

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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**[TENTATIVE] WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER  
R7-2024-XXXX**

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**ORDER INFORMATION**

**Order Type(s):** Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)  
**Status:** TENTATIVE  
**Program:** Non-15 Discharges to Land  
**Discharger(s):** Salton Community Services District  
**Facility:** Thomas R. Cannell Wastewater Treatment Facility  
**Address:** 2196 Palm View Avenue, Salton City, California 92275  
**County:** Imperial County  
**APN(s):** 017-150-004  
**GeoTracker ID:** WDR100035569  
**WDID:** 7A130117001  
**Prior Order(s):** WDRs Order R7-2018-0013  
WDRs Order R7-2012-0034  
WDRs Order R7-2008-0002  
WDRs Order 00-094

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Paula Rasmussen, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on June 11, 2024.

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PAULA RASMUSSEN  
Executive Officer

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## GLOSSARY

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Antidegradation Policy</b> ..... | Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California, State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16 |
| <b>Basin Plan</b> .....             | Water Quality Control Plan for Colorado River Basin Region (inclusive of all amendments)  |
| <b>bgs</b> .....                    | Below Ground Surface  |
| <b>BOD5</b> .....                   | Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand at 20°C  |
| <b>BPTC</b> .....                   | Best Practicable Treatment and Control  |
| <b>CEQA</b> .....                   | California Environmental Quality Act<br>(Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.)  |
| <b>CEQA Guidelines</b> .....        | Regulations for Implementation of CEQA<br>(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.)   |
| <b>DTSC</b> .....                   | California Department of Toxic Substances Control   |
| <b>DWR</b> .....                    | California Department of Water Resources  |
| <b>GPD</b> .....                    | Gallons per Day   |
| <b>MCL[s]</b> .....                 | Maximum Contaminant Level[s] for Drinking Water under Title 22  |
| <b>mg/L</b> .....                   | Milligrams per Liter  |
| <b>MGD</b> .....                    | Millions of Gallons per Day   |
| <b>MRP</b> .....                    | Monitoring and Reporting Program  |
| <b>NPDES</b> .....                  | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System   |
| <b>ROWD</b> .....                   | Report of Waste Discharge   |
| <b>Title 22</b> .....               | California Code of Regulations, Title 22  |

- Title 23**.....California Code of Regulations, Title 23
- Title 27**.....California Code of Regulations, Title 27
- USEPA**.....United States Environmental Protection Agency
- WDRs**.....Waste Discharge Requirements
- WQO[s]**.....Water Quality Objective[s]

(findings begin on next page)

## FINDINGS

The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Basin Water Board) hereby finds as follows:

### Introduction

1. This Order prescribes waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the Salton Community Services District (Discharger), which owns and operates the Thomas R. Cannell Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) in Imperial County.
2. On January 27, 2023, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for updated WDRs for the Facility. A revised ROWD was subsequently submitted with supplemental information on December 18, 2023<sup>1</sup>.
3. The Facility is located in Salton City, near the intersection of Salton Drive and Lansing Avenue, in Imperial County, Section 26, Township 10 South, Range 10 East, Mount San Bernardino Base and Meridian. The Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) is 017-150-004. The Facility's location is also depicted on the maps in **Attachment B**.
4. Regulatory coverage under this Order is strictly limited in scope to those waste discharges, activities and processes described and expressly authorized herein.
5. The Discharger is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes (i.e., other than those described herein), or making material changes to the character, volume and timing of waste discharges authorized herein, without filing a new ROWD per Water Code section 13260 (Wat. Code, § 13264, subd. (a)). Failure to file a new ROWD before initiating such material changes shall constitute an independent violation of this Order.
6. This Order is also strictly limited in applicability to those individuals and/or entities specifically designated above as "Discharger," subject only to the discretion to designate or substitute new parties in accordance with this Order.

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<sup>1</sup> The revised ROWD proposes an increased disposal capacity from 0.185 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.225 MGD, as well as a proposal to analyze the existing groundwater monitoring network and implement a data collection program.



### Facility

7. The Facility is a wastewater treatment and disposal facility that provides sewerage service to residents and businesses of Salton City, an unincorporated community in Imperial County.
8. The Facility went into operation in October 2008 and was built to supplement treatment and disposal capacity for Salton City.
9. The Discharger also owns and operates the Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility (Lansing Avenue Facility), regulated under its own individual WDRs Order and a wastewater collection system regulated under State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ (Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems). The Discharger conveys excess wastewater approximately 9,000 feet from the Lansing Avenue Facility to the Thomas R. Cannell Wastewater Treatment Facility through a 12-inch force main.
10. The Facility consists of the following: headworks, including an inline comminutor and a magnetic flow meter with bypass provided in a below ground precast concrete vault; two aeration ponds, two clarifiers, two polishing ponds, and four evaporation/percolation ponds; and an emergency disposal pond, all shown in **Attachment B**. Typically, only half of the ponds are in operation at any given time. For the purposes of this Order, the six evaporation/percolation ponds are collectively referred to as the "**Designated Disposal Area**."
11. Although the Facility was designed for a disposal capacity of 0.500 MGD, the permitted capacity was initially 0.250 MGD. However, the Facility began experiencing surfacing of wastewater around the perimeter of the Facility. The Facility's WDRs were subsequently revised in June 2012 accordingly to lower the effluent disposal capacity to 0.185 MGD. At this time, the Facility was operating near its permitted treatment capacity and the Lansing Avenue Facility was brought back online to allow for additional disposal capacity.
12. The discharger now proposes to increase the Facility's disposal capacity of the Facility from 0.185 MGD to 0.225 MGD. The proposed increase is based on changing hydrogeological conditions. Specifically, the Salton Sea's water level

has dropped approximately 11 feet over the last 20 year, thereby allowing for more subsurface disposal capacity without saturation.<sup>2</sup>

13. The Discharger proposes to implement a project to reduce the amount of treated wastewater discharged into the Facility's evaporation/percolation ponds, which would help safeguard against peak flows and reduce short-term growth in the volume of discharge. The project would consist of planting non-fruit bearing trees and plants<sup>3</sup> along with the installation of an irrigation system fed by pond effluents around the site perimeter inside the fencing. The Discharger estimates that approximately 1,425 trees and 1,425 other plants will be planted. When mature, the trees will require approximately 45,600 gallons of treated wastewater per day, and the other plants will require 7,125 gallons of treated wastewater per day.
14. The percolation ponds are monitored for dissolved oxygen and pH when the pond level is one foot deep or higher.
15. Table 1 below summarizes the characterization of Facility influent, as reported in the Discharger's Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs) for January 2019 through December 2023.

**Table 1. Influent Characterization.**

| Constituent                  | Units | Average | Maximum | Minimum |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Flow                         | MGD   | 0.177   | 0.239   | 0.112   |
| BOD5 <sup>4</sup>            | mg/L  | 72.95   | 157     | 15      |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS) | mg/L  | 97.9    | 720     | 12      |

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<sup>2</sup> In the mid-2000's, the Salton Sea was at 229 feet below sea level, whereas it is now 240 feet below sea level.

