

ITEM: 17

SUBJECT: Donner Summit Public Utility District, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nevada County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Order Amending Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2015-0068 (NPDES Permit No. CA0081621) and Rescinding Cease and Desist Order R5-2014-0044*

BACKGROUND: The Donner Summit Public Utility District (Discharger) owns and operates the Donner Summit Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). On 24 April 2009, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted WDRs Order R5-2009-0034 prescribing final effluent limitations in part for ammonia, cyanide, dichlorobromomethane, manganese, nitrate, silver, zinc, copper and aluminum. On 28 March 2014, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2014-0044 providing a time schedule for the discharger to comply with final effluent limitations for the constituents listed above.

On 4 June 2015, the Central Valley Water Board adopted WDRs Order R5-2015-0068 that rescinded WDRs Order R5-2009-0034 and removed final effluent limitations for cyanide, dichlorobromomethane, silver, and zinc because there was no longer reasonable potential. WDR Order R5-2015-0068 includes final effluent limitations in part for ammonia, manganese, nitrate, copper and aluminum. The discharge was in compliance with their final effluent limitations for ammonia, manganese, and nitrate by 1 April 2016, which complied with CDO R5-2014-0044. The CDO remains in effect for copper and aluminum and requires compliance with final effluent limitations by 31 December 2017.

The results of the Final Water Effects Ratio (WER) Study submitted on 17 November 2016 concluded that a site-specific WER of 2.72 for copper is applicable to the discharge. The WER of 2.72 demonstrates that reasonable potential no longer exists for copper. The Discharger completed a project that upgraded the Facility in December 2014. Subsequently, the Discharger submitted monthly effluent aluminum sampling data from January 2015 to current that demonstrates compliance with the aluminum water quality criteria.

Therefore, the Central Valley Water Board staff proposes to amend WDRs Order R5-2015-0068 to 1) establish a site-specific WER of 2.72, 2) remove effluent limitations for copper and aluminum, and 3) remove monthly effluent monitoring requirements for copper and aluminum. Also, staff proposes to rescind CDO R5-2014-0044 because the discharge is in compliance with all constituents named in the CDO.

ISSUES: A Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the discharger and interested parties on 3 November 2017 for a 30-day public comment period. Comments are due on 4 December 2017.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Amending Order and rescind the Cease and Desist Order as proposed.

Mgmt. Review ___NM___
Legal Review ___SY___

7/8 December 2017 Central Valley Water Board Meeting
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Room
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670