

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

ORDER NO. R7-2002-0009

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR  
IRRIGATION OF PASTURELANDS AND FIELDS  
Indio - Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region finds that:

1. On July 27, 2000, Valley Sanitary District (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 45-500 Van Buren, Indio, CA 92201, submitted an application to update its Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for irrigation of pasturelands and fields located adjacent to its wastewater treatment facility (WWTF).
2. The discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system, and provides a sewerage service to the City of Indio. The wastewater treatment consists of preliminary, primary, and secondary treatment processes. The present design capacity is 7.5 million gallons-per-day (MGD). Upon completion of the wetlands treatment system the total facility design capacity will be 8.5 MGD. This facility is regulated under WDRs Order No. 00-010, NPDES No. CA0104477, for discharge into the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel.
3. Secondary treated effluent from the oxidation pond (2.5-MGD capacity) and/or the wetlands system (1-MGD capacity) is designed to be used for irrigation. This undisinfected secondary treated effluent is used for irrigation of pasturelands and fields grazed by non-milking animals and alfalfa fields in non-grazing areas. The locations of the pasture sites and fields are as follows:

<u>Parcel No.</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Location</u>
a. 603-090-012	39.7 ac. ±	S ½ Sec. 30, T5S, R8E
b. 603-030-006	40.6 ac. ±	N ½ Sec. 30, T5S, R8E
c. 603-020-007	67.3 ac. ±	N ½ Sec. 30, T5S, R8E
d. 601-380-014	1.7 ac. ±	S ½ Sec. 19, T5S, R8E
e. 603-090-013	13.6 ac. ±	S ½ Sec. 30, T5S, R8E
TOTAL	162.9 ac. ±	of Irrigated Pastures and Fields

All pasturelands and fields are within the boundaries of the Cabazon and Twentynine Palms Indian Reservation and the discharger is in control of wastewater irrigation.

4. A domestic water well is located on County of Riverside Assessors Parcel number 603-030-006, at located approximately 270 feet from the edge of the irrigated lands and 170 feet from the wetlands treatment process.

5. The California Department of Health Services has established statewide reclamation criteria in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 60301, et seq. (hereinafter Title 22) for the use of recycled water and has developed guidelines for specific uses.
6. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on November 17, 1993, and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
7. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit are:
  - a. Municipal and domestic supply (MUN)
  - b. Agricultural supply (AGR)
  - c. Industrial service supply (IND)
8. This discharge has been subject to WDRs adopted in Board Order No. 01-004.
9. This Board Order modifies previous Board Order No. 01-004 waste discharge limitation for total dissolved solids (TDS) to allow a TDS limitation of 750 mg/L. This modification is consistent with the Basin Plan and section 13523.5 of the California Water Code to permit water reclamation and provide reasonable protection of the waters of the State.
10. Valley Sanitary District has filed a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. (CEQA) Class 8 Section 15308, to use secondary treated wastewater for irrigation on Indian lands adjacent to its facility.
11. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these WDRs, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.)
12. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update WDRs for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
13. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 01-004 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Effluent Limitations

1. Treated wastewater discharged for irrigation from treatment systems shall not contain constituents in excess of the limits indicated below. Effluent discharged to the irrigation system shall be monitored at locations acceptable to the Regional Board's Executive Officer or his designee.

a. Oxidation Pond System

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>30-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate Shall not exceed</u>	<u>7-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate Shall not exceed</u>
20°C CBOD <sub>5</sub>	mg/L <sup>1</sup>	40	60
Suspended Solids	mg/L	95	---

The pH of the effluent shall be maintained within the limits of 6.0 to 9.0.

The discharge flow rate for this system to irrigation shall not exceed a monthly average of 2.5 MGD.

b. Wetlands Treatment System

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>30-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate Shall not exceed</u>	<u>7-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate Shall not exceed</u>
20°C CBOD <sub>5</sub>	mg/L	40	60
Suspended Solids	mg/L	95	---

The pH of the effluent shall be maintained within the limits of 6.0 to 9.0.

The discharge flow rate for this system to irrigation shall not exceed a monthly average of 1.0 MGD.

2. The annual average total dissolved solids (TDS) of the secondary treated wastewater used for irrigation shall not exceed 750 mg/L.

B. Prohibitions

1. The direct discharge of any wastewater from the facility to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.
3. No irrigation with, or impoundment of, undisinfected secondary recycled water shall take place within 150 feet of any domestic water supply well.
4. Discharge of treated wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in Findings No. 2 and 3, above, is prohibited.
5. The discharger shall not accept waste in excess of the design treatment capacity of the disposal system.