<sup>3</sup> The trees and other plants the Discharger plans to plant and irrigate are as follows: Mesquite Trees, Brittlebush, Turtleback, Dye-Weed, Loco-Weed, and Burrow-Weed.

<sup>4</sup> Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand at 20°C.

16. The Discharger monitors a network of groundwater elevation monitoring wells at the Facility (Wells 1 through 5). Table 2 below summarizes the depth of groundwater in the area of the disposal ponds, as reported in the Discharger's SMRs for January 2019 through December 2023.

**Table 2. Groundwater Depth.**

| <b>Well</b> | <b>Units</b> | <b>Average</b> | <b>Maximum</b> | <b>Minimum</b> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Well 1      | ft.          | 8.59           | 9.50           | 8.50           |
| Well 2      | ft.          | 8.45           | 10.5           | 6.22           |
| Well 3      | ft.          | 9.61           | 10.9           | 3.60           |
| Well 4      | ft.          | 5.68           | 8.81           | 3.90           |
| Well 5      | ft.          | 5.75           | 10.01          | 4.40           |

**Proposed Changes at Facility**

17. Since 2021, the Facility has implemented operational measures including increased aeration time to reduce effluent BOD. Only four of the six percolation ponds at the Facility are used due to increased percolation rates.
18. A groundwater monitoring well network beyond groundwater elevation collection<sup>5</sup> is necessary to monitor local hydrologic conditions and impacts from Facility discharges. The Discharger proposes to use a phased approach for groundwater monitoring at the Facility. Should surfacing of wastewater occur around the perimeter of the six onsite evaporation/percolation ponds (i.e. Designated Disposal Area), the Discharger will transfer wastewater flows to the Lansing Avenue Facility.

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<sup>5</sup> While the Facility has a network of monitoring wells from which groundwater elevation data has been collected, there is no available data regarding the depth and/or screened intervals for these monitoring wells, nor reliable information regarding surveyed reference points from which these levels are collected.

19. No changes in the character of influent are anticipated. The ROWD does not identify discharges from industrial users subject to federal categorical Pretreatment Standards into its collection system. The Discharger will be required to provide an annual routine assessment of its industrial dischargers in order to determine whether a pretreatment program will be necessary.
20. Table 3 summarizes the Facility’s effluent, as reported in the Discharger’s SMRs from January 2019 through December 2023.

**Table 3. Effluent Characterization.**

| <b>Constituent</b>           | <b>Units</b> | <b>Average</b> | <b>Maximum</b> | <b>Minimum</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| pH                           | Std. Units   | 7.8            | 8.7            | 6.9            |
| BOD5                         | mg/L         | 43.4           | 131.6          | 4.0            |
| TSS                          | mg/L         | 124.7          | 1300           | 2              |
| Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) | mg/L         | 1252.3         | 5196           | 300            |
| Dissolved Oxygen             | mg/L         | 5.6            | 10.9           | 2.0            |
| Nitrate as N                 | mg/L         | 5.94           | 13             | ND             |
| Nitrite as N                 | mg/L         | 3.16           | 13             | ND             |
| Total Nitrogen               | mg/L         | 29.2           | 40.0           | 21             |
| Ammonia as N                 | mg/L         | 8.22           | 22             | 0.09           |
| Total Phosphorus             | mg/L         | 5.0            | 5.8            | 4.2            |

**General Site Conditions**

21. The site elevation is approximately 215 feet below sea level. The site slopes are relatively flat and are generally sloped to the northeast with an average slope of approximately 2.5 percent.
22. Tule Wash, a drainage course is located adjacent to the Facility. The Salton Sea is located approximately 1.7 miles to the northeast. Over the last 20 years, the

water level in the Salton Sea has decreased approximately 11 feet. The Salton Sea shoreline nearest to the plant has receded as much as 3,800 linear feet over the same period.

23. Soils in the area consist generally of sand with silt and silty sand for the top seven to fifteen feet, underlain with silt and clay.
24. The site is located in a seismically active desert region.
25. Based on data from the nearest weather station (KCATHERM30), the Facility has an annual average precipitation of about 3 inches and a mean pan evaporation of 72 inches per year.
26. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Precipitation Frequency Atlas 14, Vol. 6 (rev. 2014), 100-year and 1,000-year, 24-hour rainfall events are estimated to result in 4.01 and 6.95 inches of precipitation, respectively.<sup>6</sup>
27. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [Flood Insurance Rate Map](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>), the Facility is not located within a 100-year floodplain.
28. Land uses in the vicinity include residential, industrial, and recreational uses.
29. Domestic water is supplied by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD). From January 2019 to December 2023, TDS concentrations averaged approximately 611.3 mg/L. Between 2022 to 2023, average concentrations decreased to 170 mg/L. This dramatic decrease is attributed to a change in the source water of CVWD. CVWD is using groundwater from wells outside of the local area. There are no domestic wells within 500 feet of the on-site infiltration ponds.

### **Groundwater and Subsurface Conditions**

30. Although the Discharger's SMRs for January 2019 through December 2023 characterize the depth to groundwater at the Facility to range from an average of 5.68 and 9.61 feet, the depth must be reevaluated in light of the changing hydrologic conditions described in Finding 12.

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<sup>6</sup> Source: [NOAA Precipitation Frequency Data Server](https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds)  
(<https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds>)

31. According to the Discharger, local groundwater has been historically estimated to have a TDS concentration ranging between 29,200 and 34,500 mg/L. However, there is limited and outdated groundwater monitoring data for the Facility. As a result, the current groundwater flow rate and gradient direction are unknown and must be evaluated. The Discharger proposes to analyze the existing monitoring network surrounding the Facility to determine subsurface conditions.

### Regulatory Considerations

#### Waste Discharge Permitting Authority

32. This Order is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), which provides that “[t]he regional board, after any necessary hearing, shall prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge..., with relation to the conditions existing in the disposal area or receiving waters upon, or into which, the discharge is made or proposed.”
33. The statute further provides that WDRs “shall implement ... water quality control plans, and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance,<sup>7</sup> and the provisions of Section 13241.” (Wat. Code, § 13263, subd. (a).)
34. The ability to discharge wastewater is a privilege, not a right. The adoption of this Order shall not be construed as establishing a vested right in the continuance of discharge activities. (Wat. Code, § 13263, subd. (g).)
35. For the purposes of determining waste discharge fees under California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2200, the Facility has a threat-complexity rating of **3-B**.

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<sup>7</sup> “Nuisance” is defined by statute as a condition that: “(1) Is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property[;] [¶] (2) Affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons...[;] [and] [¶] (3) Occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes.” (Wat. Code, § 13050, subd. (m).)

- a. Threat Category “3” reflects waste discharges that could either degrade water quality without violating water quality objectives, or cause beneficial use impairments that are minor relative to Categories 1 and 2.
- b. Complexity Category “B” reflects any discharger not included in Category A, with either (1) physical, chemical or biological treatment systems (except for septic systems with subsurface disposal), or (2) any Class II or Class III WMUs.

