

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

ORDER NO. R7-2008-0035

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
HARD AND PAMELA CHOW, OWNER/OPERATOR  
YUCCA VALLEY LAUNDROMAT  
LAUNDROMAT WASTEWATER DISPOSAL FACILITY**

Yucca Valley – San Bernardino County

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

**A. Findings of Fact**

1. On February 7, 2008, Hard Chow owner of Yucca Valley Laundromat (hereinafter referred to as the Discharger) submitted an application and Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to update Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Yucca Valley Laundromat located at 56151 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, California, 92286.
2. The Yucca Valley Laundromat discharges a maximum of 6,000 gallons per day (gpd) of Laundromat wastewater generated by 24 washing machines. Daily discharges average around 3,500 gallons. Wastewater flows through a lint trap into three (3) septic tanks that discharge into six (6) seepage pits. Domestic sewage from two (2) restrooms is discharged into a separate septic tank/seepage pit disposal system that receives only restroom waste. The discharge facility is located in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2, T1S, R5E, SBB&M; Assessor's Parcel Number 0587-291-03-P008. The discharge location is reported as 34.12178° N Longitude, 116.43937° W Latitude.
3. The Discharger is reserving an area sufficient to replace all seepage pits, if necessary in the future.
4. Discharges from this Laundromat were subject to WDRs adopted under Board Order No. 93-044.
5. There are no domestic wells within 500 feet of this facility. The nearest well is about 0.25 miles to the northeast. Groundwater in this well occurs 320 feet below ground surface, and has a Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentration of 225 mg/L. The facility is located on a sandy alluvial floodplain with highly permeable soil.
6. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan), adopted November 17, 1993, designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.

7. The Discharger's self monitoring reports indicate the following for wastewater:

<b>Flow</b>	3516 gpd
<b>Total Dissolved Solids</b>	686 mg/L
<b>Methylene Blue Active Substances (MBAS)</b>	71 mg/L

## B. Legal Requirements

1. The WDRs in this Board Order are completed pursuant to Division 7, Chapter 4, Article 4, of the California Water Code (CWC) for discharges not subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402 (33 U.S.C. Section 1342).
2. The Regional Water Board developed requirements in this Order from information submitted with the application, self monitoring reports, and special studies.
3. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Water Code of Regulations (CCR), the issuance of WDRs that 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 (CEQA) (Section 21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code) and implementing Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations).
4. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses and establishes water quality objectives for ground and surface waters in the Region, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve objectives. In addition, State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution No. 88-63 requires that, with certain exceptions, the Regional Water Board assign the municipal and domestic supply use to water bodies that do not have beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plan.
5. The Yucca Valley Laundromat is located within the West Joshua Tree Hydrologic Unit, which has the following beneficial uses for groundwater:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
6. State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution No. 68-16 ("Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters of the State") (hereinafter Resolution No. 68-16) requires a Regional Water Board in regulating the discharge of waste to maintain high quality waters of the State (i.e., background water quality) until it is demonstrated that any change in quality will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, and will not result in water quality less than as described in plans and policies (e.g. violation of any water quality objective). Moreover, the discharge is required to meet WDRs that result in the best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) of the discharge necessary to assure pollution or nuisance will not occur, and highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people will be maintained.
7. Some degradation of groundwater from the discharge to the seepage pits is consistent with Resolution No. 68-16, provided that this degradation:
  - a. Is confined to a reasonable area;
  - b. Is minimized by means of full implementation, regular maintenance, and optimal operation of (BPTC) measures;

- c. Is limited to waste constituents typically encountered in Laundromat wastewater; and does not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the applicable basin plan, including violation of any water quality objective.
8. The discharge of wastewater from this facility, as permitted herein, reflects best practicable treatment and control. The controls assure the discharge does not create a condition of pollution or nuisance, and that the highest water quality defined by the physical and chemical nature of the local groundwater will be maintained, which is consistent with the anti-degradation provisions of Resolution No. 68-16. To comply with Resolution No. 68-16, the Discharger shall:
  - a. Construct seepage pits at appropriate locations and depths to ensure wastewater does not adversely impact underlying ground water;
  - b. Locate subsurface disposal systems, including wastewater discharged, a minimum of 150 feet from water wells;
  - c. Reserve sufficient land for future replacement of all seepage pits;
  - d. Ensure site operating personnel are familiar with the contents of this Board Order, and proper operation and maintenance of the disposal facility.
9. Constituents in Laundromat effluent that present the greatest risk to groundwater quality are Methylene Blue Active Substances (MBAS), and dissolved salts (TDS). No regulation currently exists to limit the discharge of MBAS to groundwater. However, the facility, seepage pits, and soils beneath the disposal area are not likely to prevent groundwater degradation by TDS. Therefore, degradation to groundwater, if any, should be limited to the area underlying the disposal areas and to salinity constituents.
10. The average incremental addition of dissolved salts in Laundromat wastewater from this facility is about 443 mg/L above the municipal water supply. Currently, the TDS increase allowed for this facility is 400 mg/L. An average limitation of 625 mg/L for TDS in effluent, which is more stringent than the TDS recommended upper level prescribed by Title 22, CCR, limits salt degradation to a reasonable amount, and reasonably protects present and anticipated future uses for groundwater beneath seepage pits.
11. Effluent Limits for TDS that are more restrictive than the recommended upper limit in groundwater prescribed by Title 22, CCR are appropriate. The existing Laundromat provides a valuable service to the community and contributes to the economy in the area. This factor and the associated increase in TDS are consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State. Accordingly, the discharge as authorized is consistent with the anti-degradation provisions of Resolution 68-16.
12. Section 13267 of the CWC authorizes Regional Water Boards to require technical and monitoring reports. The Monitoring and Reporting Program required pursuant to these WDRs implements Federal and State monitoring and reporting requirements.
13. The Regional Water Board 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.
14. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 93-044 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. Prohibitions**

