

ITEM: 30

SUBJECT: Modoc Joint Unified School District, Geothermal Project, Modoc County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Order to Amend Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0045*

BACKGROUND:

Modoc Joint Unified School District (hereinafter Discharger) is the owner and operator the Geothermal Project (hereafter Facility), which provides a geothermal heating system for Modoc High School. The heat is extracted by means of heat exchangers and a floor slab system. No chemicals are added to the geothermal water. Use of the geothermal heating system is seasonal since heating is required only during the winter months. Annual usage starts in September and lasts until June. Wastewater is discharged to the North Fork Pit River via the City of Alturas' storm drain system.

The Discharger was unable to comply with new final effluent limitations for copper at the time of the NPDES permit adoption in 2011; therefore, Time Schedule Order (TSO) R5-2011-0045 accompanied the NPDES permit. The TSO contained interim copper effluent limitations and a compliance time schedule to allow the Discharger time to come into compliance with the final copper effluent limitations. The compliance deadline was 30 September 2014.

On 18 September 2014, the Discharger submitted a request for additional time to comply with final copper effluent limitations. The letter also contained a request for a time schedule to come into compliance with the maximum pH effluent limitation. [The maximum pH limitation was a new final effluent limitation upon adoption of the NPDES permit in 2011]. Justification was provided in the letter, which outlined measures taken by the Discharger in order to comply with TSO No. R5-2011-0045 that resulted in unanticipated delays to meet final effluent limits for copper.

The Discharger has completed a review and cost estimate for linking the geothermal heating system to the City of Alturas' sanitary sewer system. The Discharger was also approved for a \$3,155,759 award through the California Energy Commission's Geothermal Grant and Loan Program. The Discharger plans to use the grant funds to eliminate Facility discharge to surface water by injection of waste geothermal fluid into the parent aquifer. The reinjection project is projected to be completed by June 2016. As a project alternative, the Discharger may connect the Facility discharge to the City sanitary sewer if the reinjection project experiences any unanticipated delays.

Additional time is required for the Discharger to complete a final project that allows them to meet final effluent limits. In addition, the Discharger is not able to maintain compliance with the final maximum pH effluent limitation in the NPDES permit. Therefore, the TSO is being amended to include an interim effluent limitation for pH and to extend the final compliance deadline. The compliance deadline extension, however, does not exceed five years from the effective date of the subject new effluent limitations.

The Discharger has submitted evidence that diligent progress has been made toward bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitations and that the time schedule is as short as possible. The proposed Order amends Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0045 and provides an interim effluent limitation and compliance schedule for pH and revises the compliance schedule for copper to extend it to June 2016.

ISSUES: No comments were received on this item. The item is uncontested at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review\_BJS\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review\_\_\_\_\_

4/5 December 2014 Central Valley Water Board Meeting  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670