

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R4-2022-0156
REQUIRING P & T METALS, INC.**

**TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN GENERAL PERMIT FOR
STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES
AMENDED NOVEMBER 6, 2018 AND EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020
(NPDES PERMIT No. CAS000001)
WDID NO. 4 19I023593**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board) finds:

1. P & T Metals, Inc. (PTMI) owns and operates a facility located at 2213 N. Tyler Avenue in South El Monte, California (Facility). This Facility encompasses a total area of 2.48 acres, and an industrial area of 1.26 acres.
2. The Facility is an industrial operation that is required to have coverage under the State's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, amended on November 6, 2018 and effective on July 1, 2020 (Amended General Permit). The Amended General Permit also serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program, NPDES Permit No. CAS000001. The Facility is a certified full-service scrap metal processing and recycling center. The Facility has a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of 5093-Scrap and Waste Materials. This SIC code is listed as requiring permit coverage in Attachment A to the Amended General Permit.
3. The Amended General Permit establishes numeric effluent limitations (NELs) for facilities that discharge stormwater associated with industrial activities into water bodies that have certain approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and that have waste load allocations for industrial stormwater discharges as set forth in Attachment E to the Amended General Permit. The NELs are numerical limits, an exceedance of which is a violation of the Amended General Permit and require dischargers to limit the concentration of pollutants in their stormwater discharges to protect water quality.
4. Stormwater runoff from the Facility discharges to Rio Hondo Reach 2, which flows into Reach 2 of the Los Angeles River.
5. The NELs that apply to industrial discharges from the Facility include total cadmium, total copper, total lead, total zinc, nitrate-nitrogen, nitrite-nitrogen, nitrate plus nitrite-nitrogen and ammonia. These NELs are new and more stringent than

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the prior regulatory requirements in the previous General Permit. These NELs became effective on July 1, 2020 and exceedances of the NELs may result in mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i).

6. PTMI has completed a pollutant source assessment that addresses each of these pollutants and identified total copper and total zinc as associated with industrial activities at the Facility.
7. PTMI is expected to exceed the NELs for total zinc and total copper based on historical monitoring data reported to the State's online Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) database. The NELs and the corresponding concentrations of these pollutants in the discharge from the Facility have been reported to be:

Pollutant	Reported Concentration Range in mg/L	Numeric Effluent Limit in mg/L
Total copper	0.009 - 0.290	0.06749
Total zinc	0.047 - 0.560	0.159

8. PTMI will require additional pollutant control measures to comply with the applicable NELs listed in the Amended General Permit.
9. PTMI shut down the California Redemption Value (CRV) receiving area of the Facility as of March 2020. Members of the public previously used this area to drop off recyclable materials on the south side of Warehouse 1. The closure of this area may prove effective in reducing copper concentrations, as vehicle traffic will be significantly reduced and metal handling at this area has been halted indefinitely. The Facility also maintains a two-part stormwater treatment system designed and installed by StormwaterRx. The system includes a Clara™ stormwater clarifier and an Aquip™ advanced media filtration system. The multi chambered and baffled clarifier separates heavy sediment and oil from stormwater. Stormwater treated in the clarifier discharges by a pump to the advanced media filtration system located in a secure enclosure at the southeast corner of Warehouse 2. Since May 2018, stainless steel pans with zeolite filter media have been added to the pre-filter chamber. The west portion of the roof of Warehouse 1, the south portion of the Back Yard behind Warehouse 1 and all of the South Yard except the most easterly 75 feet drain to the stormwater collection sump located in the southwest corner of the property. A pump discharges stormwater northerly through a pipe on the back wall to a point along the centerline between Warehouses 1 and 2. From there, runoff drains on the surface to a catch-basin near the east property line which discharges to the clarifier and filtration treatment system. The western portion of the Warehouse 2 roof, the area behind Warehouse

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2 and the Central Yard discharge to the aforementioned catch-basin near the east property line. The catch-basin discharges to a baffled stormwater clarifier which separates floating oil and heavy sediment from the stormwater. A sump pump located at the end of the clarifier discharges stormwater runoff to an advanced media filtration treatment system located on the other side of the Central Yard within an enclosure in front of Warehouse 2. As of January 15, 2022, filter media has been replaced for the advanced treatment system. A second catch-basin collects stormwater from the small strip of property between the public right-of-way and the entrance to the Facility and also discharges through the clarifier and treatment system. The treatment system discharges through a small diameter pipe in a curb-face opening located north of the driveway entrance to the Central Yard. This is designated as DP-6.

