

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9, 2008

Prepared on March 31, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 17

SUBJECT: Renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0048216 for the City of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, Order No. R3-2008-0016

KEY INFORMATION

Location: 401 Panabaker Lane, Watsonville
Type of Discharge: Treated municipal wastewater
Permitted Flow: 12 million gallons per day (mgd; dry weather flow design capacity)
Average Flow: 6.2 mgd, 2007 average
Type of Treatment: Secondary via screening, pre-aeration/grit removal, biological tower trickling filters, aerated completely-mixed reactors, and secondary clarification.
Disposal Method: Pacific Ocean discharge through a 7,350-foot long outfall/diffuser system
Solid Wastes: Gravity thickening, anaerobic digestion, offsite disposal to landfill
Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2003-0040
Reclamation: Tertiary treatment will provide up to 7.7 mgd recycled water for agricultural irrigation
This Action: Adopt Waste Discharge Requirements

SUMMARY

This Staff Report summarizes changes to waste discharge requirements in the proposed Order. Attachments to the proposed Order, including the proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E) and the Fact Sheet (Attachment F), provide detailed information.

The City of Watsonville (Discharger) owns and operates a municipal wastewater collection and treatment system, and discharges the secondary treated treated wastewater into Monterey Bay.

The proposed Order includes waste discharge and monitoring requirements from the existing Order, except changes to the method for effluent monitoring and monitoring for additional potential pollutants.

CHANGES FROM THE EXISTING ORDER.

For the Board to consider, staff presented Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2003-0016 as Item No. 11 on the Board's agenda at the March 20, 2008 public meeting in Salinas.

Changes to the MRP required of the Discharger, in concert with the other dischargers of treated municipal wastewater into Monterey Bay, include the following:

- To help choose a High-water Volume Sampling technique to monitor certain pollutants listed on the Ocean Plan's Table B,
- To help develop a bioassay method to monitor the discharge's potential disruption of endocrine systems in aquatic life,
- To help develop a screening method to monitor perfluorinated compounds in the discharge, and
- To monitor for polybrominated diethyl ether (PBDE).

COMMENTS

The MRP presented at the March 20, 2008 meeting incorporated all changes resulting from comments on the draft. No other comments were received.

ATTACHMENT

1. Proposed Order No. R3-2008-0016, including the following associated attachments:

Attachment A – Definitions

Attachment B – Topographic Map

Attachment C – Wastewater Flow Schematic

Attachment D – Standard Provisions

Attachment E – Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2007-00134

Attachment F – Fact Sheet

S:\NPDES\NPDES Facilities\Santa Cruz Co\City of Watsonville WWTP\2008 permit\R3-2008-0016 Staff rpt.doc