

9/10 JUNE 2022 BOARD MEETING CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM: 11

SUBJECT:

The following is a proposed permit for consideration of adoption.

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal

BACKGROUND:

SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES, SHASTA LAKE DIVISION, SHASTA COUNTY

Sierra Pacific Industries (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Shasta Lake Division Sawmill (Facility) in the City of Shasta Lake, Shasta County. The Facility is a sawmill complex with a wood-burning boiler that generates steam for kiln heating. Industrial storm water from the western portion of the Facility is stored in two retention ponds and applied to a land application area. When the retention ponds reach capacity, industrial storm water is discharged to an unnamed tributary to Churn Creek.

The Facility is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order/NPDES Permit R5-2016-0025 for discharge of combined process water and storm water. The proposed new Order will only permit surface water discharge of industrial storm water, consistent with updates at the Facility to eliminate a process water discharge. Facility updates include addition of a second storm water retention pond, addition of a land application area, addition of a second discharge point, and process wastewater operational changes to eliminate mixing with storm water.

ISSUES:

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 13 April 2022 with comments due by 13 May 2022. Timely comments were received from the Sacramento River Source Water Protection Program (SRSWPP). A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes timely written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff. The proposed Order has been revised to address the comments received by SRSWPP. The following is a brief summary of the comments received:

- SRSWPP comments that storm water action levels (SWALs) should be reassessed for iron and manganese. The tentative Order included a SWAL for iron, but SRSWPP believes a stricter SWAL is required for the protection of the secondary maximum contaminant level (MCL). There was no SWAL for manganese included in the tentative Order, and SRSWPP believes that water quality results from the Facility warrant a SWAL for manganese.

- SRSWPP comments that the terminology surrounding SWALs, monitoring requirements, and discussion based on protection of secondary MCLs should be altered to refer to a “filtered” portion, instead of a "dissolved” portion for consistency with the implementation of the Salt and Nitrate Control Program’s Secondary MCL Policy.
- The tentative Order included a SWAL for total recoverable aluminum. The Fact Sheet discussion on the need for a SWAL for aluminum did not include an analysis on the Primary MCL for aluminum. SRSWPP comments that the Primary MCL should be added into the discussion, and that the SWAL and monitoring requirements should be adjusted to account for the Primary MCL.

Late comments were received on 16 May 2022 from the Discharger, referencing comments submitted on a previous draft of the permit. Staff had previously considered these comments prior to circulating the tentative Order for public comment. Since the Discharger’s late comments are not specific to the tentative Order, written responses were not developed for the late comments. However, in working through the Discharger’s initial comments, staff met with the Discharger and revised the tentative Order, prior to circulation for public comment, in response to some of its comments. The Discharger has not provided timely comments indicating what issues remain in the tentative Order circulated for public comment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the NPDES Permit

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

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

Internet Zoom Meeting