10. After canopy construction and sampling analysis in Fall of 2021, stormwater discharge did not meet the NELs for total copper and total zinc. PTMI will devise and implement additional BMPs, as well as investigate background sources of pollution from air dispersion. These will include increasing the capacity of the stormwater treatment system and modifying the stormwater conveyance system to include additional industrial areas of the site. The Facility has also been undergoing the process of replacing all asphalt on-site with concrete. From January 2019 to date, PTMI has poured over 10,000 square feet of new concrete to replace existing asphalt and/or existing cracked concrete at the Facility. An additional 2,000 square feet of concrete was poured during the month of August 2020. This action will reduce pollutants and metal particulates that become caught in the cracks of older, paved asphalt. The metal particulate in the cracks are highly resistant to sweeping and vacuuming but become heavily mobilized to water during storm events. Concrete also has a demonstrated longer term performance and durability than that of asphalt. PTMI will also install canopy coverage for over 10,000 square feet outdoors on-site, amounting to approximately \$140,000. These modifications could not be designed, installed, or put into operation prior to July 1, 2020, for the following reasons: due to time required for additional sampling, analysis, concrete installation, overhead coverage installation and additional BMP installation, if necessary.
11. Per Water Code section 13385 subdivision (j)(3)(C)(iii)(I), if a time schedule exceeds one year from the effective date of the TSO, the schedule must include interim requirements, that include effluent limitations for the pollutant of concern. Because this Order ends on January 1, 2023, consistent with Water Code section 13385, interim effluent limits for total copper and total zinc are included.
12. PTMI has developed and updated a facility specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that is currently being implemented and complies with the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Amended General Permit. The facility specific SWPPP dated July 8, 2020 has been submitted electronically to the SMARTS database.

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13. Water Code section 13300 states: “Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, or the state board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements.”
14. Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i), require the Regional Water Board to impose mandatory minimum penalties when dischargers violate effluent limitations in NPDES permits. Water Code section 13385 subdivision (j)(3) allows the Regional Water Board to exempt certain facilities from mandatory minimum penalties “when there are exceedances of NELs if the facility is in compliance with a time schedule order issued pursuant to Section 13300 if all of the [specified] requirements are met.”
15. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(B)(i), allows the Regional Water Board to issue a Time Schedule Order (TSO) if the “regional board finds that... the discharger is not able to consistently comply with one or more of the effluent limitations established in the waste discharge requirements” if the “effluent limitation is a new, more stringent, or modified regulatory requirement that has become applicable to the waste discharge after the effective date of the waste discharge requirements and after July 1, 2000, new or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the effluent limitation, and the new or modified control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days.”
16. Prerequisites to issuing a TSO include those set forth in Water Code section 13385 subdivisions (j)(3)(C)(i), (j)(3)(C)(iii), and (j)(3)(D):

The TSO must establish “a time schedule for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitation that is as short as possible, taking into account the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect design, development and implementation of the control measures that are necessary to comply with the effluent limitation,” (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(C)(i)) The TSO shall not exceed five years in length unless an extension is granted in accordance with Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(C). If the time schedule exceeds one year from the effective date of the order, the schedule shall include interim requirements and the dates for their achievement. The interim requirements shall include both (I) Effluent limitations for the pollutant or pollutants of concern. (II) Actions and milestones leading to compliance with the effluent limitation. (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(C)(iii).) The discharger must “[have] prepared and [be] implementing in a timely and proper manner, or [be] required by the regional board to prepare and implement, a pollution prevention plan pursuant to section 13263.3.” (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(D).)

