

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT: Marcos De la Cruz  
MEETING DATE: December 16, 2020

**ITEM: 5A**

**Valero Refining Company-California, Valero Benicia Refinery, Benicia, Solano County –**  
Reissuance of NPDES Permit

**DISCUSSION:**

This Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for discharges from the wastewater treatment plant and stormwater outfalls at the Valero Benicia Refinery. The refinery processes about 148,000 barrels per day of crude oil and discharges about 2.4 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to Suisun Bay via a submerged diffuser 1,100 feet offshore. Valero also discharges stormwater associated with industrial activities to Sulphur Springs Creek, Carquinez Strait, and Suisun Bay.

The Revised Tentative Order would update several requirements. It would impose a new selenium effluent limit based on the North San Francisco Bay Selenium TMDL U.S. EPA approved in 2016, and provide allocations for contaminated runoff and ballast water commingled with process wastewater that were inadvertently excluded from the previous order.

Within the next few weeks, we plan to send the refineries in our region a letter requiring them to submit reports describing their efforts to protect their facility operations from disruptions or damage from sea level rise, groundwater rise, or other climate change effects. The Revised Tentative Order would require the information in that report to be incorporated into updates to Valero's contingency plan, spill prevention plan, operation and maintenance manual, and wastewater facilities status report (see Attachment G sections I.C and I.D). Anticipated facility modifications must be described in future reports of waste discharge, including the one that Table 3 would require by April 5, 2025.

We received comments (Appendix B) on the tentative order from Valero and responded (Appendix C) to the comments, in one case by revising the tentative order. We also made minor editorial and formatting changes. We expect this item to be uncontested.

**APPENDICES:**

- A. Revised Tentative Order
- B. Comments
- C. Response to Comments

Appendix A  
Revised Tentative Order

## Appendix B Comments

In accordance with Section 11546.7 of the California Government Code, an electronic version of the comments received have not been posted online as they do not meet specified accessibility standards. For an electronic copy of the comments, please see the contact information provided in Fact Sheet section VII.G of the revised tentative order.

# Appendix C

## Response to Comments