

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Dylan Garner)  
MEETING DATE: August 8, 2012

- ITEM: **5A**
- SUBJECT: **City of Pinole, Pinole-Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant and Its Wastewater Collection System, Pinole, Contra Costa County - Reissuance of NPDES Permit**
- CHRONOLOGY: January 2007 - Permit Reissued
- DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the City of Pinole's Pinole-Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant, which serves about 18,400 people in Pinole and 24,000 people in Hercules. During dry weather, the Plant pumps up to 3.52 million gallons per day of secondarily-treated effluent to Rodeo, where it is combined with the Rodeo Sanitary District's treated effluent and discharged through a common deep water outfall into San Pablo Bay.
- The City of Pinole and San Francisco Baykeeper submitted comments (Appendix B) on a draft permit distributed for review. We prepared responses to their comments (Appendix C), revising the draft in some cases. All revisions are reflected in the Revised Tentative Order.
- Perhaps the most significant comment relates to wet weather bypasses. Blending occurs when a portion of primary-treated effluent is routed around the Plant's secondary treatment units during peak wet weather flows and is "blended" with secondary-treated effluent prior to disinfection and discharge. The City also uses an emergency shallow water outfall when wet weather flows exceed effluent pump capacities. Blended and emergency outfall discharges must meet all discharge limits. Currently, the City blends and uses the emergency outfall three to four times per year. Upgrades proposed for the treatment system will, by June 2017, eliminate the need for blending effluent and for using the emergency outfall to about once every three years.
- Baykeeper asks for more monitoring during blending and when using the emergency outfall. The monitoring requirements we propose are consistent with other NPDES permits in the region (as set forth in Attachment G), which use total suspended solids as a proxy for detecting other pollutants; additional water quality parameters are required if total suspended solids measurements exceed 45 milligrams per liter.

Baykeeper would also like more focus on improving collection system performance. The Revised Tentative Order contains measures to reduce inflow and infiltration from the City of Pinole's collection system and, to the extent that the City of Pinole can influence the City of Hercules, from its satellite collection agency.

RECOMMEN-  
DATION:

Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS Place:

217831

APPENDICES:

- A. Revised Tentative Order
- B. Comments Received
- C. Response to Comments

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Revised Tentative Order**

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Comments**

# **APPENDIX C**

## **Response to Comments**