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17. The Regional Water Board issues this TSO to PTMI based on all the findings set forth herein.
18. The time schedule set forth herein ends on January 1, 2023. This date does not exceed 5 years.
19. Since the time schedule for completion of the actions necessary to comply with the NELs for total zinc, and total copper in the Amended General Permit exceeds one year from the effective date of this Order, this TSO includes interim requirements and dates for their achievement. The interim requirements include interim effluent limitations for total zinc and total copper and actions leading to complete compliance of the Los Angeles River NELs for these pollutants.
20. Pursuant to Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3), full compliance with the requirements of this TSO exempts PTMI from mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) only for violations of the NELs for total copper and total zinc that occur after the effective date of this TSO and Amended General Permit and until the expiration date of this TSO. If an interim effluent limitation contained in this TSO is exceeded, PTMI may be subject to enforcement action. An exceedance of the interim effluent limitations for the purpose of this TSO is defined as when two (2) or more analytical results from samples taken for any single parameter within a reporting year exceed the interim effluent limitations. In addition, if PTMI does not implement its SWPPP or comply with the time schedule in this Order, PTMI may be subject to enforcement action.
21. The issuance of this TSO is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15301 because the TSO pertains to an existing facility and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. In addition, the issuance of this TSO is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 15307, 15308, and 15321, subdivision (a)(2). The issuance of this TSO is an action to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement and protection of the environment and a natural resource and is also an enforcement order issued by the Regional Water Board.
22. All technical and monitoring reports required under this TSO are required pursuant to Water Code section 13383. The Regional Water Board needs the required information to determine compliance with this TSO and the Amended General Permit. All technical and monitoring reports required under this TSO are required pursuant to Water Code section 13383. The Regional Water Board needs the required information to determine compliance with this TSO and the Amended General Permit.
23. Pursuant to Water Code section 13167.5, subdivision (a)(3), the Regional Water Board has notified PTMI, interested agencies, and interested persons of its intent to issue this TSO concerning compliance with waste discharge requirements and provided a 30-day comment period. The Regional Water Board considered all comments pertinent to this prior to issuing this TSO.

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24. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Regional Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with the Water Code section 13320 and the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the Regional Water Board action, except that if the thirtieth day following the action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found online at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Water Code sections 13300 and 13385, subdivision (j)(3), P & T Metals, Inc. (PTMI), as owner and operator of the Facility, shall comply with the requirements listed below to ensure compliance with the NELs for total copper and total zinc contained in the Amended General Permit by January 1, 2023:

1. Comply immediately with the following interim actions, schedule, and interim effluent limitations at all discharge points:

Interim Action:	Schedule:
Implement facility specific SWPPP	Throughout the span of enrollment in the Amended General Permit
Further sample collection, analysis, and evaluation of treatment system (assuming occurrence of storm events)	December 31, 2022
Anticipated TMDL compliance deadline	January 1, 2023

Pollutant	Interim Effluent Limitation in mg/L
Total copper	0.29
Total zinc	0.56

The foregoing interim effluent limitations and interim actions are in effect from **(Date of Approval)** through January 1, 2023. During this time, PTMI shall comply with the interim actions and associated schedule as described in this TSO.

2. Submit, electronically through the SMARTS database, biannual progress reports of efforts taken to comply with the interim actions per the above schedule and with the interim effluent limitations in addition to other reporting requirements pursuant to the Amended General Permit. The reports shall summarize the progress to date and activities conducted during the reporting period. Progress reports shall be due October 1st each year throughout the duration of this TSO, with the first report due on October 1, 2022.
3. Submit, electronically through the SMARTS database, a final report due on January 1, 2023 that describes a summary of all the interim actions completed and their successful completion.

4. Any person signing a document submitted under this TSO shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

5. If PTMI fails to comply with any provisions of this TSO, the Regional Water Board may take any further action authorized by law. The Executive Officer, or his/her delegee, is authorized to take appropriate administrative enforcement action pursuant, but not limited to, Water Code sections 13350 and 13385. The Regional Water Board may also refer any violations to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, including injunction and civil monetary remedies.
6. All other provisions of the Amended General Permit that are not in conflict with this TSO, including NELs not addressed by this TSO, remain in full force and effect.
7. The Regional Water Board may reopen this TSO at its discretion or at the request of PTMI, if warranted. Lack of progress towards compliance with this TSO may be cause for the Regional Water Board to modify the conditions of this TSO.
8. This TSO is effective on **(Date of Approval)** and expires on January 1, 2023.

SO ORDERED.

Renee Purdy, Executive Officer

Date