

SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY ORDER

ORDER NO.	WQ 2006-0012
DATE ADOPTED	December 13, 2006
PETITION TITLE	PETITIONS OF BOEING COMPANY (WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENT ORDERS R4-2004-0111, R4-2006-0008, AND R4-2006-0036 FOR THE SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY)
POPULAR NAME	Boeing
REGIONAL BOARD	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
FILE NO[S]	SWRCB/OCC File A-1653 and A-1737

PRECEDENTIAL DECISION

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit to Boeing Company for its Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in 2004, and amended the permit in 2006. Boeing challenged monitoring requirements and numeric effluent limitations that are more stringent, or include different analytic methods, than in Boeing's 1998 permit. Boeing contended that its permit, which regulates discharges of commingled process wastewater and storm water, should not include numeric effluent limitations. Boeing also contended that the Los Angeles Water Board erred in not issuing a compliance schedule.

In this precedential order, the State Water Resources Control Board concludes that the SSFL warrants numeric effluent limitations and extensive monitoring requirements. The order points out that the site currently contains commingled discharges of process wastewater and storm water runoff. Although Boeing claims that it is no longer discharging process wastewater, the permit must be based on Boeing's report of waste discharge, which does include process wastewater. Moreover, in light of the specific site condition, numeric effluent limitations are appropriate in any event. The order concludes that two compliance points are redundant with two other points, and should not have identical numeric effluent limitations for purposes of enforcement. Finally, the draft order concludes that the catastrophic fire that occurred in the fall of 2005 justified an enforcement order with a time schedule.