
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 15 2020

Mr. Chris Aguillon
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VIA EMAIL

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO GROUNDWATER – SANTA MONICA EXPLORATORY WELL SM-10i INJECTION TESTING, OLYMPIC BOULEVARD MEDIAN AT 26TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA 90404 (FILE NO. 19-028, ORDER NO. 93-010, SERIES NO. 051, CI-10539, GLOBAL ID WDR100046020)

Dear Mr. Aguillon:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is the public agency with primary responsibility for the protection of ground and surface water quality for all beneficial uses of water within major portions of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Santa Monica's proposed Exploratory Well SM-10i (Well) is located within the Regional Water Board's jurisdiction.

On January 25, 1993, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. 93-010, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Specified Discharges to Groundwater in Santa Clara River and Los Angeles River Basins* (Order). This Order is applicable to the proposed discharge from the Well.

On September 11, 2019, a Form 200/Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) was received by this Regional Water Board. The City of Santa Monica (hereafter Discharger) proposed to construct the Well in the median of Olympic Boulevard approximately 100 feet southwest of its intersection with 26th Street, in Santa Monica, California (Figure 1) to conduct aquifer testing by injecting potable water into the D-Zone and Sunnyside aquifers in the Olympic Well Field. The D-Zone aquifer is located in the lower portion of the Silverado aquifer and the Sunnyside aquifer is located below the Silverado aquifer. The purpose of the project is to obtain data to be used to evaluate the hydraulic properties of aquifer systems in the area of the Well. In the future, the Well may be used to inject recycled water into the Silverado and Sunnyside aquifers.

The area in the vicinity of the Well was used for manufacturing and light industry. Releases from these operations led to the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and petroleum-based

fuel products in groundwater. These contaminants are observed in the B-Zone and C-Zone aquifers. The Discharger agreed to perform clean-up activities to remediate VOCs in the Charnock, Arcadia, and Olympic groundwater well fields. The remediation uses production wells SM-3 and SM-4 to extract contaminated groundwater that is then treated at the Santa Monica Water Treatment Plant. The Well and SM-3 and SM-4 are in the Olympic Well Field (Figure 2).

Aquifer testing equipment at the Well will include two 3-inch interior diameter (I.D.) casings installed in the well bore from the surface to approximately 20 feet below the current static water level (approximately 140 feet below ground surface). One casing has a 1-inch diameter orifice plate at the bottom and the other casing has a 2-inch diameter orifice plate at the bottom.

Injection testing will consist of three phases: initial baseline testing, step-rate injection testing, and cycle testing. In the initial baseline testing phase, the Discharger will establish baseline trends of the pre-injection static water levels. In the step-rate injection testing phase, the Discharger will inject in four steps at 50, 75, 100, and 125 percent (%) of the design injection rate of 300 gpm. Each step will be 24 hours. In the cycle testing phase, the constant-rate injection test will be performed for a period of 10 days at a rate of 80% of the final injection pumping rate.

Regional Water Board staff has reviewed the information provided and has determined that the proposed discharge meets the conditions specified in Order No. 93-010, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Specified Discharges to Groundwater in Santa Clara River and Los Angeles River Basins*.

Enclosed are your General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), consisting of Order No. 93-010 (Series No. 051) and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. CI-10539. Please note that the Water Quality Objectives in Table 3-13 of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) for the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles-Santa Monica Groundwater Basin are the applicable discharge limits for your discharge. The MRP requires you to implement the monitoring program on the effective date of coverage under this permit. The maximum waste discharge from the Well shall not exceed 5 million gallons during this aquifer testing.

You must comply with the Electronic Submittal of Information (ESI) requirements by submitting all reports and correspondence required under the MRP, including groundwater monitoring data, discharge location data, and pdf monitoring reports to the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database under Global ID WDR100046020.

Please see Paperless Office Notice for GeoTracker Users, dated December 12, 2011 at the Paperless Office on the Regional Water Board website (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/resources/Paperless/Paperless%20Office%20for%20GT%20Users.pdf>).

