

Proposed Central Valley Water Board General NPDES Permit for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharges to Surface Waters that Meet Applicable Water Quality Objectives at the Point of Discharge (“General Order”)

Notes for General Order Workshop on 2/1/2015

What is the General Order?

- NPDES permit for wastewater facilities in the Central Valley Region with discharges to surface water
- To quality, must either meet all water quality criteria/objectives at point of discharge or be under a Time Schedule Order (TSO) to meet them.
- Cannot need dilution credits to meet requirements at discharge point
- One General Order for entire region

What would the General Order do?

- Provide consistent permit (effluent limits and monitoring) requirements throughout the region.

How would the General Order work?

- 1) Discharger submits Notice of Intent (NOI) – currently a 3 page form
- 2) Discharger submits fee and supplemental information
- 3) Notice of Applicability (NOA) issued by Executive Officer
- 4) Upon issuance of the NOA, individual NPDES permit will be rescinded

General Order Timeline:

Preliminary Draft = mid-March 2016

Tentative Draft Review = mid April

Tentative Adoption = June 2016 Board meeting

(Can apply after June 2016 Board meeting)

Details being worked out:

Performance-based effluent limits

Ammonia limits

Hardness-based metals limits

TMDLs

Site-specific limits

Land discharge req's

Reclamation req's

Who is eligible? Possible Candidates

- Dischargers who are in compliance or under a TSO to be in compliance (including the City of Auburn)
- Longer list in slides which will be posted online

Benefits of coverage under the General Order

- One permit for up to 26 dischargers = saving money in the renewal process
- Renewal process won't be as stringent
- Will likely have reduced monitoring requirements
- Simpler amendments
- Will take less time to get an NOA than applying individually
- Executive Officer can issue NOA; do not have to go through Board approval

Answers to Questions:

- General Order will have 5-year permit cycle
- Coverage under General Order is not mandatory
- Recycled water permits, unless simple, will still be separate from the General Order

- Are putting together FAQs
- Slides from meeting will be posted online
- Sign up for e-mail updates