,000 gallons of untreated sewage to spill onto Ocean Beach and ultimately into the Pacific Ocean.

Because the sewage spill occurred during a storm, the untreated sewage was significantly diluted with storm water in the combined sewer system. A combined sewer system collects both street runoff and sewage in the same pipes. Though the spill was diluted, San Francisco staff did not take timely or complete action to adequately protect public health and water quality. Because of the spill, Ocean Beach, which is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, was closed for two days.

San Francisco has waived its right to a hearing (Appendix B), and has proposed to implement two supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) costing up to \$582,000. In the first SEP, San Francisco will identify sources of bacteria contamination (human vs. animal) at San Francisco area beaches. In the other SEP, San Francisco will design and construct landscaped-based treatment controls for runoff in the Lobos Creek Watershed at the southwest corner of the Presidio. This is one of the few areas in the city not covered by a combined sewer system. I expect to approve these SEPs after San Francisco develops acceptable details for these projects.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: No action required.

File No.: 2169.6010 (MTC)

Appendix: A. Complaint No. R2-2007-0001
B. Signed waiver