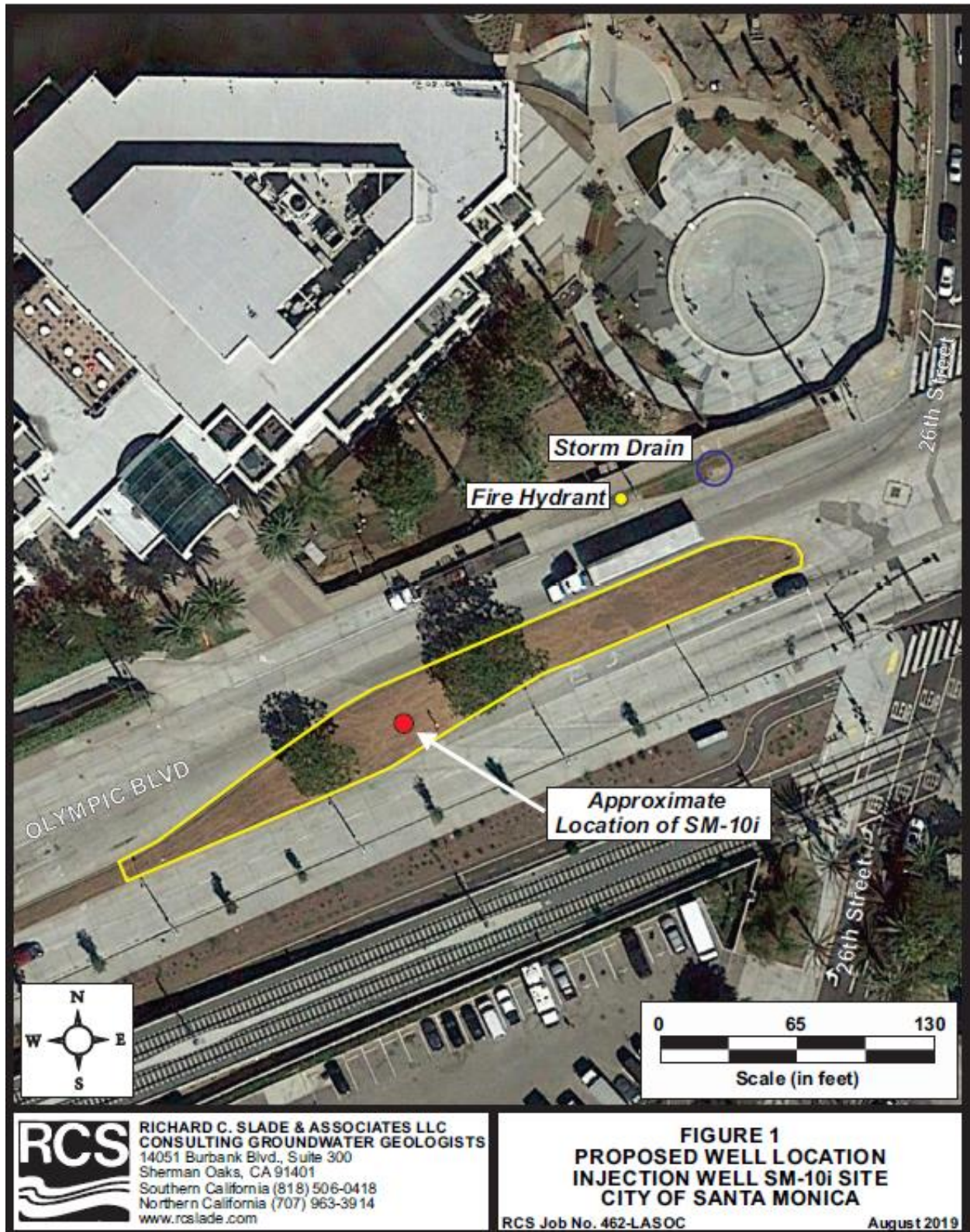


Figure 1. Proposed Well Location, Exploratory Well SM-10i

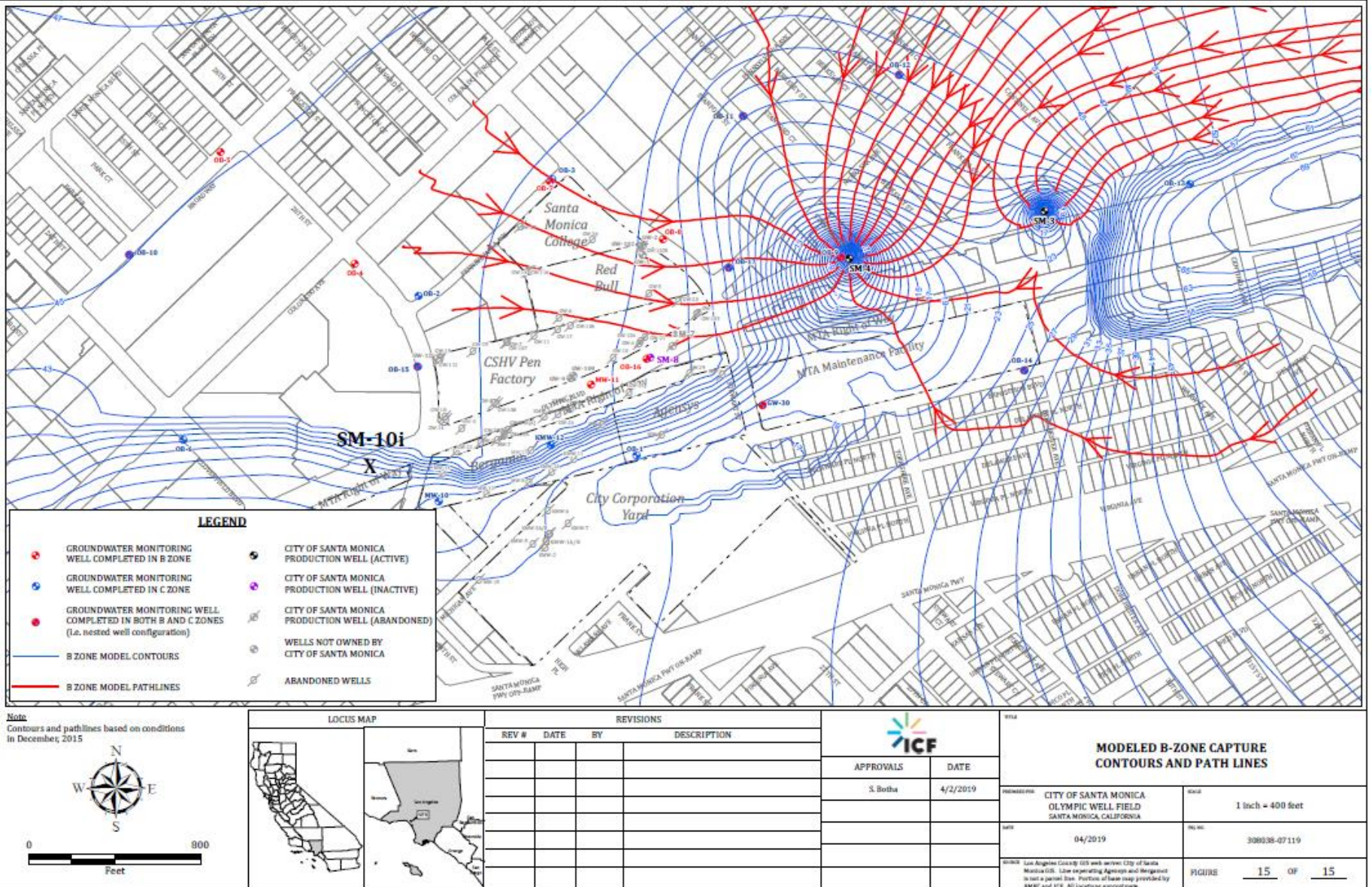


Figure 2. Proposed Exploratory Well (SM-10i) Location and Active Production Wells (SM-3 and SM-4)

**STANDARD PROVISIONS
APPLICABLE TO WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS**

1. DUTY TO COMPLY

The discharger must comply with all conditions of these waste discharge requirements. A responsible party has been designated in the Order for this project, and is legally bound to maintain the monitoring program and permit. 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. (California Water Code, Sections 13261, 13263, 13265, 13268, 13300, 13301, 13304, 13340, and 13350). Failure to comply with any waste discharge requirement, monitoring and reporting requirement, or other order or prohibition issued, reissued or amended by the Los Angeles Water Board or State Water Resources Control Board is a violation of these waste discharge requirements and the Water Code, which can result in the imposition of civil liability. (California Water Code, Section 13350, subdivision (a).)

2. GENERAL PROHIBITION

Neither the treatment nor the discharge of waste shall create a pollution, contamination or nuisance, as defined by California Water Code section 13050. In addition, the discharge of waste classified as hazardous, as defined in California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 2521, subdivision (a) is also prohibited.

