

**27-28 APRIL 2023 BOARD MEETING  
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 14**

**SUBJECT:**

REYNOLDS CONSUMER PRODUCTS LLC, REYNOLDS MOLDED PULP MILL, TEHAMA COUNTY

**BOARD ACTION:**

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES No. CA0004821).

**BACKGROUND:**

Reynolds Consumer Products LLC (Discharger) owns and operates the Reynolds Molded Pulp Mill (Facility) in Red Bluff, CA, Tehama County. The Facility is used to process recycled and virgin pulp into food-grade paper products (e.g., paper plates) and has a design discharge flow rate of 2.7 million gallons per day. Process wastewater is treated using two primary processes, sedimentation and aeration; and is combined with non contact cooling and sealing water before entering the Sacramento River via an open pipe.

The tentative Order would renew the Discharger's NPDES permit. The proposed NPDES Permit contains effluent limitations for BOD, TSS, pH, settleable solids, acute toxicity, diazinon, and chlorpyrifos. Effluent limits for total recoverable copper were removed because the discharge no longer exhibits reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable water quality objectives for copper. The Discharger is expected to be able to immediately comply with the renewed NPDES permit.

This Order includes a provision that requires submittal of the Discharger's Temperature Study for federal and state resource agency review. The Temperature Study was completed in 2020 and the purpose of the study was to (1) collect information for quantifying thermal discharge impacts, (2) determine the level of improvement necessary to meet basin plan objectives and comply with receiving water limits, and (3) recommend site-specific implementation criteria for receiving water temperature objectives, including, in part, period(s) of applicability and appropriate average periods. Based on the results of the review, additional information may be required of the Discharger and/or the permit may be reopened to establish effluent limits for temperature.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 22 February 2023 with comments due by 24 March 2023. Comments were received from the Discharger on 24 March 2023 and from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on 23 March 2023.

A Response to Comments document is included in the agenda package that summarizes the written comments followed by responses by Central Valley Water Board staff. Changes have been made to the proposed Order based on the comments received. In addition, the tentative Order contained Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity requirements as per the State Water Resources Control Board's Statewide Toxicity Provisions. Central Valley Water Board staff was recently informed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency that the Statewide Toxicity Provisions will not be approved (and therefore will not take effect) prior to the Central Valley Water Board's April 2023 Board meeting. Central Valley Water Board staff revised the proposed Order by reverting back to site-specific Whole Effluent Toxicity limitations, a monitoring trigger, and testing requirements similar to the Discharger's current NPDES Permit, Order R5-2017-0017.

**ISSUES:**

This item is currently contested.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the proposed Order.

**REVIEWS:**

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

**BOARD MEETING LOCATION:**

Kern County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

***Hybrid Internet Zoom Meeting***