#### Basin Plan Implementation

36. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses of groundwater and surface water within the region, establishes numeric and narrative water quality objectives (WQOs) protective of such uses, and incorporates applicable State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) plans and policies.
37. This Order prescribes WDRs for discharges to groundwater within the Anza-Borrego Planning Area, West Salton Sea Hydrologic Unit (721.00), for which the designated beneficial uses of groundwater are as follows:
  - a. Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN); and,
  - b. Agricultural Supply (AGR).
38. The Basin Plan establishes the following WQOs for MUN-designated groundwater:
  - a. Tastes and Odors (Narrative): Groundwater shall not contain taste or odor-producing substances that adversely affect beneficial uses as a result of human activity (Ch. 3, § IV.A);
  - b. Coliform Bacteria (Numeric): Groundwater shall not contain coliform organisms in exceedance of the limits specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22), section 64426.1 (Ch. 3, § IV.B); and
  - c. Chemical Constituents (Numeric): Groundwater shall not contain organic and inorganic chemical constituents in concentrations exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established for drinking water per Title 22, sections 64431, 64444 and 64678 (Ch. 3, § IV.C).

39. With respect to the narrative WQO for chemical constituents, specifically the objective for TDS, the Title 22 Secondary MCL specifies a recommended limit of 500 mg/L, and an upper limit of 1,000 mg/L.<sup>8</sup>
40. The Basin Plan incorporates State Water Board Resolution 88-63 (*Sources of Drinking Water Policy*), which provides that groundwater with TDS in excess of 3,000 mg/L cannot reasonably be expected to supply a public water system. However, the *Sources of Drinking Water Policy* also provides that all groundwaters shall be designated for MUN beneficial uses until affirmatively de-designated by a Basin Plan Amendment, even if the specified TDS threshold is exceeded. The *Sources of Drinking Water Policy* nevertheless provides a firm outer limit of 3,000 mg/L for use in determining whether local groundwater is usable for MUN beneficial uses, notwithstanding its current designation under the Basin Plan, and irrespective of the groundwater's consistency with the narrative WQO for tastes and odors.
41. In this case, groundwater in the area of the Facility has been historically estimated to have a TDS concentration ranging between 29,200 and 34,500 mg/L. Such salinity is well beyond the *Sources of Drinking Water Policy* threshold for MUN applications (3,000 mg/L), as well as any foreseeable agricultural applications.

#### Antidegradation Policy

42. The Basin Plan incorporates the State Water Board's *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*, Resolution 68-16 (Antidegradation Policy), which prohibits the Colorado River Basin Water Board from authorizing discharges that will result in the degradation of "high quality waters," unless it is demonstrated that any such degradation in water quality:
  - a. Will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses,<sup>9</sup> or otherwise result in water quality less than that prescribed in applicable plans and policies (e.g., violation of WQOs);

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<sup>8</sup> Salinity may alternatively be expressed in terms of microsiemens per centimeter ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ) of Electrical Conductivity (EC). As a secondary MCL, Title 22 specifies a recommended limit of 900  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , and an upper limit of 1,600  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ .

<sup>9</sup> The Water Code defines "Pollution" in relevant part as the "alteration of the quality of the waters of the state by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects ... [¶] [t]he waters for beneficial uses." (Wat. Code, § 13050, subd. (I)(1)(A).)



- b. Will be mitigated through best practicable treatment and control (BPTC);
  - c. Is consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state of California.
43. The baseline for determining whether waters are “high quality” under the Antidegradation Policy is the highest quality achieved since the policy was established in 1968. If the subject waters have not achieved the minimum quality necessary to meet WQOs since 1968, the waters are considered “poor quality, which means the Antidegradation Policy does not apply. This determination is made on a constituent-by-constituent basis, meaning that waters may be considered “high quality” with respect to some constituents but not others.
44. Based on experiences with similar facilities, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff have identified the following constituents with the potential to degrade groundwater in the Facility’s effluent, each of which is discussed below:
- a. Total Nitrogen (Nitrate plus Nitrite),
  - b. TDS (Salinity), and
  - c. Coliform Organisms.
45. **Nitrogen:** The Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) (i.e., WQO) for nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen is 10 mg/L. According to the Discharger’s Annual SMRs from 2019 through 2023, the Facility’s effluent has an average total nitrogen concentration ranging between 21 to 40 mg/L, with an average of 29.2 mg/L. However, the assimilative capacity in local groundwater for nitrogen is unclear. Nor is it known whether nitrogen in groundwater will convert to nitrate or nitrite. Without current groundwater quality information, it cannot be ascertained whether the Facility’s discharge will result in groundwater not meeting WQOs. Accordingly, this Order requires the Discharger to implement groundwater quality monitoring for the Facility in addition to the currently monitored groundwater elevation. The Discharger is also required to investigate the feasibility of nitrogen treatment to achieve an effluent limitation of 10 mg/L, which may be prescribed in the future (based in part on the results of groundwater monitoring).
46. **TDS (Salinity):** With respect to TDS, groundwater in the area of the Facility has been historically estimated to have a TDS concentration ranging between 29,200 and 34,500 mg/L, which vastly exceeds the 3,000 mg/L outer threshold specified under the *Sources of Drinking Water Policy*. Such high salinity is attributable to natural hydrologic conditions. Non-anthropogenic conditions may be presumed to have remained relatively unchanged since 1968. Accordingly, it may be presumed that local groundwater has remained well above 3,000 mg/L at every point since 1968. Local groundwater is therefore presumed to be “poor quality”

with respect to TDS in particular. The Antidegradation Policy is therefore inapplicable to TDS in local groundwater at the Facility.

47. **Coliform Organisms:** The most probable number (MPN) of coliform organisms in untreated domestic wastewater is typically  $10^7$  to  $10^8$  per 100 mL, and in secondary-treated wastewater, a MPN of  $10^5$  to  $10^6$  organisms per 100 mL (USEPA, Design Manual: Municipal Wastewater Disinfection, EPA/625/1-86/021, Oct. 1986.). Coliforms do not generally transport through soils any appreciable distance, but given the depth to groundwater at the disposal ponds, it is likely that pathogen-indicator bacteria will reach groundwater at densities exceeding those prescribed in Title 22, section 64426.1. However, there are no municipal groundwater wells within 500 feet of the Discharge Area and given the soil types, it is not likely that pathogen-indicator bacteria will transport any appreciable distance from the Designated Disposal Area and it is not expected that the discharge will degrade any beneficial use of the groundwater in the vicinity of the Facility. Consequently, no groundwater degradation is anticipated.
48. Notwithstanding implementation of BPTC, a degree of groundwater quality degradation will occur as a result of the Facility's operation—specifically in terms of nitrate/nitrite and TDS (and possibly total coliform). However, such degradation nevertheless is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state of California. The Discharger provides a valuable service to the community that is protective of human health and the environment and contributes to the economic development of the area. The economic prosperity of surrounding communities and associated industries is of maximum benefit to the people of the state and provides sufficient justification for allowing the limited groundwater degradation that may occur under this Order.
49. Based on the foregoing considerations, the wastewater discharges authorized under this Order are consistent with the Antidegradation Policy.

