

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

ORDER NO. 95-054

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
HOLLY SUGAR CORPORATION, OWNER/OPERATOR  
HOLLY SUGAR BEET PROCESSING FACILITY  
WASTEWATER EVAPORATION PONDS  
Brawley - Imperial County**

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

1. Holly Sugar Corporation, a subsidiary of Imperial Holly Corporation, Owner/Operator (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 395 West Keystone Road, P.O. Box 581, Brawley, CA 92227, submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated January 20, 1995.
2. The discharger operates an existing sugar beet processing plant that discharges process wastewater into on-site earthen basins in the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 29 and the N 1/2 of Section 30, T14S, R14E, SBB&M.
3. The discharger currently discharges approximately 1.5 million gallons-per-day (gpd) of wastewater from three sources into the system of earthen evaporation basins. The wastewater consists of discharges from the following sources:
  - a. Wastewater from the plant's beet processing operation flows into the plant's wastewater clarifier. Wastewater passes through the clarifier and flows into an adjacent storage tank. The wastewater in the storage tank flows back to the plant and is reused. Due to the addition of make-up water, approximately 1 million gpd of wastewater flows from the storage tank's overflow pipe and is discharged into a series of hydraulically connected earthen evaporation basins. Wastewater flows through the basins until it reaches the lowest point where it is pumped to a row of sprayers to enhance evaporation. An odor control bacteria was added to these basins causing the wastewater to look pink after it has flowed through the basins.
  - b. Approximately 245,000 gpd of wastewater containing sand and silt is pumped from the bottom of the clarifier into a separate earthen basin. The solids settle onto the bottom of the pond and the remaining water is pumped into the pipe that discharges into the evaporation basins described in Finding No. 3. a. above. After drying, the solids are removed and used to build up the berms of the basins.
  - c. A solution of lime and water is used in the beet processing operation. Approximately 220,000 gpd of the lime wastewater is discharged into separate earthen basins designated for this discharge. The solids settle onto the bottom of the pond, and the remaining water is pumped into the pipe that discharges into the evaporation basin described in Finding No. 3.a. above. This discharge is rotated to a different basin each year and then allowed a few years to dry out. The precipitated calcium carbonate from these ponds is removed and stockpiled on-site for later sale.

4. The wastewater in Finding No. 3 of this Order has the following combined average characteristics:

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)                  | 2,000 - 3,000 mg/L <sup>1</sup> |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS)                  | 300 mg/L                        |
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> ) | 200 - 900 mg/L                  |
| Hydrogen Ion                                  | 7 - 8 pH Units                  |

5. The discharge occurs continuously from mid-April to mid-August of the same year with intermittent discharges of smaller volumes beyond this four month period.
6. The discharge of coal ash transport water to an on-site, unlined holding basin is subject to separate waste discharge requirements adopted in Board Order No. 91-017.
7. 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.
8. The designated beneficial uses of ground waters in the Imperial Hydrologic Unit are:
- a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
9. Within the Imperial Valley area of the Imperial Hydrologic Unit, much of the ground water is too saline for municipal use.
10. Depth to shallow ground water at the site is about 6 feet below the bottom of the basins and has a TDS content of about 14,000 mg/L. Deep ground waters are highly saline and potentially suitable for geothermal development.
11. This discharge has been subject to waste discharge requirements adopted in Board Order No. 90-012.
12. This Board Order updates the waste discharge requirements to comply with current laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the California Code of Regulations.
13. There are no domestic wells within 500 feet of the discharge facilities described in Finding No. 3, above.
14. Sanitary wastewater from the plant is disposed of via a septic tank/leach field system.
15. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update waste discharge requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
16. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

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<sup>1</sup> mg/L = milligrams-per-liter

17. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these waste discharge requirements, 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.).
18. Federal regulations for storm water discharges were issued by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 16, 1990 (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 122, 123, and 124). In conformance with these regulations, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a General Permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activities, Water Quality Order No. 91-13-DWQ (as amended by Water Quality Order 92-12-DWQ), NPDES No. CAS000001, on September 17, 1992. Industrial facilities, including sewage treatment plants, are required to obtain NPDES permits for their storm water discharges.
19. The discharger states that there are no storm water discharges from this site. Therefore, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for storm water discharges would not be necessary for this facility.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 90-012 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 direct discharge of any waste or wastewater to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.
3. The discharge of waste to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.
4. Discharge of treated wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in Finding No. 3, above, is prohibited.
5. The discharger shall not accept waste in excess of the design treatment capacity of the disposal system.

