STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (John H. Madigan)
MEETING DATE: March 12, 2008

ITEM: 15 a and b

SUBJECT: City of Benicia, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Benicia, Solano County - Reissuance of NPDES Permit (15 a), Adoption of Cease and Desist Order (CDO) for Discharge in Violation of NPDES permit (15b)

CHRONOLOGY: August 2001 - Permit Reissued

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would reissue the NPDES permit for the City of Benicia's Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves a population of approximately 28,000 people within the City. During dry weather, the plant discharges up to 4.5 million gallons a day of secondary-treated wastewater to Carquinez Strait through a deep-water outfall approximately 500 feet offshore.

The Revised Tentative CDO (Appendix B) would require the City to take specific actions to comply with cyanide limits.

The City and Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) submitted comments (Appendix C) on a draft permit and CDO. Appendix D contains our responses to the comments received. We resolved as many comments as possible, revising the draft permit and CDO as appropriate.

The most significant remaining concerns relate to the final limits for dioxins, the action plans for cyanide and copper, and the CDO time schedule for cyanide. The dioxins comments and responses are similar to those the Board has considered at previous permit hearings. Likewise, the CDO comments are similar to those considered at recent hearings. Both the City and BACWA request revisions to the cyanide action plan and CDO for clarity and consistency. We made revisions where appropriate. These commenters may reiterate their concerns at the Board Meeting.

RECOMMEND-ATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order and Revised CDO.

File Number: 2129.2001 (JHM)

Appendices:
A. Revised Tentative Order
B. Revised Tentative CDO
C. Comments
D. Response to Comments

APPENDIX A

Revised Tentative Order

APPENDIX B

Revised Tentative Cease and Desist Order

APPENDIX C

Comments

APPENDIX D

Response to Comments