#### Stormwater

50. On July 1, 2015, the State Water Board adopted Water Quality Order 2014-0057-DWQ (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CAS000001), *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities* (Industrial General Permit). Facilities used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal or domestic sewage with a design flow of one million gallons per day or more, or that are required to have an approved pretreatment program under 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 403, must enroll under the Industrial General Permit, unless there is no discharge of

industrial stormwater to waters of the United States (WOTUS).<sup>10</sup> The Facility treats domestic sewage and sewage sludge, however, the design flow of the facility is less than one million gallons per day. Therefore, the discharge is not subject to the federal CWA's stormwater program requirements.

51. This Order does not authorize discharges of stormwater to the WOTUS.

#### Additional Water Quality Considerations

52. This Order, which prescribes WDRs in accordance with the Basin Plan, for wastewater that does not need to be managed as "hazardous waste," is exempt from the prescriptive requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27), section 20005 et seq. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 20090.)
53. Water Code section 106.3, subdivision (a) provides that it is "the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." Although subdivision (a) does not apply directly to the prescribing of WDRs (see Wat. Code, § 106.3, subd. (b)), this Order nevertheless furthers the stated policy by requiring that the receiving groundwater comply with WQOs protective of MUN beneficial uses.
54. Water Code section 13149.2, subdivision (d) requires that the Colorado River Basin Water Board, "[w]hen issuing...individual waste discharge requirements...that regulate activity or a facility that may impact a

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<sup>10</sup> USEPA regulations for stormwater discharges were promulgated on November 16, 1990 (40 C.F.R. parts 122, 123, and 124) to implement the Clean Water Act's stormwater program set forth in Clean Water Act section 402(p) (33 U.S.C. §1342(p)). In relevant part, the regulations require specific categories of facilities that discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity to WOTUS to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and to require control of such pollutant discharges using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) to prevent and reduce pollutants and any more stringent controls necessary to meet water quality standards.

disadvantaged<sup>[11]</sup> or tribal community,<sup>[12]</sup> and that includes a time schedule in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 13263 for achieving an applicable water quality objective, an alternative compliance path that allows time to come into compliance with water quality objectives, or a water quality variance...,” must include finding(s) regarding “potential environmental justice,<sup>[13]</sup> tribal impact, and racial equity considerations” that are relevant to the permitting action. This Order does not incorporate a time schedule for compliance with applicable WQOs, or any of the other provisions described in Water Code section 13149.2, subdivision (d). Accordingly, no additional findings are necessary under section 13149.2.

#### California Environmental Quality Act

55. The adoption of this Order is categorically exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), as the Facility is “an existing facility” with negligible or no expansions in use. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, 15301.)

#### Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

56. This Order is also issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), which provides that the Colorado River Basin Water Board may require that persons discharging waste within the region “shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports...,” provided that the discharger’s burdens of compliance, including costs, is reasonable relative to the need for the submittals and the benefits to be obtained.

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<sup>11</sup> For the purposes of this requirement, a “disadvantaged community” is defined as a “community in which the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income level.” (Wat. Code, § 13149.2, subd. (f)(1).)

<sup>12</sup> For the purposes of this requirement, a “tribal community” is defined as a “community within a federally recognized California Native American tribe or nonfederally recognized Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.” (Wat. Code, § 13149.2, subd. (f)(2).)

<sup>13</sup> Water Code section 13149.2 incorporates the general definition of “environmental justice” in Public Resources Code section 30107.3, subdivision (a): “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” (Wat. Code, § 13149.2, subd. (f).)

57. The various notifications, technical reports and monitoring program reports required under this Order, including those contained within the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in **Attachment A**, are necessary to ensure compliance with the WDRs.
58. In accordance with section 13267, the burdens of monitoring and reporting imposed on the Discharger under this Order and the separately adopted MRP, are reasonable relative to the need for compliance described above.
59. The Executive Officer may issue a Revised MRP as a standalone order, pursuant to her delegated authority under Water Code section 13223 and Colorado River Basin Water Board Resolution R7-2022-0036. Upon issuance, the Revised MRP shall supersede the provisions of **Attachment A**.

#### **Scope of Order**

60. This Order, which prescribes WDRs for the discharge of nonhazardous wastewater to land in accordance with the Basin Plan, is exempt from the prescriptive standards for solid waste disposal set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27), section 20005 et seq. (Title 27, § 20090, subd. (b).)
61. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as preempting or superseding otherwise applicable regulatory requirements issued by local, state, or federal agencies.

#### **Public Participation**

62. In developing these WDRs, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff have complied with Water Code section 189.7, subdivision (a)(1), which requires “equitable, culturally relevant community outreach to promote meaningful civil engagement from potentially impacted communities of proposed discharges of waste that may have disproportionate impacts on water quality in disadvantaged communities or tribal communities....”
63. The Dischargers and other interested public agencies and persons were notified of the Board’s intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order, and provided an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations at a public hearing. (Wat. Code, § 13167.5.)
64. The Colorado River Basin Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all timely comments pertaining to this discharge.

## REQUIREMENTS

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, that Order R7-2018-0013 is rescinded (except for enforcement purposes), and that the Discharger shall comply with the following requirements.

### A. Prohibitions

1. Waste classified as “hazardous,” as defined in Title 27, section 20164, or constituting “designated waste,” as defined in Water Code section 13173, shall not be discharged at the Facility.
2. The storage, treatment, or disposal of waste at the Facility shall not cause conditions constituting a “contamination,” “pollution,” or “nuisance,” as defined per subdivisions (k), (l), and (m) of Water Code section 13050.
3. Wastewater shall not be permitted to bypass the aeration/ percolation ponds relied upon for compliance with this Order, or otherwise be permitted to overflow from its designated containment structures.
4. Waste shall not be discharged at a location other than the Designated Disposal Area specified in Finding 10, or in a manner other than as described in the findings generally.
5. Wastewater shall not be discharged from the Facility into surface waters or surface drainage courses.
6. The discharge of wastewater to land not controlled by the Discharger, or not authorized for such use, is prohibited.
7. Objectionable odors, originating from the Facility and associated with the generation, treatment, storage, or disposal of waste, shall not be perceivable beyond the boundaries of the Facility or areas not owned/controlled by the Discharger.
8. The Discharger shall not accept waste in excess of the treatment capacity of the disposal system.
9. Surfacing or ponding of wastewater outside of the designated disposal locations is prohibited.

