

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: City of Colfax, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Placer County

BOARD ACTION: *Continuation of Hearing for Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: The City of Colfax (Discharger) owns and operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) that provides sewerage service for the community of the City of Colfax and serves a population of approximately 1,800. The Facility was initially designed to dispose of effluent on land, but was unable to operate without some degree of surface water discharge. Consequently, the Facility has been subject to regulation under an NPDES permit since 1974. The discharge from the Facility to an unnamed tributary to Smuthers Ravine is currently regulated by Order 5-01-180, adopted on 14 June 2001. At the same time, the Regional Water Board adopted CDO No. 5-01-181 that established time schedules for meeting the discharge prohibitions and effluent limitations based on tertiary treatment under Order No. 5-01-180. To comply with the permit and CDO, the Facility replaced the old wastewater treatment system described in the existing Order No. 5-01-180 with an interim tertiary treatment system. The interim system provides for domestic wastewater, collected seepage from an on-site storage reservoir, and storm water to be treated in the interim tertiary treatment system and discharged to the unnamed tributary to Smuthers Ravine, a water of the United States. Smuthers Ravine is a tributary to the North Fork of the American River via Bunch Canyon, within the Sacramento River Watershed.

The Discharger applied for reissuance of its waste discharge requirements (NPDES permit) for the discharge from the Facility to Smuthers Ravine. The Regional Water Board held a hearing on 21 June 2007 to consider this matter, and decided to continue the hearing to address certain issues, including:

- Ammonia limitations
- Nitrate compliance schedule and interim limitations
- Discharge flow limitations
- Changes to time schedules and due dates

The tentative NPDES permit and CDO were issued on 27 August 2007. Written and oral comments were required to be limited to the proposed revisions identified in "underline/strike-out" text in the tentative WDRs and CDO, addressing only the issues that are the basis of the continuation of the public hearing.

Comments were received from the Discharger, Allen and Nancy Edwards, Lawyers for Clean Water, and Michael Garabedian for Friends of the North Fork. Some of the comments received addressed issues outside the scope of the continued hearing and were not accepted into the record.

Copies of the comments posted on the website and placed in the file as part of the agenda package were marked to indicate those comments which were not accepted into the record. A Response to Comments was prepared for the comments received that were within the scope of the noticed hearing item.

ISSUES: Significant issues are discussed in detail in the Staff Report

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

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

25/26 October 2007

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