

ITEM: 15

SUBJECT: Uncontested NPDES Permits

REPORT: Following are proposed permits. All agencies and the dischargers concur, or have offered no comments. Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal

a	<p>RIVER HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, YUBA COUNTY, AND GOLD VILLAGE LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC, HAMMONTON GOLD VILLAGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, YUBA COUNTY</p> <p>River Highlands Community Services District and Yuba County are collectively the Discharger. The Discharger owns and operates the Hammonton Gold Village Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). Gold Village Land Development LLC (Gold Village) is the owner of the property upon which the Facility is located. Gold Village is also named as a Discharger in this proposed Order' however its only obligation under the Order is to provide unfettered access to the Facility.</p> <p>The Facility serves approximately 84 households, and is permitted to discharge up to 0.026 million gallons per day of treated municipal wastewater to spray irrigation fields or to an unnamed tributary of Sanford Creek, which flows into the Yuba River below Englebright Dam, via Sanford Creek and Big Ravine. The Facility includes a new membrane bioreactor package treatment system and ultraviolet light disinfection. The disinfected tertiary treated wastewater is discharged to surface water during wet weather months only.</p> <p>The tentative Order, issued for public comment on 14 June 2011, prohibited discharges to the unnamed tributary from 1 April through 30 September. Based on a request from Yuba County, the proposed NPDES Permit prohibits discharges to the unnamed tributary from 1 May through 30 September.</p> <p>The proposed NPDES Permit monitoring and reporting program (MRP) was modified from the originally-issued tentative Order to require 1) annual toxicity testing in place of semi-annual toxicity testing, and 2) weekly pond odor observations in place of daily observations. These subsequent modifications to the tentative Order were issued for public comment on 21 October 2011.</p> <p>Public comments were received from Yuba County. The comments do not oppose the tentative permit and are included in the Agenda Package. No other comments were received.</p>
b	<p>MERIDIAN BEAR TRACK COMPANY, ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE, CALAVERAS COUNTY</p> <p>The Meridian Bear Track Company (Discharger) owns and operates the Royal Mountain King Mine reclamation site. The mine site is undergoing a site cleanup closure process. The Discharger collects storm water and spring seepage in Skyrocket Pit Lake to prevent uncontrolled discharges to surface water. When the level of Skyrocket Pit Lake is greater than 955 above mean-sea-level, groundwater seepage occurs into Littlejohns Creek resulting in the creek flowing year round with high concentrations of total dissolved solids, sulfate and arsenic. In December 2007, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2007-0162 allowing the controlled release of excess water in Skyrocket Pit Lake seasonally to Littlejohns Creek during periods of high creek flows. Under these conditions there is assimilative capacity and diluting flows in the creek. Littlejohns Creek is tributary to the San Joaquin River within the boundaries of the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta, within the San Joaquin River Basin.</p>