**B. Discharge Specifications**

1. Wastewater shall be discharged to the Designated Disposal Area, as described in Finding 10.
2. All Facility systems and equipment shall be operated to optimize the quality of the effluent.
3. All conveyance, treatment, storage, and disposal systems shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.
4. Public contact with wastewater at the Facility shall be prevented through such means as fences, signs, or acceptable alternatives.
5. The Discharger shall design, construct, operate, and maintain all Facility impoundments sufficiently to protect the integrity of containment dams and berms and prevent overtopping and/or structural failure. The operating freeboard in any impoundments shall never be less than two feet (measured vertically from the lowest possible point of overflow).
6. Wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal ponds or structures shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow, design seasonal precipitation, and ancillary inflow and infiltration during the winter while ensuring compliance with all requirements of this Order. Design seasonal precipitation shall be based on total annual precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns.
7. On or about 1 October of each year, available capacity shall at least equal the volume necessary to comply with Sections B.5 and B.6.
8. All ponds and open containment structures shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. Specifically:
  - a. An erosion control program shall be implemented to ensure 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.

- d. The Discharger shall consult and coordinate with the local Mosquito Abatement District to minimize the potential for mosquito breeding as needed to supplement the above measures.
- 9. Newly constructed or rehabilitated berms or levees (excluding internal berms that separate ponds or control the flow of water within a pond) shall be designed and constructed under the supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer.
- 10. Wastewater within any unlined impoundment (including the Designated Disposal Area) shall not have a pH less than 6.0 or greater than 9.0.
- 11. Beginning in 2024, the Discharger shall monitor sludge accumulation in each Facility impoundment at least every five years, and periodically remove sludge as necessary to maintain adequate storage capacity. Specifically, if the estimated volume of sludge in the reservoir exceeds five percent of the permitted reservoir capacity, the Discharger shall complete sludge cleanout within 12 months after the date of the estimate.
- 12. The aeration/percolation ponds shall be maintained so that they continuously operate in aerobic conditions. The dissolved oxygen content in the upper zone (one foot) of the aeration/percolation ponds shall be equal to or greater than 1.0 mg/L. If there is little or no water in the ponds, the monitoring report shall state “No standing water in ponds and/or not sufficient water in the ponds to sample safely” in place of reporting dissolved oxygen concentration.

**C. Effluent Limitations**

The Facility’s wastewater (effluent), following treatment, shall comply with the Effluent Limitations below in Table 4.

**Table 4. Effluent Limitations.**

| Parameter          | Units      | Limitation       | Determination                   |
|--------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Average Daily Flow | MGD        | 0.225            | 30-Day Average Dry-Weather Flow |
| pH                 | Std. Units | ≥ 6.00<br>≤ 9.00 | --                              |



| Parameter | Units | Limitation | Determination  |
|-----------|-------|------------|----------------|
| BOD5      | mg/L  | 65         | 7-Day Average  |
|           |       | 45         | 30-Day Average |

**D. Groundwater Limitations**

Discharge of wastewater from the Facility shall not cause groundwater to:

1. Exceed applicable WQOs;
2. Acquire taste, odor, toxicity, or color that create nuisance conditions;
3. Impair beneficial uses; or
4. Contain constituents or organisms in excess of applicable Title 22 MCLs (see, e.g., Title 22, § 64426.1 [bacteriological constituents], § 64431 [inorganics], § 64444 [organics], § 64678 [lead, copper]).

**E. Solids Disposal Requirements<sup>14</sup>**

1. Sludge and Solid Waste shall be removed from screens, sumps, and ponds as needed to ensure optimal plant operation.
2. Residual sludge, biosolids, and solid waste shall be permanently disposed offsite at a landfill permitted under Title 27, section 20000 et seq.

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<sup>14</sup> For the purposes of this section: “sludge” means the solid, semisolid, and liquid residues removed during primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes; “solid waste” includes grit and screenings generated during preliminary treatment at the Facility; “residual sludge” means sludge that will not be subject to further treatment at the Facility; and “biosolids” refers to sludge that has been treated and tested and shown to be capable of being beneficially used as a soil amendment for agriculture, silviculture, horticulture, and land reclamation activities pursuant to federal and state regulations.

**F. Monitoring, Reporting and Notification Requirements**

1. **Compliance with Monitoring and Reporting Program.** The Discharger shall comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in Attachment A, or in the event of a subsequently issued Revised MRP, the provisions of that Revised MRP, which shall supersede the provisions of Attachment A as the operative MRP.
2. **Noncompliance Notifications.** Discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. Information shall be provided orally to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) within 24 hours of when the Discharger becomes aware of the incident. If noncompliance occurs outside of business hours, the Discharger shall leave a message on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's office voicemail.

A written report shall also be provided within five 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. A final certified report must be submitted through GeoTracker. Additional information may be added to the certified report, in the form of an attachment, at any time.

All other forms of noncompliance shall be reported in the next scheduled Self-Monitoring Report (SMR), or earlier if requested by the Executive Officer.

3. **General Monitoring Requirements.**
  - a. **Testing and Analytical Methods.** The collection, preservation, and holding times of all samples shall be performed in accordance with USEPA-approved procedures. Except as otherwise specified in the MRP or as approved in writing by the Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest editions of either of the USEPA's *Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act* (40 C.F.R. part 136); or *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods Compendium* (SW-846).
  - b. **Laboratory Certification.** Except as otherwise approved in writing by the Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted by a

laboratory certified by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).

- c. **Representative Sampling.** All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The time, date, and location of each grab sample shall be recorded on the chain of custody form for the sample. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved in writing by Colorado River Basin Water Board staff.
- d. **Instrumentation and Calibration.** All monitoring instruments and devices used by the Discharger shall be properly maintained and calibrated to ensure their continued accuracy. Any flow measurement devices shall be calibrated at least once per year to ensure continued accuracy of the devices. In the event that continuous monitoring equipment is out of service for a period greater than 24 hours, the Discharger shall obtain representative grab samples each day the equipment is out of service. The Discharger shall correct the cause(s) of failure of the continuous monitoring equipment as soon as practicable. The Discharger shall report the period(s) during which the equipment was out of service and if the problem has not been corrected, shall identify the steps which the Discharger is taking or proposes to take to bring the equipment back into service and the schedule for these actions.
- e. **Field Test Instruments.** Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided:
  - i. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
  - ii. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
  - iii. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
  - iv. Field calibration reports are submitted.

4. **General Reporting Requirements.** The Discharger shall comply with the following General Reporting Requirements:

- a. **Electronic Submittal.** All materials shall be submitted electronically via the [GeoTracker Database](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov) (<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>).<sup>15</sup> After uploading, Dischargers shall notify Colorado River Basin Water Board staff via email to [RB7\\_WDRs\\_paperless@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB7_WDRs_paperless@waterboards.ca.gov), or another address specified by staff. The following information shall be included in the body of the email:

**Attention:** Land Disposal Unit  
**Report Title:** [Report Title]  
**Upload ID:** [Number]  
**Facility:** Thomas R. Cannell Wastewater Treatment Facility  
**County:** Imperial County  
**GeoTracker ID:** WDR100035569

- b. **Qualified Professionals.** All technical reports<sup>16</sup> submitted under this Order shall be prepared by, or under the direct supervision of, a competent licensed civil engineer or engineering geologist (Qualified Professional). The submittal shall be signed and stamped by the Qualified Professional, and contain a brief summary of the Qualified Professional's qualifications.
- c. **Data Presentation and Formatting.** In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange data in tabular form so that the date, the constituents, the concentrations, and the units are readily discernible. Additionally, data shall be summarized in a manner that clearly illustrates compliance/noncompliance.
- d. **Non-Detections / Reporting Limits.** Unless reporting limits (RL) are specified in the same table, non-detections and sub-RL concentrations shall be reported as "< [limit]" (e.g., "< 5 µg/L").

