

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

**ORDER WQO 2003-0013**

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In the Matter of the Review on Own Motion of  
Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R4-2002-0142 [NPDES No. CA0053716]

**WHITTIER NARROWS WATER RECLAMATION PLANT**

Issued by the  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
Los Angeles Region

*SWRCB/OCC FILES A-1509 AND A-1509(a)*

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BY THE BOARD:

On July 16, 2003, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board or Board) adopted WQO (Water Quality Order) 2003-0009 on petitions filed by County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County (District) and Bill Robinson. The petitions sought State Board review of waste discharge requirements and a time schedule order issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to the District for its Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant. In the order the Board stated its intent to review on its own motion at a later date one issue raised by the District. The issue concerns the propriety of numeric effluent limitations for chronic toxicity.

In WQO 2003-0012 adopted on September 16, 2003, the Board concluded that this issue is best addressed through a rulemaking in order to allow full public participation and deliberation. The Board intends to modify the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (2000) to specifically address the issue. In the meantime, in WQO 2003-0012, the Board modified the District's permits for its Long Beach and Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plants to replace the numeric chronic toxicity limits with narrative limits. The Board also added reopener provisions stating that the Regional Board may reopen the permits to include limits for specific pollutants causing toxicity or numeric chronic toxicity limits under certain circumstances. The Whittier Narrows

permit contains similar chronic toxicity provisions; therefore, the Board will make the same changes to the Whittier Narrows permit.

## ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Whittier Narrows permit in Order R4-2002-0142 is revised as follows:

1. Effluent Limitation A.12.b is deleted and replaced with: “There shall be no chronic toxicity in the effluent discharge.”
2. The following provision is added as Effluent Limitation A.12.e:  
“This permit may be reopened to include effluent limitations for pollutants found to be causing chronic toxicity and to include numeric chronic toxicity effluent limitations based on direction from the State Board or failure of the District to comply fully with the TIE/TRE requirements.”
3. Provision VI. D.2.e of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. C1-2848 is revised to substitute “the trigger in Effluent Limitation A.12.c” for “the limitation.”

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Order No. R4-2002-143 is revised by replacing the table on the bottom of page 5 with the following:

<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Daily Maximum<sup>[1]</sup></b>	<b>Monthly Average</b>
Total ammonia	mg/L	16 <sup>[2]</sup>	
Total Inorganic Nitrogen (Nitrate-N + Nitrite-N)	mg/L	--	10 <sup>[3]</sup>
Nitrite nitrogen	mg/L	--	6
MBAS	mg/L	--	0.6

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the references to the final numeric chronic toxicity effluent limitations and the interim numeric chronic toxicity effluent limitations are deleted from findings 3 (including table) and 12 through 14; and requirements 2, 4, and 5 in Order No. R4-2002-143.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that finding 17, footnote 3 attached to the table in finding 3, footnote 4 attached to the table in requirement 1, and requirement 6(c) are deleted in their entirety in Order No. R4-2002-143.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Order No. R4-2002-143 is revised by inserting the identifier “trigger” after the phrase “An exceedance of the 1 TUc effluent monthly median” in requirement 6(b).

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held September 16, 2003.

AYE: Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.  
Peter S. Silva  
Richard Katz  
Gary M. Carlton  
Nancy H. Sutley

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

  
Debbie Irvin  
Clerk to the Board