**B. Specifications**

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050(l) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. A minimum depth of freeboard of two (2) feet shall be maintained at all times in all wastewater disposal basins.
3. The wastewater disposal basins shall be protected from any washout or erosion of wastes or covering material, and from any inundation which could occur as a result of floods having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.

4. Ponds shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes, in particular,
  - a. An erosion control program should assure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface.
  - b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.
  - c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
5. Public contact with wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives.
6. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
7. No changes in the type or amount of treatment chemicals added to the process water as described in Finding No. 3 of this Board Order shall be made without the written approval of the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
8. Wastes, including wind blown spray, shall be confined to lands specially designated for the disposal operation.
9. Treated or untreated sludge or similar solid waste materials shall be disposed as described in Finding No. 3 of this Board Order, or at locations approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

**C. Provisions**

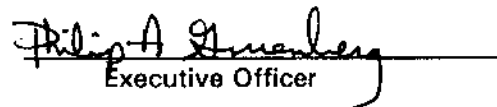
1. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 95-054", and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any modifications in this facility which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated 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;
  - 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 facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with this Board Order. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a discharger only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order.
  9. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
  10. 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.
  11. All regulated disposal systems shall be readily accessible for sampling and inspection.
  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. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that unauthorized persons are effectively excluded from contact with the wastewater disposal facilities.
  14. The discharger shall provide an inventory of all hazardous materials which will be handled at the facility by September 30, 1995.
  15. The discharger is the responsible party for the waste discharge requirements and the monitoring and reporting program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these waste discharge requirements. 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 waste discharge requirements by the Regional Board..
  16. The discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances), which are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with conditions of this Board Order.

17. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information including all calibration and maintenance records, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of three years from the date of the sample, measurement, or report. This period may be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding this discharge or when requested by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
18. All maintenance performed shall be reported with the monitoring reports as required.
19. 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.
20. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board's Executive Officer, or his/her authorized representative, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the discharger's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, including reclaimed water treatment or discharge facilities, sludge use and disposal activities, or facilities where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order.
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the same conditions of this Order. Inspect and sample or monitor, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order, including reclaimed water treatment, discharge, sludge use or disposal sites.
21. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board's Executive Officer, or his/her authorized representative, to sample or monitor influent, effluent, and sludge for the purposes of determining compliance with this Board Order and other applicable requirements regarding sludge use and disposal.
22. The discharger may be required to submit technical reports as directed by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
23. The discharger shall submit a drainage map and information necessary to demonstrate that there will be no storm water discharged from the facility within six months from adoption of this Board Order.
24. The discharger shall provide adequate notice to the Regional Board's Executive Officer of the following:
  - a. Any new introduction of pollutants into any of the treatment facilities described in the Findings of this Board Order from an indirect discharger which would be subject to Section 301 or 306 of the Clean Water Act, if it were directly discharging the pollutants.
  - b. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into any of the treatment facilities described in the Findings of this Board Order by an existing or new source.

- c. Any planned physical alterations or additions to the facilities described in this Board Order, or changes planned in the discharger's sludge use or disposal practice, where such alterations, additions, or changes may justify the application of Board Order conditions that are different from or absent in the existing Board Order, including notification of additional disposal sites not reported during the Board Order application process, or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan.
  - d. Adequate notice shall include information on the quality and quantity of effluent introduced, and any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of the discharger's effluent and/or sludge.
  - e. The discharger shall report all instances of noncompliance. Reports of noncompliance shall be submitted with the discharger's next scheduled self-monitoring report or earlier if requested by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, or if required by an applicable standard for sludge use and disposal.
25. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any beneficial use of surface or ground water.
26. 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 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 June 28, 1995.

