

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 7-8, 2017

Prepared on October 25, 2017

ITEM NUMBER: 7

SUBJECT: Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements, Reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048194 for City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility, Santa Cruz County, Order No. R3-2017-0030

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KEY INFORMATION

Location: 110 California Street, Santa Cruz CA 95060
Place ID: 225632
Type of Discharge: Secondary-treated municipal wastewater (and proposed tertiary disinfected recycled water)
Permitted Flow: Average daily dry weather flow shall not exceed 17 MGD
Type of Treatment: Treatment is accomplished by screening, aerated grit removal, primary sedimentation, biological tower trickling filters, solids contact stabilization, and secondary clarification, and disinfection with ultraviolet light
Disposal Method: Treated wastewater is discharged through a 12,250-foot outfall/diffuser system to Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the Pacific Ocean
Solid Wastes: Biosolids are processed by anaerobic digestion, then belt filter press dewatering. Stabilized solids are transported to Merced County and applied to land
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R3-2010-0043 and Statewide General WDR for Sanitary Sewer Systems (State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ).

This Action: **Adopt Order No. R3-2017-0030**

SUMMARY

This agenda item proposes reissuance of an existing NPDES permit. The Fact Sheet, Attachment F of the proposed Order, includes the legal requirements and technical rationale that serve as the basis for the requirements of the permit. Water Board staff recommends adoption of the proposed Order.

DISCUSSION

The City of Santa Cruz (hereinafter Discharger) is the owner and operator of the City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility (hereinafter Facility), which treats domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewaters collected from the Pasatiempo Golf Club, City of Santa Cruz, and areas of the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District. Storm water runoff from the Facility is directed to the headworks and discharged with treated wastewater. The plant also treats dry weather flows from Neary Lagoon, septage from unsewered areas, and grease trap pumping. Treatment at the Facility is currently accomplished by screening, aerated grit removal, primary sedimentation, biological tower trickling filters, solids contact stabilization, and secondary clarification, and disinfection with ultraviolet light.

The draft Order (and the existing Order) applies to the Pacific Ocean discharge of secondary treated wastewater from Discharge Point No. 001 approximately one mile from shore at a depth of approximately 100 feet below sea level. The 424-foot outfall diffuser utilizes 54 four-inch diameter ports to achieve a minimum initial dilution of 139 parts seawater for every part effluent (139:1). In order to facilitate potential future reclamation projects, the draft Order also applies to the production of recycled wastewater. The distribution and uses of the recycled water would be covered by other orders.

Changes from the Existing Order

The proposed Order is structured in accordance with the State Water Board's NPDES permit template. The proposed Order is consistent with the current Order with the exception of the following changes and modifications:

- The updated Reasonable Potential Analysis (RPA) found that the Facility did not have a reasonable potential to cause an exceedance of water quality standards for many pollutants (i.e., ammonia, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chlorinated phenolic compounds, chloroform, hexavalent and trivalent chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, non-chlorinated phenolic compounds, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc). As such, the proposed Order has no effluent requirements for these pollutants.
- The updated RPA found a reasonable potential for cyanide, PAHs, total residual chlorine, and TCDD-equivalents; therefore, water quality based effluent limitations are required in the proposed Order.
- The proposed Order allows for the production of recycled water.
- The Facility has been upgraded with a flow-through toxicity testing laboratory. Effective June 2018, the Discharger shall replace 24-hour composite toxicity sampling with continuous flow sampling.
- The proposed Order added additional monitoring locations and two additional outfall inspections/dye studies.
- The Order revised Standard Provisions to include 2013 updates.
- The Order updated the CIWQS reporting schedule.

Compliance History

The Facility is generally well run and is in compliance. The Discharger has reported two violations during the permit term, none of which resulted in enforcement action by the Water Board.

COMMENTS

The Water Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe WDRs for the discharge and provided an opportunity to submit written comments and recommendations. Notification was provided through publication in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on September 12 and 17, 2017, posting on the Water Board's website, and posting at the Facility. The written comments were due at the Water Board office by 5:00 p.m. on October 7, 2017. No comments were received during the public comment period.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Order No. R3-2017-0030, as proposed.

ATTACHMENT

For copies, please refer to the Water Board's internet website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2017/2017_agendas.shtml

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2017-0030, including the following associated attachments:

- Attachment A – Definitions
- Attachment B – Map
- Attachment C – Flow Schematic
- Attachment D – Standard Provisions
- Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP)
- Attachment F – Fact Sheet

CW-225632

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