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<sup>1</sup>mg/L - Milligram-per-liter

### C. Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050 (l) and (m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Both treated and untreated wastewater shall be prevented from entering surface water bodies.
3. Public contact with undisinfected wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives. Conspicuous signs shall be posted in a prominent location in each area where non-disinfected wastewater is stored on-site. Each sign shall be displayed with the wording "Non-disinfected wastewater - No body contact or drinking" as well as the international warning symbol.
4. The discharger shall abide by the guidelines and criteria for the use of recycled water as developed by the Department of Health Services and established in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 60301.
5. Undisinfected secondary recycled water, wastewater in which the organic matter has been stabilized, is nonputrescible, and contains dissolved oxygen, is limited only for irrigation in the following applications:
  - a. Orchards where the recycled water does not come into contact with the edible portion of the crop,
  - b. Vineyards where the recycled water does not come into contact with the edible portion of the crop,
  - c. Non food-bearing trees (Christmas tree farms are included in this category provided no irrigation with recycled water occurs for a period of 14 days prior to harvesting or allowing access by the general public),
  - d. Fodder and fiber crops and pastures for animals not producing milk for human consumption,
  - e. Seed crops not eaten by humans,
  - f. Food crops that must undergo commercial pathogen-destroying processing before being consumed by humans, and
  - g. Ornamental nursery stock and sod farms provided no irrigation with recycled water occurs for a period of 14 days prior to harvesting, retail sale, or allowing access by the general public.
6. Wastewater used for irrigation shall be confined to land owned or controlled by the discharger.
7. No irrigation with, or impoundment of, undisinfected secondary recycled water shall take place within 150 feet of any domestic water supply well.
8. No spray irrigation of any recycled water shall take place within 100 feet of a residence or a place where public exposure could be similar to that of a park, playground or schoolyard.
9. Except as allowed under Section 7604 of Title 17, California Code of Regulations, no physical connection shall be made or allowed to exist between any recycled water system and any separate system conveying potable water.

10. No recycled water used for irrigation, or soil that has been irrigated with recycled water, shall come into contact with edible portion of food crops eaten raw by humans.
11. The storage, delivery, or use of recycled water shall not individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, result in pollution, or adversely affect water quality, as defined in the California Water Code.
12. The delivery or use of recycled water shall be in conformance with the reclamation criteria contained Title 22, or amendments thereto, for the irrigation of food crops, irrigation of fodder, fiber, and seed crops, landscape irrigation, supply of recreational impoundments and ground water recharge.
13. Prior to delivering recycled water to any new user, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board a report discussing any new distribution system being constructed by the discharger to provide service to the new user.
14. Recycled water shall not be delivered to any new user who has not first received a discharge permit from the Regional Board and approval from the State Department of Health Services.
15. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface water drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
16. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any beneficial use of surface or ground water.
17. The discharge of wastewater into any drainage channel is prohibited, and any tailwaters resulting from application to land as described in Finding Nos. 3 and 6, shall not enter Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel or any other drainage channel.
18. Treated or untreated sludge or similar solid waste materials shall be disposed only at locations approved by the Regional Board.

#### D. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0009, and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any modifications in this facility, which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
3. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
4. The discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
5. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

6. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order; and
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
  - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
7. The discharger shall comply with all of the conditions of this Board Order. Any noncompliance with this Board Order constitutes a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and is grounds for enforcement action.
8. The discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all systems and components of treatment and control, including, but not limited to, sludge use and disposal facilities which are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to, effective performance, adequate process controls, adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. All systems both in service and reserved, shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records shall be kept of the inspection results and maintenance performed and made available to the Regional Board upon demand.
9. The discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. Information shall be provided orally within 24 hours of when the discharger becomes aware of the incident to the Regional Board office and the Office of Emergency Services. The discharger shall also leave a message on the Regional Board office voice recorder during non-business hours. A written report shall also be provided within five (5) business days of the time the discharger becomes aware of the incident. The written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance, the anticipated time to achieve full compliance, and the steps taken or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The discharger shall report all intentional or unintentional sewage spills in excess of 1,000 gallons occurring within the facility or collection system to the Regional Board office in accordance with the above time limits.
10. The discharger shall comply with the following:
  - a. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
  - b. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order, for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application.

- c. Records of monitoring information shall include:
1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
  2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
  3. The date(s) analyses were performed;
  4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  5. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
  6. The results of such analyses.
11. Unless otherwise approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
  12. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
  13. The discharger's wastewater treatment plant shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing certification of appropriate grade pursuant to Section 3680, Chapter 26, Division 3, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. The discharger shall ensure that all operating personnel are familiar with the contents of this Board Order.
  14. The discharger is the responsible party for the WDRs and the monitoring and reporting program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these WDRs. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability or in modification or revocation of these WDRs by the Regional Board.
  15. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
  16. This Board Order may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the discharger for a Board Order modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Board Order condition. Causes for modification include the promulgation of new regulations, modification of land application plans, or modification in sludge use or disposal practices, or adoption of new regulations by the State Water Resources Control Board or the Regional Board, including revisions to the Basin Plan.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on January 16, 2002.

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Executive Officer