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<sup>15</sup> Large files must be split into appropriately labelled, manageable file sizes and uploaded into GeoTracker.

<sup>16</sup> A "technical report" is a one incorporating the application of scientific or engineering principles.

- e. **Units.** Absent specific justification, all monitoring data shall be reported in the units specified herein.
- f. **Certification.** All submittals under this Order shall be accompanied by a transmittal containing the following certification that is signed by either the Required Signatory or their Authorized Representative:

I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments 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.

- i. The Required Signatory shall be the individual identified in Table 5 below.
- ii. To act as an Authorized Representative for a Required Signatory (Table 5), an individual must be identified<sup>17</sup> and duly authorized in writing by the Required Signatory; this written authorization shall be provided to the Board beforehand, or concurrently with the first submittal signed by the Authorized Representative.

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<sup>17</sup> This identification may be in reference to the Authorized Representative's title or position, provided it is one that customarily has the responsibility of supervising the Facility's overall operation (e.g., facility manager, superintendent).

**Table 5. Required Signatories for Submittals.**

| Category of Discharger                              | Required Signatory   |
|---|--|
| Corporations  | Senior Vice President<br>or Equivalent Principal Executive   |
| Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)                  | Manager  |
| General Partnerships and Limited Partnerships (LPs) | General Partner  |
| Sole Proprietorships                                | Sole Proprietor  |
| Public Agencies                                     | Principal Executive<br>or Ranking Elected/Appointed Official |

**G. Special Provisions**

**1. Groundwater Monitoring Network**

- a. **Existing Groundwater Monitoring Network Study.** Within six months of the adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall submit, for Executive Officer approval, a technical work plan to determine the adequacy of the existing groundwater monitoring network.

The technical work plan shall describe the current condition of the groundwater monitoring network (e.g., monitoring locations, sampling protocol, or quality assurance/quality control), establish total depth and screened intervals for each of the monitoring wells, show the direction of flow and identification of up-gradient and down-gradient monitoring wells.

If the technical work plan indicates that repair or addition of monitoring wells is necessary, the Discharger shall submit a time schedule for Executive Officer approval that includes a description of proposed changes to the groundwater monitoring network and a time schedule for the implementation of these changes. Within 30

days of Executive Officer written approval,<sup>18</sup> the Discharger shall begin implementation of the work plan in accordance with the time schedule.

- b. **Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network Work Plan.** Within 12 months of adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall submit, for Executive Officer approval, a technical work plan and proposed time schedule<sup>19</sup> for installing a groundwater monitoring network with the ability to monitor upgradient and downgradient water quality conditions.

The work plan shall include a description of the groundwater monitoring network (e.g., monitoring locations, sampling protocol, or quality assurance/quality control) and a time schedule for the implementation of the network. Within 30 days of Executive Officer written approval, the Discharger shall begin implementation of the work plan in accordance with the time schedule.

2. **Planting Non-Fruit Bearing Trees Work Plan.** Within 12 months of adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall submit a technical report that is a work plan for the location and types of trees and other plants proposed to be irrigated with undisinfected secondary recycled water for Colorado River Basin Water Board staff concurrence prior to implementation of the work plan.
3. **Total Nitrogen Effluent Limit Feasibility Study.** Within three years of adoption of this Order, the Discharger shall submit a technical report evaluating the feasibility of implementing nitrogen removal for compliance with a 10 mg/L effluent limit for total nitrogen, which may be incorporated in future WDRs.
4. **Request for extension.** If the Discharger is unable to comply with the Special Provisions within the applicable schedule, the Discharger may request an extension subject to approval by the Executive Officer. The extension request must be in writing and submitted as soon as a delay is

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<sup>18</sup> The Executive Officer may approve the work plan and time schedule with any revisions that are determined to be warranted under the circumstances.

<sup>19</sup> The time schedule for proposed activities shall not exceed six months from Executive Officer approval of the time schedule.

recognized and prior to the compliance date. The extension request should include justification for the delay.

**H. Other Provisions**

1. The Discharger shall comply with the Time Schedule in Table 6 below.

**Table 6. Time Schedule.**

| Task   | Deadline   |
|--|--|
| 1. Submit Work Plan and Time Schedule on the adequacy of the Existing Groundwater Monitoring Network   | Within 6 Months of adoption of this Order                            |
| 2. Begin Implementation of the Groundwater Monitoring Well Work Plan   | Within 30 days of approval of the Work Plan by the Executive Officer |
| 3. Submit Work Plan and Time Schedule to Install a Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting Program for upgradient and downgradient water quality monitoring wells | Within 12 Months of adoption of this Order                           |
| 4. Begin Implementation of the Groundwater Monitoring Well Work Plan for upgradient and downgradient water quality monitoring wells                            | Within 30 days of approval of the Work Plan by the Executive Officer |
| 5. Submit Planting Non-Fruit Bearing Trees Work Plan   | Within 12 Months of adoption of this Order                           |
| 6. Submit Total Nitrogen Effluent Limit Feasibility Study  | Within 3 years of adoption of this Order                             |

2. **Facility Inspection.** Dischargers and their agents shall permit Board staff to inspect the Enrolled Facility during business to verify compliance with WDRs. Failure to consent to a reasonable request for inspection constitutes a violation of this Order.



3. **Facility Operation and Maintenance.** The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all systems and components of collection, treatment, and control installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with this Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to, effective performance, adequate process controls, and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities/systems when necessary to achieve compliance with this Order. All systems in service or reserved shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records of inspections and maintenance shall be retained and made available to the Colorado River Basin Water Board on request.
4. **Duty to Mitigate.** The Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this Order that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
5. **Disposal Capacity.** The Discharger shall provide a report to the Colorado River Basin Water Board when it determines that the Facility's average dry-weather flow rate for any month exceeds 80 percent of the design disposal capacity. The report shall indicate what steps, if any, the Discharger intends to take to provide for the expected wastewater disposal capacity necessary when the plant reaches design capacity.
6. **Material Changes.** Prior to any modifications which would result in any 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 Colorado River Basin Water Board, and if required by the Colorado River Basin Water Board, obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
7. **Operational Personnel.** The Facility shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing the necessary expertise in the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment system.
8. Physical copies of this Order, as well as of the operative Monitoring and Reporting Program, shall be maintained onsite at the Facility, and shall be identified to all operating personnel; the Discharger shall ensure that such personnel are familiarized with these materials.
9. The Discharger shall retain copies of all reports required by this Order and the associated MRP. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of five years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application.

Records may be maintained electronically. This period may be extended in writing by the Executive Officer.

