

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO R5-2008-0190

SPECIAL ORDER  
FOR  
CHEVRON USA, INC.  
SECTION 29 SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS  
LOST HILLS OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY  
MODIFYING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO R5-2005-0134

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (hereafter Central Valley Water Board) finds that:

1. Chevron USA, Inc. (hereafter Chevron) owns and operates crude oil production wells in the Lost Hills Oil Field and a 26-acre wastewater disposal facility consisting of eight unlined surface impoundments on the Section 29 fee property in Section 29, T26S, R21E, MBD&M (Assessor Parcel Nos. 058-180-18-3 and 058-180-17-5).
2. Non-hazardous production wastewater from Chevron's production wells and water treatment plant filter backwash have been discharged to the surface impoundments since the 1950's for disposal by evaporation and percolation. The wastewater has elevated concentrations of chloride and boron that exceed the numerical salinity limits prescribed in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition-1995*.
3. Provision C.11 of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2005-0134 (WDRs), requires Chevron to cease the discharge of wastewater by 30 June 2008 and close the ponds. Chevron correspondence confirmed the discharge of wastewater to the ponds ceased on 23 February 2008.
4. Chevron submitted a Closure Plan on 29 December 2006 and a Closure Plan Addendum on 23 June 2008. Chevron proposes to excavate any oily wastes and backfill the surface impoundments with two to seven feet of compacted soil. The top 12-inches will consist of soil planted with a mixture of native grasses.
5. Chevron provided notification that backfilling of the surface impoundments was initiated on 2 September 2008. Chevron is in compliance with the WDRs.
6. Provision C.11 of the WDRs requires a Closure Certification Report to be submitted by 31 December 2008. Chevron submitted correspondence dated 25 September 2008 requesting an extension of the submittal date for an additional 90 days, citing as justification among other things, unforeseen site conditions. Chevron has implemented field work to expedite the closure process to attempt completion this year.

**PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

7. The Central Valley Water Board notified Chevron and interested agencies and persons of its intent to modify the WDRs, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

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8. The Central Valley Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the modification of WDRs Order No. R5-2005-0134.
9. The action is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.), in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15301.
10. Any person affected by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with Sections 2050 through 2068, Title 23, California Code of Regulations. The petition must be received by the State Water Board, Office of Chief Counsel, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812, within 30 days of the date of issuance of this Order. Copies of the laws and regulations applicable to the filing of a petition are available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_laws/index.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_laws/index.html) and will be provided on request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Sections 13263 and 13267 of the California Water Code, that the requirements of Order No. R5-2005-0134 are modified as follows:

The following Compliance Date contained in Provision C.11 shall be changed to read as follows:

<b>Task &amp; Description</b>	<b>Compliance Date</b>
<b><u>Closure Certification Report</u></b> The Discharger shall submit a construction certification report describing the closure process, containing all engineering data, testing results and analyses, and containing the stamp and signature of a California registered civil engineer or engineering geologist, certifying that surface impoundment closure was completed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.	<b>31 March 2009</b>

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, on 5 December 2008.

  
PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer