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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (John H. Madigan)
MEETING DATE: November 1, 2007

ITEM: 7A and B

SUBJECT: City of San Mateo, Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Mateo County - Reissuance of NPDES Permit (7A), Adoption of Cease and Desist Order (CDO) for Discharge in Violation of NPDES permit (7B)

CHRONOLOGY: June 2001 - Permit Reissued

DISCUSSION: The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant serves approximately 137,000 people in the cities of San Mateo, Foster City, Hillsborough, and Belmont, and in unincorporated San Mateo County. During dry weather, the plant may discharge up to 15.7 million gallons a day of secondary-treated wastewater to San Francisco Bay. This discharge is through a deep-water outfall approximately 3,700 feet offshore and 500 feet north of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge.

The City and Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) submitted comments (Appendix B) on a draft permit and CDO distributed for review. Appendix C contains our responses to the comments received. We resolved as many comments as possible, modifying the Tentative Order and CDO as appropriate. The modifications are reflected in the attached Revised Tentative Order and Revised CDO (Appendix A).

The most significant remaining concerns relate to the permit's final limits for dioxins and mercury, the compliance schedule for dioxins, and the CDO time schedule for mercury. These comments are similar to those the Board has considered at previous permit hearings in recent months. Both the City and BACWA object to the final limits for dioxins and mercury on technical and legal grounds. The City also objects that the time schedule for mercury may require significant public expenditure in plant upgrades that would not be required once the mercury TMDL is approved by U.S. EPA. We believe the final limits, compliance schedule, and time schedule are legal, necessary, and technically sound. Also, adequate time is provided to allow the mercury TMDL to be approved by U.S. EPA before significant public expenditure becomes necessary. These commenters may reiterate their concerns at the Board Meeting.

RECOMMEND-
ATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order and Revised CDO.

File Number: 2179.7035 (JHM)

Appendices:

A. Revised Tentative Order
B. Revised Tentative CDO
C. Comments
D. Response to Comments

APPENDIX A

Revised Tentative Order

APPENDIX B

Revised Tentative Cease and Desist Order

APPENDIX C

Comments

APPENDIX D

Response to Comments