10. **Changes in Ownership.** Prior to any change in ownership of this operation, the Discharger shall notify the Executive Officer in writing at least 30 days in advance. The notice shall include a written transfer agreement between the existing owner and the new owner. At a minimum, the transfer agreement shall contain a specific date for transfer of responsibility for compliance with this Order, and an acknowledgment that the new owner or operator is liable for compliance with this Order from the date of transfer. The Board may require modification or revocation and reissuance of this Order to formally substitute the permitted parties, and to incorporate other requirements as appropriate.

### **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A—Monitoring and Reporting Program  
Attachment B—Maps and Facility Diagrams

### **ENFORCEMENT**

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Dischargers fail to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to \$10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to the Water Code, including sections 13268, 13350 and 13385. The Colorado River Basin Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

Any person aggrieved by this Colorado River Basin Water Board action may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. To be timely, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the next business day. The law and regulations applicable to filing petitions are available on the [State Water Board website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)). Copies will also be provided upon request.

## ATTACHMENT A—MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

### A. General Requirements

1. **Testing and Analytical Methods.** The collection, preservation, and holding times of all samples shall be in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)-approved procedures. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of either the USEPA's Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. part 136) or Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods Compendium (SW-846), unless otherwise specified in the MRP or approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer.
2. **Laboratory Certification.** All analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), unless otherwise approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer.
3. **Reporting Levels.** All analytical data shall be reported with method detection limits (MDLs) and with either the reporting level or limits of quantitation (LOQs) according to 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136, Appendix B. The laboratory reporting limit for all reported monitoring data shall be no greater than the practical quantitation limit (PQL).
4. **Sampling Location(s).** Samples shall be collected at the location(s) specified in the WDRs. If no location is specified, sampling shall be conducted at the most representative sampling point available.
5. **Representative Sampling.** All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The time, date, and location of each grab sample shall be recorded on the chain of custody form for the sample. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Colorado River Basin Water Board staff.
6. **Instrumentation and Calibration.** All monitoring instruments and devices used by the Discharger shall be properly maintained and calibrated to ensure their continued accuracy. Any flow measurement devices shall be calibrated at least once per year to ensure continued accuracy of the devices. In the event that continuous monitoring equipment is out of service for a period greater than 24 hours, the Discharger shall obtain

representative grab samples each day the equipment is out of service. The Discharger shall correct the cause(s) of failure of the continuous monitoring equipment as soon as practicable. The Discharger shall report the period(s) during which the equipment was out of service and if the problem has not been corrected, shall identify the steps which the Discharger is taking or proposes to take to bring the equipment back into service and the schedule for these actions.

7. **Field Test Instruments.** Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided that:
  - a. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;
  - b. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;
  - c. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and
  - d. Field calibration reports are submitted.
  
8. **Records Retention.** 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, for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of the sampling or measurement. This period may be extended by request of the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer at any time. 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. All sampling and analytical results, including:

- i. units of measurement used;
  - ii. minimum reporting limit for the analyses;
  - iii. results less than the reporting limit but above the method detection limit (MDL);
  - iv. data qualifiers and a description of the qualifiers;
  - v. quality control test results (and a written copy of the laboratory quality assurance plan);
  - vi. dilution factors, if used; and
  - vii. sample matrix type.
9. **Inoperative Facility.** 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 Colorado River Basin Water Board indicating that there has been no activity during the required reporting period.

**B. Monitoring Requirements**

1. Wastewater that is discharged to the Designated Disposal Area (Influent) shall be monitored in accordance with MRP Table 1 below.

**MRP Table 1. Influent Monitoring Schedule.**

| Constituent | Units | Sample      | Monitoring Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
|-------------|-------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Flow        | MGD   | Measurement | Daily                | Quarterly           |
| BOD5        | mg/L  | Grab        | Monthly              | Quarterly           |
| TSS         | mg/L  | Grab        | Monthly              | Quarterly           |

2. Wastewater stored within the Designated Disposal Area (Effluent) shall be monitored in accordance with MRP Table 2 below. Samples shall be collected from opposite the inlet at a depth of one foot and from each pond in use. If there is little or no water in the evaporation/percolation ponds,

the monitoring report shall state: “No standing water in ponds” in place of reporting pH and dissolved oxygen concentration.

**MRP Table 2. Effluent (Pond) Monitoring Schedule.**

| Constituent  | Units      | Type             | Monitoring Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
|--|------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Freeboard  | 0.1 feet   | Measurement      | Monthly              | Quarterly           |
| pH   | Std. Units | Grab             | Weekly               | Quarterly           |
| Dissolved Oxygen                                   | mg/L       | Grab             | Weekly               | Quarterly           |
| BOD5   | mg/L       | Grab             | Monthly              | Quarterly           |
| TSS  | mg/L       | Grab             | Monthly              | Quarterly           |
| TDS  | mg/L       | Grab             | Monthly              | Quarterly           |
| Nitrate as N                                       | mg/L       | Grab             | Quarterly            | Quarterly           |
| Nitrite as N                                       | mg/L       | Grab             | Quarterly            | Quarterly           |
| Total Nitrogen                                     | mg/L       | Grab             | Quarterly            | Quarterly           |
| Ammonia as N                                       | mg/L       | Grab             | Quarterly            | Quarterly           |
| VOCs (EPA 624)                                     | µg/L       | Grab             | Annually             | Annually            |
| Volume of wastewater used for landscape irrigation | MGD        | Flow Measurement | Daily                | Quarterly           |

3. The domestic water supply shall be monitored in accordance with MRP Table 3 below. Samples shall be collected at a location or in a manner that

is representative of actual TDS concentrations of domestic water distributed to the community.

**MRP Table 3. Source Water Monitoring Schedule.**

| Constituent | Units | Type of Sample | Monitoring Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
|-------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| TDS         | mg/L  | Grab           | Monthly              | Quarterly           |

4. Upon determining the adequacy of the existing groundwater monitoring network, the Discharger shall conduct groundwater monitoring of the designated well(s)<sup>20</sup> in accordance with MRP Table 4 below.

**MRP Table 4. Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Schedule.**

| Parameter            | Units | Type of Sample | Monitoring Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
|----------------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Depth to Groundwater | ft    | Measurement    | Quarterly            | Quarterly           |

5. Upon approval, the groundwater quality monitoring wells shall be monitored in accordance with MRP Table 5 below.

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<sup>20</sup> The Discharger may utilize a separate monitoring well to monitor groundwater elevations.

**MRP Table 5. Groundwater Quality Monitoring Schedule.**

| <b>Parameter</b>      | <b>Units</b> | <b>Type of Sample</b> | <b>Monitoring Frequency</b> | <b>Reporting Frequency</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Depth to Groundwater  | ft           | Measurement           | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Groundwater Elevation | ft           | Calculated            | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Flow Gradient         | feet/foot    | Calculated            | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Flow Direction        | Degrees      | Calculated            | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| TDS                   | mg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Nitrate as N          | mg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Nitrite as N          | mg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Total Nitrogen        | mg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Sulfate               | mg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Chloride              | mg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Fluoride              | mg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| VOCs                  | µg/L         | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| Total Coliform        | MPN/100mL    | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |
| E. Coli               | MPN/100mL    | Grab                  | Quarterly                   | Quarterly                  |

6. Prior to offsite disposal, sludge generated at the Facility shall be sampled and analyzed in accordance with MRP Table 6.