3. AVAILABILITY

A copy of these waste discharge requirements shall be maintained at the discharge facility and be available at all times to operating personnel. (California Water Code, Section 13263)

4. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

The discharger must notify the Executive Officer, in writing at least 30 days in advance of any proposed transfer of this Order's responsibility and coverage to a new discharger containing a specific date for the transfer of this Order's responsibility and coverage between the current discharger and the new discharger. This agreement shall include an acknowledgment that the existing discharger is liable for violations up to the transfer date and that the new discharger is liable from the transfer date forward. (California Water Code, Sections 13267 and 13263)

5. CHANGE IN DISCHARGE

In the event of a material change in the character, location, or volume of a discharge, the discharger shall file with this Regional Board a new Report of Waste Discharge. (California Water Code, Section 13260, subdivision (c)). A material change includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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- (a) Addition of a major industrial waste discharge to a discharge of essentially domestic sewage, or the addition of a new process or product by an industrial facility resulting in a change in the character of the waste.
- (b) Significant change in disposal method, e.g., change from a land disposal to a direct discharge to water, or change in the method of treatment which would significantly alter the characteristics of the waste.
- (c) Significant change in the disposal area, e.g., moving the discharge to another drainage area, to a different water body, or to a disposal area significantly removed from the original area potentially causing different water quality or nuisance problems.
- (d) Increase in flow beyond that specified in the waste discharge requirements.
- (e) Increase in the area or depth to be used for solid waste disposal beyond that specified in the waste discharge requirements. (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 2210)

6. REVISION

These waste discharge requirements are subject to review and revision by the Regional Board. (California Water Code, Sections 13263)

7. NOTIFICATION

Where the discharger becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a Report of Waste Discharge or submitted incorrect information in a Report of Waste Discharge or in any report to the Regional Board, it shall promptly submit such facts or information. (California Water Code, Sections 13260 and 13267)

8. VESTED RIGHTS

This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, do not protect the discharger from his liability under Federal, State or local laws, nor do they create a vested right for the discharger to continue the waste discharge. (California Water Code, Section 13263, subdivision (g).)

9. SEVERABILITY

Provisions of these waste discharge requirements are severable. If any provisions of these requirements are found invalid, the remainder of the requirements shall not be affected.

10. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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 Order. Proper operation and maintenance include effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls including appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order. (California Water Code, Section 13263, subdivision (f).)

11. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Except for a discharge which is in compliance with these waste discharge requirements, any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any hazardous substance or sewage to be discharged in or on any waters of the State, or discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged in or on any waters of the State, shall, as soon as (a) that person has knowledge of the discharge, (b) notification is possible, and (c) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services of the discharge in accordance with the spill reporting provision of the State toxic disaster contingency plan adopted pursuant to Article 3.7 (commencing with Section 8574.7) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and immediately notify the State Board or the appropriate Regional Board of the discharge. This provision does not require reporting of any discharge of less than a reportable quantity as provided for under subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 13271 of the Water Code unless the discharger is in violation of a prohibition in the applicable Water Quality Control plan. (California Water Code, Section 13271, subdivision (a).)

12. OIL OR PETROLEUM RELEASES

Except for a discharge which is in compliance with these waste discharge requirements, any person who without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any oil or petroleum product to be discharged in or on any waters of the State, or discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged in or on any waters of the State, shall, as soon as (a) such person has knowledge of the discharge, (b) notification is possible, and (c) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services of the discharge in accordance with the spill reporting provision of the State oil spill contingency plan adopted pursuant to Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 8574.1) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code. This provision does not require reporting of any discharge of less than 42 gallons unless the discharge is also required to be reported pursuant to Section 311 of the Clean Water Act or the discharge is in violation of a prohibition in the applicable Water Quality Control Plan. (California Water Code, Section 13272)

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13. INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS

The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an 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, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this Order;
- (b) Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Order;
- (c) Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order; and
- (d) Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring compliance with this Order, or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at any location. (California Water Code, Section 13267)
- (e) Except for material determined to be confidential in accordance with applicable law, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this Order shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Los Angeles Water Board. Data on waste discharges, water quality, geology, and hydrogeology shall not be considered confidential.

14. MONITORING PROGRAM AND DEVICES

The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports; such reports shall be submitted in accordance with specifications prepared by the Executive Officer, which specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted. (California Water Code, Section 13267)

All monitoring instruments and devices used by the discharger to fulfill the prescribed monitoring program shall be properly maintained and calibrated as necessary to ensure their continued accuracy. All flow measurement devices shall be calibrated at least once per year, or more frequently, to ensure continued accuracy of the devices. Annually, the discharger shall submit to the Executive Office a written statement, signed by a registered professional engineer, certifying that all flow measurement devices have been calibrated and will reliably achieve the accuracy required.

