

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Dylan Garner)  
MEETING DATE: March 13, 2013

ITEM: 5A

SUBJECT: **City of San Mateo and City of Foster City Estero Municipal Improvement District, City of San Mateo Wastewater Treatment Plant and Its Wastewater Collection System, San Mateo, San Mateo County** - Reissuance of NPDES Permit and Rescission of Cease and Desist Order

CHRONOLOGY: November 2007 - Permit reissued and Cease and Desist Order adopted

DISCUSSION: This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the City of San Mateo Wastewater treatment plant, which serves about 139,000 people within the City of San Mateo, the City of Foster City, and portions of the Town of Hillsborough, the City of Belmont, and unincorporated San Mateo County. The plant discharges about 15.7 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to San Francisco Bay through an outfall approximately 3,700 feet offshore, 500 feet north of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge.

The Revised Tentative Order would also rescind the 2007 Cease and Desist Order, which addressed the City's inability to comply with certain previous permit requirements, because the City can comply with the new permit as currently proposed.

The City of San Mateo, U.S. EPA, and the San Francisco Baykeeper submitted comments (Appendix B) on a draft permit distributed for review. We prepared responses to their comments (Appendix C) and revised the original draft in some cases.

One of the more significant comments concerns ammonia. As it has on another recent permit, the Baykeeper asks for more stringent ammonia limits, such as those applied to discharges south of the Dumbarton Bridge, due to potential nutrient impacts. We calculated the limits as we have for all recent permits for deep water discharges, and they are sufficient to prevent ammonia-related toxicity. Regarding ammonia as a nutrient, we are engaged in ongoing regionwide collaborative studies to improve our understanding of nutrient sources and their potential impacts so we can develop appropriate regulatory and technical responses.

RECOMMEN  
DATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS Place: 255420

Appendices: A. Revised Tentative Order  
B. Comments  
C. Response to Comments