

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: Placer County Service Area No. 28, Zone No. 6  
Sheridan Wastewater Treatment Plant, Placer County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Resolution Amending Waste Discharge Requirements to Rescind NPDES Permit, and Rescission of Cease and Desist Order.*

BACKGROUND: The Placer County Service Area No. 28, Zone No. 6 (Discharger) owns and operates a collection system and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that provides service to the community of Sheridan with a population consisting of 220 residents. In accordance with existing Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R5-2002-0209, as of 30 December 2006, the Discharger ceased discharging WWTP effluent to an unnamed drainage ditch, tributary to Yankee Slough and the Bear River. The Discharger is currently discharging to its existing land disposal system in accordance with existing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) No. R5-2002-0208.

The Discharger has notified the Regional Water Board of its permanent cessation of discharge to surface water and requested that the NPDES portion of WDR Order No. R5-2002-0208 (requirements pertaining to surface water discharge) be rescinded. Accordingly, the tentative Resolution proposes to amend the existing WDR Order No. R5-2002-0208 by removing all NPDES (surface water discharge) related requirements and adding a prohibition of surface water discharges. This amendment serves as an NPDES permit rescission for NPDES Permit No. CA0079341. Additionally, the tentative Resolution proposes to rescind CDO No. R5-2002-0209.

ISSUES: The WWTP has historically discharged most of its wastewater to land through crop irrigation. The Discharger holds an NPDES Permit for discharge of excess wastewater during wet weather periods. The wastewater treatment facilities are being rebuilt to provide a higher and more dependable level of treatment. As part of the changes, the Discharger has decided to cease further discharge of wastewater to surface waters and discharge all wastewater on land. An additional storage pond has been constructed for wet weather flow containment of wastewater, and additional irrigation areas are now available for ultimate disposal of the wastewater. Further expansion of storage and irrigation disposal areas is in progress. Due to the current limitations to the wastewater system, Placer County is prohibiting additional connections to the sewerage system until the proposed plant upgrade is completed.

Rescission of the NPDES Permit will reduce the volume of wastewater that can be discharged from the facility. The initial tentative Resolution also reduced the permitted wastewater flow based upon a water balance that had been submitted by the Discharger. Following release of the initial tentative Resolution for public review, staff met with the Discharger to discuss the tentative Order and learned of the facility improvements that have been completed and that the water balance information used to develop the tentative Resolution was out of date. The Discharger believes that adequate wastewater disposal capacity is available to contain and properly dispose of current wastewater flows to land. The Discharger intends to maintain the self-imposed connection ban until the proposed wastewater facility expansion is complete, and requests that the Waste Discharge Requirements be updated at a later date as the new and proposed treatment and disposal facilities become completed.

Therefore, the proposed Resolution has been modified to only remove the portions of WDR Order No. R5-2002-0208 that allow a discharge to surface water (the NPDES Permit portions of the WDRs), thus rescinding the NPDES Permit. Since the Discharger has ceased discharge to surface water, the requirements of the existing CDO have also been fulfilled. Therefore, the proposed Resolution also proposes rescinding CDO No. R5-2002-0209. Further discharges of wastewater to surface waters are therefore prohibited and all wastewater must be contained on land.

The Discharger is preparing an updated water balance to reflect the new and proposed treatment units. The land discharge portions of WDR Order No. R5-2002-0208 will be updated as appropriate after the updated water balance and facility information is received. Therefore, the WDR Order amendments contained in the initial tentative Resolution pertaining to land disposal requirements are not being proposed at this time.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review LTO

**11/12 September 2008**  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670