  
Executive Officer

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

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 95-054  
FOR  
HOLLY SUGAR CORPORATION, OWNER/OPERATOR  
HOLLY SUGAR BEET PROCESSING FACILITY  
WASTEWATER EVAPORATION PONDS  
Brawley - Imperial County

Location of Discharge: W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 29 and N 1/2 of Section 30, T14S, R14E, SBB&M

1. The collection, preservation and holding times of all samples shall be in accordance with U. S. Environmental Protection Agency approved procedures. All analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Department of Health Services to perform the required analyses.
2. If the facility is not in operation, or there is no discharge during a required reporting period, the discharger shall forward a letter to the Regional Board indicating that there has been no activity during the required reporting period.

**EFFLUENT MONITORING**

A sampling station shall be established at the point of discharge and shall be located where representative samples of effluent can be obtained. Samples shall be taken at a time when the discharge contains wastewater which has a representative mixture of the wastewater pumped from the source described in Findings 3.a, 3.b., And 3.c. Wastewater discharged into the earthen evaporation basins described in Finding 3.a, shall be monitored for the following constituents:

| <u>Constituent</u>    | <u>Unit</u>       | <u>Type of Sample</u>                  | <u>Sample Frequency</u>                      |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Volume of Discharge   | MGD <sup>1</sup>  | Estimate<br>Average Daily <sup>2</sup> | Daily  |
| 20°C BOD <sub>5</sub> | mg/L <sup>3</sup> | Grab                                   | once during peak of<br>each operating season |
| Hydrogen Ion          | pH Units          | Grab                                   | once during peak of<br>each operating season |

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<sup>1</sup>MGD - Million Gallons per Day

<sup>2</sup>Reported monthly with monthly average daily flow calculated.

<sup>3</sup>mg/L - milligrams-per-liter



## POND MONITORING

Wastewater discharged to the earthen evaporation described in Finding 3.a. shall be monitored for constituents as indicated below. A single composited sample shall be composed of grab samples collected in equal volumes at a minimum of two locations in the basin, preferable at the corners of the basin opposite the discharge pipe.

| <u>Constituent</u>              | <u>Unit</u>       | <u>Type of Sample</u> | <u>Sample Frequency</u>                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| pH                              | pH                | Grab                  | Monthly                                   |
| Total Dissolved Solids          | mg/L              | Grab                  | once during peak of each operating season |
| Pesticides<br>(EPA Methods 608) | $\mu\text{g/L}^4$ | Grab                  | once during peak of each operating season |

## REPORTING

1. The discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the specified information is readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner as to clearly illustrate whether the facility is operating in compliance with waste discharge requirements.
2. Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement(s);
  - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurement(s);
  - c. The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - e. The analytical techniques or method used; and
  - f. The results of such analyses.
3. Each report shall contain the following statement:

"I declare under the penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is 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."
4. A duly authorized representative of the discharger may sign the documents if:
  - a. The authorization is made in writing by the person described above;
  - b. The authorization specified an individual or person having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated disposal system; and

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<sup>4</sup>  $\mu\text{g/L}$  = micrograms-per-liter

