

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 4-5, 2008

Prepared on August 22, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 36

SUBJECT: Rescind Cease and Desist Order No. R3-2002-0105, City of Hollister, San Benito County

KEY INFORMATION:

Discharger: City of Hollister
Location: 375 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023, San Benito County
Type of Discharge: Tertiary treated reclaimed domestic and light commercial wastewater.
Treatment Capacity: 4.0 million gallons per day (MGD)
Disposal Capacity: Domestic Plant: 2.72 MGD non-disinfected treated domestic and light commercial wastewater.
Industrial Plant: 0.75 MGD non-disinfected treated domestic and light commercial wastewater through to the end of year 2013.
Reclaimed Water: 0.60 MGD tertiary treated domestic and light commercial wastewater.
Tentative Order: Master Reclamation Requirements Order No. R3-2008-0069 (Domestic Plant - PENDING ADOPTION)
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements 00-020 (Industrial Plant), Cease and Desist Order R3-2002-0105
This Action: Rescind Cease and Desist Order R3-2002-0105

SUMMARY

Staff proposes rescission of Cease and Desist Order No. R3-2002-0105 (CDO) because the City of Hollister (hereafter "Discharger") has performed the tasks required by the CDO.

DISCUSSION

The City of Hollister owns two wastewater treatment facilities, the Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facility and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility. These facilities treat municipal wastewater flows from residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sources, as well as seasonal process water from a tomato cannery. Historic violations of Waste Discharge Requirements provisions for each facility include exceedances of influent flow limitations, seepage of treated wastewater to the San Benito River channel, and failure of a disposal pond levee resulting in discharge of approximately 15 million gallons of treated wastewater to the San Benito River channel. These violations, in conjunction with delays in developing a long-term solution to wastewater issues, made it evident that the Discharger was unable to adequately treat and dispose of wastewater flows. Water Board staff proposed the CDO, which instituted a formal sewer connection ban, specified various milestones for the City of Hollister to meet in developing and implementing an effective

Long-term Wastewater Management Plan (LTWMP), and required full implementation of their LTWMP. The Regional Water Board adopted the CDO on September 19, 2002.

The Discharger failed to meet CDO deadlines including the requirement for full implementation of the LTWMP and attributed the missed deadlines to contentious local agency meetings and community concerns on costs. The Discharger provided regular project status reports to Water Board staff and Water Board members for the past six years. Today, the Discharger has created a common ground and goal within the community and has built a state-of-art wastewater treatment plant and reclamation facility.

Water Board staff received a completed LTWMP, which included all aspects of a new treatment plant design, and a complete report of waste discharge on April 1, 2007. It was at this time that the Discharger began the construction of the new domestic wastewater treatment plant and reclamation facility (DWTP). The new DWTP completed construction and began operating on October 23, 2008.

Water Board staff is confident that the new DWTP will provide more than adequate treatment and disposal capacity for the Discharger's domestic wastewater requirements for the next 10 years and an additional five years with the expansion of the membrane biological reactor. Cease and Desist Order No. R3-2002-0105 has, therefore, accomplished its intended purpose and is no longer necessary. Staff recommends rescission of the CDO.

With the completion of the DWTP, the Discharger will provide reclaimed water for reclamation. At the December 5, 2008 meeting, the Water Board will consider whether to adopt Master Reclamation Requirements Order No. R3-2008-0069 (MRR). The MRR will regulate treatment, supply, distribution, and use of disinfected tertiary reclaimed water. At that meeting, the Water Board will also consider rescission of the CDO.

COMMENTS

City of Hollister IPLs

ATTACHMENTS

Cease and Desist Order No. R3-2002-0105

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind Cease and Desist Order No. R3-2002-0105 as proposed upon adoption of Master Reclamation Requirements Order No. R3-2008-0069.