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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region Staff Summary Report April 4-5, 2024

**ITEM: 2**

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing on Rescission Order No. R1-2024-0014 (Rescission Order) to consider Rescission of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Order No. R1-2012-0101 and Cease and Desist (CDO) No. Order R1-2012-0102, as modified by Order No. R1-2018-0007 for the Occidental County Sanitation District (OCSD) and Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), Occidental Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), WDID NO. 1B830010SON, NPDES NO. CA0023051 (Matthew Herman)

**BOARD ACTION:** The Board will consider adoption of the Rescission Order that rescinds the NPDES Order No. R1-2012-0101 and CDO Order No. R1-2012-0102.

**BACKGROUND:** The Facility was designed to provide secondary wastewater treatment for a population of 650 and has an average dry weather flow of 0.05 million gallons per day (mgd). The Facility consisted of a collection system, grit chamber, lift station with overflow storage, aeration treatment pond, settling pond, chlorine disinfection, dechlorination, and pH adjustment.

Secondary treated, disinfected, dechlorinated effluent was historically discharged to Graham's Pond, a 10-million-gallon storage reservoir, which overflows to Dutch Bill Creek, a tributary of the Russian River and a water of the United States. Effluent mixed with stormwater was discharged from Graham's Pond to Dutch Bill Creek during the winter months. During the dry season, effluent from Graham's Pond was utilized for pasture irrigation.

The NPDES Permit and CDO were adopted on December 6, 2012. The CDO established interim effluent limitations for BOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, copper, lead, silver, cyanide, dichlorobromomethane (DCBM), chlorodibromomethane (CDBM), bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, total coliform, and ammonia. Additionally, the CDO provides a compliance schedule for the Permittee to achieve compliance with final effluent limitations by January 31, 2018, by completing a capital improvement project (CIP).

The CDO was later revised through Modification Order No. R1-2018-0007 on February 8, 2018. This revision extended the compliance schedule for meeting final effluent

limitations from January 31, 2018, to July 31, 2018. Additionally, the revised CDO included a requirement for the Permittee to submit a revised Pollution Prevention Plan and schedule of implementation for operational improvements that would remove pollutants that have accumulated in the Dutch Bill Creek Watershed. The Permittee's revised Pollution Prevention Plan proposed the Alder Creek Ranch Erosion Control Project as an environmental project to remove pollutants that have accumulated in the Dutch Bill Creek Watershed.

The Permittee submitted a copy of the CIP's Certificate of Substantial Completion to Regional Water Board Staff on March 4, 2019. On February 1, 2024, the Permittee forwarded the Alder Creek Erosion Control Project Final Report, dated June 5, 2023, to the Regional Water Board to summarize all work completed on the Pollution Prevention Plan Project.

**DISCUSSION:** The NPDES Permit and CDO are proposed to be rescinded because the Permittee no longer discharges from the Facility to Graham's Pond and the tasks required by the CDO have been completed. Specifically, the completed CIP has allowed the Permittee to discontinue their discharge of treated wastewater by instead transporting the OCSD's untreated wastewater to the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone (ALWSZ) Wastewater Treatment Facility for treatment, storage, and disposal. Furthermore, the Alder Creek Ranch Erosion Control Project, approved as the environmental project required by the revised CDO, has also been completed.

A copy of the Draft Rescission Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from February 22, 2024, through March 25, 2024, for a 30-day comment period. No comments were received during the public comment period on the Rescission Order.

The Rescission Order is not anticipated to be contested during the public hearing.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommend adoption of the Rescission Order as proposed.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0014
2. Notice of Public Hearing