1. The discharge of waste classified as “hazardous” (Section 2521, Chapter 15 of Title 23 CCR), or “designated” (Section 13173 CWC) is prohibited.
2. The direct discharge of wastewater to surface water or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
3. Surface flow of wastewater from this facility is prohibited.
4. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially treated wastewater is prohibited.
5. Discharge of treated wastewater at a location, or in a manner different from that described in this Board Order, or as otherwise authorized by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer, is prohibited.
6. Discharge of wastewater in excess of the design capacity of the disposal system is prohibited.
7. The discharge of waste to land not owned by the Discharger, or authorized for such use, is prohibited.
8. The discharge of waste containing carcinogenic or reproductive toxins listed by the Governor pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65), where such chemicals may pass into a source of drinking water, is prohibited.

#### **B. Discharge Specifications**

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes from this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in CWC Section 13050(l) – (m).
2. Wastewater discharged from this Laundromat shall not exceed 6,000 gpd.
3. The TDS concentration in discharged wastewater shall not exceed 625 mg/L. Wastewater with greater concentrations of TDS shall be discharged to a waste management facility approved by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer to receive such waste.
4. No wastewater other than Laundromat wastewater shall be discharged into the disposal system.
5. Wastewater discharged to the subsurface shall not pond or surface.
6. Adequate measures shall be taken to ensure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facility inoperable.
7. Septic tank cleanings shall be conducted only by a duly authorized service. Laundromat wastewater shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.
8. The discharge shall not impair the beneficial use of any ground or surface water.
9. Regulated disposal systems shall be readily accessible for sampling and inspection.
10. Objectionable odors from the discharge shall not be perceived beyond the limit of the facility, and wastewater treatment and disposal area.
11. The lateral and vertical extent of the subsurface disposal system (including wastewater discharge)

shall not be less than 150 feet from any water well, or less than 100 feet from any stream, channel, or watercourse.

12. Seepage pits shall be constructed at appropriate locations and depths to ensure wastewater does not adversely impact aquifers designated for domestic, agricultural or industrial beneficial use.
13. Seepage pits shall be constructed to ensure wastes are a minimum of 10 (ten) feet above the highest anticipated groundwater elevation, unless otherwise approved by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.
14. Seepage pit or disposal field shall not be immediately above fractured or impermeable bedrock.

### **C. Provisions**

1. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of this Board Order. Noncompliance is a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and grounds for enforcement action, termination or modification of WDRs, revocation and reissuance of WDRs, or denial of Board Order renewal.
2. The Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2008-0035", and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.
3. The discharge shall not degrade any water supply, and shall comply with State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16, California's Antidegradation Policy.
4. Prior to implementing modifications to this facility that result in a material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or a material change in the location of discharge, the Discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Water Board, and obtain revised requirements.
5. Sufficient land shall be reserved for future replacement of all seepage pits, until such time the facility is connected to a municipal sewerage system.
6. The Discharger shall provide an inventory of all hazardous materials handled at this facility.
7. Prior to a change in ownership or management of this facility, 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 Water Board.
8. The Discharger shall ensure 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.
9. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local law or regulation.
10. This Board Order does not convey property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege, nor does it authorize injury to private property, or invasion of personal rights, nor infringement of federal, state, or local law or regulation.
11. The Discharger shall allow the Regional Water Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials or other documents required by law, to:
  - a. Enter the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records are kept under the conditions of this Board Order; and
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, records required under the conditions of this

Board Order; and

- c. Inspect at reasonable times: facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, and 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 substance or parameter at this location.
12. The Discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all systems and components of treatment and control, including, but not limited to, solids handling and disposal facilities installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with 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 use of backup or auxiliary facilities, or similar systems, when necessary to achieve compliance with this Board Order. Systems in service and reserved shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records of inspection results, and maintenance performed shall be made available to the Regional Water Board upon demand.
  13. The Discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. Information shall be provided the Regional Water Board office and the Office of Emergency Services orally, within 24 hours of when the Discharger is aware of the incident. During non-business hours, the Discharger shall leave a message on the Regional Water Board voice recorder. A written report is due within five (5) business days of the time the Discharger is aware of the incident. At a minimum, the report shall describe: the noncompliance and its cause; period of noncompliance; anticipated time to achieve full compliance; and steps taken or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent, recurrence of the noncompliance. The Discharger shall report all intentional or unintentional wastewater spills in excess of 1,000 gallons to the Regional Water Board office in accordance with the above time limits.
  14. The discharger shall provide a report to the Regional Water Board when it determines that the facility is operating at 80 percent of the design capacity. The report should indicate what steps, if any, the discharger intends to take to provide for the expected wastewater treatment capacity necessary when the facility reaches design capacity.
  15. The Discharger is the responsible party for complying with this facility's WDRs, and monitoring and reporting program. Violations may result in enforcement action including: Regional Water Board orders or court orders that require corrective action, impose civil monetary liability, or modify or revoke WDRs.

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 disposal practices, or adoption of new regulations by the State Board or the Regional Water Board, including revisions to the Basin Plan.

I, Robert E. Perdue, 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 May 21, 2008.

*Original signed by* \_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT PERDUE  
Executive Officer