

ITEM: 16

SUBJECT: City of Tracy, Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Joaquin County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit No. CA0079154)*

BACKGROUND: The City of Tracy is the owner and operator of the City of Tracy, Wastewater Treatment Plant (hereinafter Facility), a publicly owned treatment works, located at 3900 Holly Drive, Tracy, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the City of Tracy, serving a population of approximately 85,000. The Facility provides tertiary treatment with chlorine disinfection for up to 10.8 million gallons per day (MGD), with plans to expand the capacity to 16 MGD. Disinfected tertiary treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to Old River, a water of the United States, within the legal boundary of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2012-0115-02, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 7 December 2012, and amended on 9 October 2014 and 11 December 2015. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed permit includes new or updated effluent limitations for ammonia, chlorodibromomethane, diazinon and chlorpyrifos, dichlorobromomethane, and nitrate plus nitrite. The permit removes effluent limitations for bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate and copper because the discharge does not demonstrate reasonable potential to cause or contribute to instream exceedances of the applicable water quality objectives for these constituents.

ISSUES: Public comments on the tentative NPDES permit were received from the Discharger and the Central Valley Clean Water Association. The following is a summary of the comments on the major permitting issues and staff responses. Detailed comments and staff responses are included in the Staff Response to Comments document included in the agenda package.

Daily Limits Should Be Removed. *The Discharger requests that maximum daily effluent limits be removed for chlorodibromomethane (CDBM) and dichlorobromomethane (DCBM), as they are not required, necessary, or prescribed for human health criteria under federal rules or the SIP.*

CDBM and DCBM are priority pollutants; therefore, the procedures for calculating water quality-based effluent limitations in the SIP are applicable. The SIP requires maximum daily effluent limits for constituents with human health criteria. Furthermore, U.S. EPA's Technical Support Document (TSD) recognizes that exposure periods for human health criteria can be up to 70 years, but also recommends daily limits for human health criteria.

No Effluent Limits Where No Reasonable Potential. *The Discharger states effluent limitations should not be required for any constituents without demonstrated reasonable potential (RP) to cause or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard, specifically for BOD, TSS, ammonia, nitrate, acute toxicity, chlorpyrifos, or diazinon, as no RP exists for any of these parameters.*

Federal regulations state that limitations must control all pollutants that are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard, including State narrative criteria for water quality. Effluent limits for BOD and TSS are established based on the reasonable potential analysis (RPA) for pathogens to protect the contact and non-contact recreation beneficial uses, and are based on the technical capability of

the tertiary filtration process. For ammonia, nitrate plus nitrite, and acute toxicity, RP has been established based on the facility type, consistent with U.S. EPA guidance. For diazinon and chlorpyrifos, the Basin Plan requires effluent limitations that implement TMDLs, regardless if there is RP. The waste load allocations (WLAs) in the diazinon and chlorpyrifos TMDL apply to all NPDES dischargers to Delta waterways.

Toxicity Trigger. *The Discharger requests that the approved dilution credit of 20:1 for human health criteria be applied to the chronic toxicity monitoring trigger, increasing the trigger to 20 chronic toxicity units.*

The current permit and proposed Order include a mixing zone allowance for long-term human health criteria, which is not appropriate for a chronic toxicity mixing zone based on short-term aquatic life objectives. The Discharger must demonstrate through a mixing zone study that a chronic toxicity mixing zone will not adversely impact beneficial uses and complies with the mixing zone requirements pursuant to Section 1.4.2 of the SIP.

ROWD Submittal Date. *The Tentative Order establishes the date for submittal of the Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) as one year prior to the expiration date of the permit. The Discharger does not feel that it is necessary to submit the ROWD so far in advance and requests that, consistent with previous permits and applicable rules, the ROWD submittal date be set as 180 days in advance of the permit expiration.*

Submittal of the ROWD one year prior to the expiration date is within applicable rules and has been changed to ensure a timely permit renewal. Providing the ROWD earlier ensures Central Valley Water Board staff have all information necessary to renew the permit. Importantly, this allows all facility changes and Discharger requests to be timely considered for the next permit renewal.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt NPDES Permit Renewal

Mgmt. Review __NM____
Legal Review __SY____
7/8 December 2017 Board Meeting
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670