	<p>To ensure sufficient dilution is available, Order R5-2007-0162 requires a minimum flow ratio of 15:1 (Littlejohns Creek flow to Effluent flow) when discharging to the creek. However, for an interim period a flow ratio of 10:1 was allowed to expedite the lowering of Skyrocket Pit Lake to minimize groundwater seepage into Littlejohns Creek. The proposed Order extends the allowed interim 10:1 flow ratio until 30 April 2013. Additionally, an average monthly flow effluent limitation of 3 million gallons per day has been added to correspond with the final effluent limitations in Order R5-2007-0162.</p> <p>A public notice was sent out on 15 September 2011 describing the proposed amendments with comments due by 17 October 2011. No comments were received.</p>
c	<p>AEROJET-GENERAL CORPORATION, GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS, ARGET, GET E/F, GET H, GET J, GET K-A,, GET L-A, GET L-B, SAILOR BAR PAF WELL, CHETTENHAM WELL, AND LOW-THREAT DISCHARGES, SACRAMENTO COUNTY</p> <p>Aerojet-General Corporation operates a rocket-testing and chemical manufacturing facility in eastern Sacramento County. Past practices at the facility has led to pollution of the groundwater on and off the Aerojet property. In the process of cleaning up the polluted groundwater, Aerojet extracts and treats the groundwater. The water is discharged to ground, to surface water and injected back into the aquifers. The discharges to surface water are currently at ten locations under an NPDES permit. Three of the discharges are associated with treatment systems on Golden State Water Company water supply wells. After adoption of the last version of the permit, the operation of the discharges from those wells was modified from what was described in the permit. The proposed revisions to the permit reflect those modifications which include the discharge of during startup and shutdown of the well to the storm drain prior to the treatment system as opposed to after the treatment system. This is due to the potential for fines to clog the ion exchange vessels. Those discharges are covered under the well purging limitations that have always been allowed in the permit and generally are for purging of monitor, extraction and supply wells prior to collecting water quality samples. The permit was also updated to include the changes that were made in the permit amendment earlier in 2011.</p>
d	<p>THE BOEING COMPANY, INTERIM GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS, GET H-B AND SOUTHERN GROUNDWATER STUDY AREA GET, SACRAMENTO COUNTY</p> <p>The Boeing Company operates two groundwater extraction and treatment systems at the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test site project in Rancho Cordova. The two systems extract groundwater polluted with perchlorate and trichloroethylene and discharge the treated water to Morrison Creek. This revision allows Boeing to change from using chlorine dioxide to a biodispersant to control biogrowth in the Southern Groundwater Study Area (SGSA) treatment facility. The biodispersant has been shown to be effective with no toxicity issues. The two treatment facilities operated under the permit have been in substantial compliance with the effluent limitations.</p>
e	<p>SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES, ANDERSON DIVISION, SHASTA COUNTY</p> <p>Sierra Pacific Industries, Inc. (Discharger) owns and operates the Anderson Division Sawmill and Cogeneration Facility near Anderson, Shasta County. The Facility discharges cogeneration process water, log deck recycle water, log deck storm water, and industrial storm water into a network of onsite ponds. If the combined storage capacity of the ponds is projected to be exceeded, then subsequent industrial storm water from the southern portion of the Facility is discharged to the Sacramento River at Discharge Point D-002. The ponds themselves do not</p>

	<p>discharge to the Sacramento River.</p> <p>Since beginning operation in this manner (June 2009) no discharge from D-002 has occurred, due to sufficient storage capacity in the ponds. Previously, discharge of industrial storm water from the southern portion of the Facility to the Sacramento River occurred at D-002 every year.</p> <p>The Discharger is in the process of adding a new cogeneration power facility, including a new fuel shed, boiler building, turbine building, cooling tower, electrostatic precipitator, ash silo and electric substation, at the Facility. The boiler would burn biomass fuel to produce steam to dry lumber in existing kilns and to power a steam turbine. The steam turbine would drive a generator that would produce up to 31 MW of electricity.</p> <p>The proposed Order requires the Discharger to install a network of groundwater monitoring wells, and contains surface water discharge and groundwater limits.</p>
f	<p>EXISTING MILK COW DAIRIES</p> <p>The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued regulations on surface water discharges from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), using its authority under the federal Clean Water Act. CAFOs include all types of animal feeding operations, provided that the operations meet specific requirements based on the number and type of animals, and the operation of the animal facility. On 10 December 2010, the Board adopted General WDRs and NPDES Permit CAG 015001, incorporating these requirements for existing milk cow dairies.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to the Order and Permit have been made in response to the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in <i>National Pork Producers Council, et al v. United States Environmental Protection Agency</i> (5th Cir 2011) 635 F 3d 738. The Fifth Circuit Court decision vacated all provisions of the 20 November 2008 EPA Final Rule that require CAFOs that “propose to discharge” to apply for an NPDES permit.</p> <p>Changes have been made to Board Order R5-2010-0118 to remove the “propose to discharge” language, and corresponding changes have been made to Attachments F and H. Minor changes (insertion of the order number) have been made to Attachments D and G.</p>

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed NPDES permits.

Mgmt. Review _____
 Legal Review _____

December 1, 2011
 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting
 11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670