

ITEM: 20

SUBJECT: City of Alturas, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Modoc County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Time Schedule Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Alturas (Discharger) owns and operates a POTW which provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to the City of Alturas. The treatment system consists of an inlet screen, grit removal, a grinder, primary clarifier, trickling filter, two secondary clarifiers, chlorine contact basin, and dechlorination station. Wastewater is discharged to the Pit River, a water of the United States.

The previous permit established effluent limitations for copper, zinc, turbidity, and total coliform organisms with which the Discharger could not comply and included a compliance schedule allowing until 15 November 2008 to achieve final compliance for turbidity and total coliform organisms, and until 18 May 2010 to achieve final compliance for copper and zinc. The Discharger upgraded several processes at the Facility and added others to meet the requirements imposed by various effluent limitations (TSS and BOD removal, total coliform effluent limitations, etc.). Some of the improvements did not operate properly and the Facility was in significant non-compliance with the previous Order from July 2008 through September 2009. The Discharger initiated an Interim Operations Plan (IOP) in October 2009 relying on chemicals to assist in the treatment process which significantly reduced the frequency of effluent limitation violations.

In May 2010 the Discharger was issued a Time Schedule Order (TSO) to achieve final compliance for copper and zinc. The TSO required compliance by 27 May 2015. The Discharger submitted a final work plan on 28 February 2011 for copper and zinc compliance which proposed a long term solution to wastewater treatment through land discharge of the effluent and elimination of all surface water discharge. The proposed accompanying TSO is an update to the May 2010 TSO and the final compliance deadline of 27 May 2015 has remained unchanged. The accompanying TSO also contains a new compliance schedule to meet final effluent limitations for total coliform effluent limitations when receiving water dilution is less than 20:1. The proposed TSO establishes interim effluent limits and provides a 5-year compliance schedule for compliance with the total coliform effluent limitations.

The proposed permit includes new and more stringent effluent limits for aluminum, ammonia, BOD₅, and TSS. The Discharger submitted a request for a compliance schedule for these constituents on 17 May 2012. A compliance schedule and interim limits are included in the permit for these constituents. If the Discharger implements the land discharge plan, then final compliance with effluent limits in the proposed permit would not be necessary.

ISSUES: Comments were received from USEPA and CVCWA. Staff made changes in response to some of the comments. Staff's response to comments and

permit revisions are included with this agenda item. It is unknown at this time whether or not the revisions are acceptable to USEPA and CVCWA.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed orders.

Mgmt. Review__BJS_____

Legal Review_____

2/3 August 2012

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