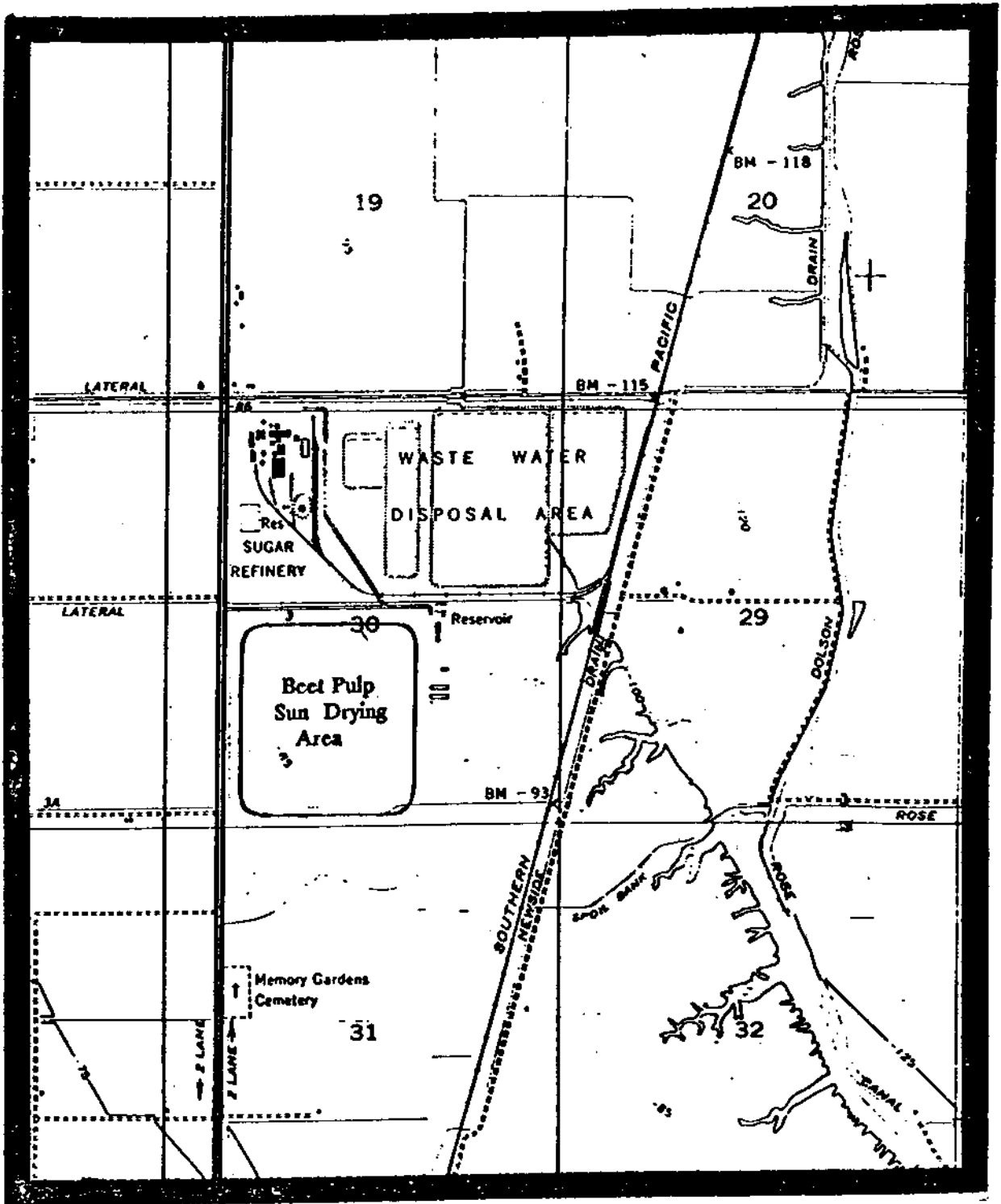
- c. The written authorization is submitted to the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
5. Report immediately any failure in the waste disposal system to the Regional Board and the Director of the County Environmental Health Department by telephone with follow-up by letter.
  6. Monitoring reports shall be certified under penalty of perjury to be true and correct, and shall contain the required information at the frequency designated in this monitoring report.
  7. For each operating season, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board a monitoring report signed by a duly authorized person not later than September 30 of the operating year.
  8. Submit monitoring reports to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-720 Fred Waring, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Ordered by: Philip A. Gruenberg  
Executive Officer

June 28, 1995

Date



SITE MAP

HOLLY SUGAR CORPORATION, OWNER/OPERATOR  
WASTEWATER EVAPORATIONS PONDS  
Brawley - Imperial County

N 1/2 of Section 30 and W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 29, T14S R14E, SBB&M  
USGS Brawley 7.5 min. Topographic Map