**MRP Table 6. Sludge Monitoring Schedule.**

| Constituent    | Units    | Type of Sample | Monitoring Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Arsenic        | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Cadmium        | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Copper         | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Chromium       | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Lead           | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Mercury        | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Molybdenum     | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Nickel         | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Selenium       | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Zinc           | mg/kg    | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |
| Fecal Coliform | MPN/gram | Composite      | Annually             | Annually            |

**C. Reporting Requirements**

1. **Quarterly Reporting.** Daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly monitoring shall be included in the Quarterly Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs). Quarterly SMRs shall be submitted by **January 31st, April 30th, July 31st, and October 31st**. Each report shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - a. **Cover Letter.** A transmittal letter summarizing the essential points in the report.
  - b. **Maps.** Maps depicting the Facility layout and the location of sampling points.

- c. **Tabulated Monitoring Data.** Tables of the data collected. Each row shall be a monitoring event and each column shall be a separate parameter at a single location (or a single average, as appropriate).
  - d. **Compliance Summary.** Identification of any violations found since the last report was submitted, and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger previously submitted a report describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated.
2. **Annual Reporting.** In addition to the above requirements, the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter SMR (due January 31) shall contain the following:
  - a. **Tabulated Summary of All Previous Monitoring Data.** Tables of the data collected. The tables shall include all of the data collected to-date at each monitoring point, organized in chronological order, with the oldest data in the top row and progressively newer data in rows below the top row. Each row shall be a monitoring event and each column shall be a separate parameter at a single location (or a single average, as appropriate).
  - b. **Graphical Display.** Graphs depicting monitoring parameters through time, with the concentrations being the y-axis and time being the x-axis. Logarithmic scales can be used for values that vary by orders of magnitude. Individual graphs can combine multiple locations or multiple chemicals if that allows the data to be compared more easily.
  - c. **Pretreatment Report.** Information concerning significant industrial wastewater discharged to the treatment facility, and an affirmative statement concerning whether there is a need to establish an industrial pretreatment program.
  - d. **Operation and Maintenance Summary.** Information concerning operation and maintenance of the facility, including documentation showing the calibration of flow meters and equipment, modifications to the Operation and Maintenance Manual, and any modifications or updates to the Discharger's wastewater rules and/or regulations.
  - e. **Compliance Summary.** Identification of any violations found since the last report was submitted, and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger previously submitted a report

describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated.

- f. **Summary of Sludge Disposal Activities.** The quantity, location and method of disposal of all sludge and similar solid materials being produced at the Facility. If no sludge is disposed of during the subject year, the Discharger shall indicate “No Sludge Removed.”
3. **Supplemental Monitoring.** The results of any analyses or monitoring activities conducted in addition to those specified herein, or conducted on more frequent basis than otherwise required herein, shall be reported to the Colorado River Basin Water Board in the next regularly submitted SMR.

### ATTACHMENT B—MAPS AND FACILITY DIAGRAMS

Figure 1. Map with Facility Location

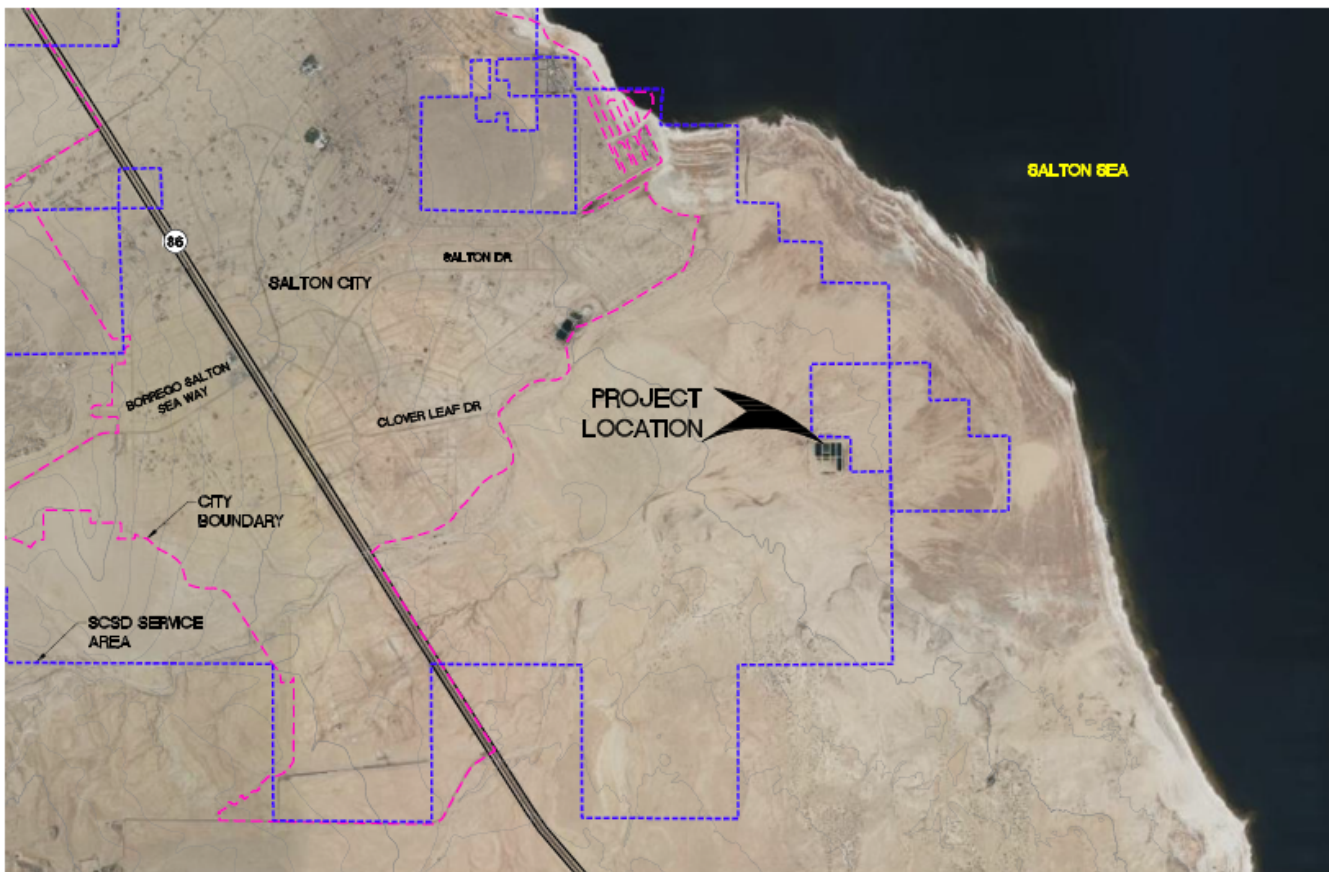


Figure 2. Site Plan