The analysis of any material required pursuant to Division 7 of the Water Code shall be performed by a laboratory that has accreditation or certification pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 100825) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 101 of the

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Health and Safety Code. However, this requirement does not apply to field tests, such as test for color, odor, turbidity, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and disinfectant residual chlorine. (California Water Code, Section 13176). Unless otherwise permitted by the Regional Board Executive officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water. All analyses shall be required to be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants" (40 CFR Part 136) promulgated by the United States, Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). (California Code of Regulation, Title 23, Section 2230)

The Quality Assurance-Quality Control Program must conform to the USEPA Guidelines "Laboratory Documentation Requirements for Data Validation", January 1990, USEPA Region 9) or procedures approved by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

All quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) analyses must be run on the same dates when samples were actually analyzed. All QA/QC data shall be reported, along with the sample results to which they apply, including the method, equipment, analytical detection and quantitation limits, the percent recovery, and explanation for any recovery that falls outside the QC limits, the results of equipment and method blanks, the results of spiked and surrogate samples, the frequency of quality control analysis, and the name and qualifications of the person(s) performing the analyses. Sample results shall be reported unadjusted for blank results or spike recoveries. In cases where contaminants are detected in QA/QC samples (e.g., field, trip, or lab blanks); the accompanying sample results shall be appropriately flagged.

The Discharger shall make all QA/QC data available for inspection by Regional Board staff and submit the QA/QC documentation with its respective quarterly report. Proper chain of custody procedures must be followed and a copy of that documentation shall be submitted with the quarterly report.

15. TREATMENT FAILURE

In an enforcement action, it shall not be a defense for the discharger that it would have been necessary to halt or to reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with this Order. Upon reduction, loss, or failure of the treatment facility, the discharger shall, to the extent necessary to maintain compliance with this Order, control production or all discharges, or both, until the facility is restored or an alternative method of treatment is provided. This provision applies, for example, when the primary source of power of the treatment facility fails, is reduced, or is lost. (California Water Code, Section 13263, subdivision (f).)

16. DISCHARGE TO NAVIGABLE WATERS

A person who discharges pollutants or proposes to discharge pollutants or proposes to discharge pollutants to the navigable waters of the United States within the

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jurisdiction of this state or a person who discharges dredged or fill material or proposes to discharge dredged or fill material into the navigable waters of the United States within the jurisdiction of this state shall file a report of waste discharge in compliance with the procedures set forth in Water Code section 13260. (California Water Code, Section 13376)

17. ENDANGERMENT TO HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The discharger shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any such information shall be provided verbally to the Executive Officer within 24 hours from the time the discharger becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within five days of the time the discharger becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected; the anticipated time it is expected to continue and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The Executive officer, or an authorized representative, may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours. The following occurrence(s) must be reported to the Executive Office within 24 hours:

- (a) Any bypass from any portion of the treatment facility.
- (b) Any discharge of treated or untreated wastewater resulting from sewer line breaks, obstruction, surcharge or any other circumstances.
- (c) Any treatment plan upset which causes the effluent limitation of this Order to be exceeded. (California Water Code, Sections 13263 and 13267)

18. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information including all calibration and maintenance records, all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this Order, and record of all data used to complete the application for this Order. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of three years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. This period may be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding this discharge or when requested by the Regional Board Executive Officer.

Records of monitoring information shall include:

- (a) The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement;
- (b) The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurement;
- (c) The date(s) analyses were performed;

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- (d) The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
 - (e) The analytical techniques or method used; and
 - (f) The results of such analyses.
- 19.** (a) All application reports or information to be submitted to the Executive Office shall be signed and certified as follows:
- (1) For a corporation – by a principal executive officer or at least the level of vice president.
 - (2) For a partnership or sole proprietorship – by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively.
 - (3) For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency – by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
- (b) A duly authorized representative of a person designated in paragraph (a) of this provision may sign documents if:
- (1) The authorization is made in writing by a person described in paragraph (a) of this provision.
 - (2) The authorization specifies either an individual or position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity; and
 - (3) The written authorization is submitted to the Executive Officer.

Any person signing a document under this Section shall make the following certification:

“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. [California Water Code Sections 13263, 13267, and 13268]”

20. OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

Supervisors and operators of municipal wastewater treatment plants and privately owned facilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, used in the treatment or reclamation of sewage and industrial waste shall possess a certificate of appropriate grade in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23,

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section 3680. State Boards may accept experience in lieu of qualification training. (California Code of Regulations, Title, 23, Sections 3680 and 3680.2.) In lieu of a properly certified wastewater treatment plant operator, the State Board may approve use of a water treatment plant operator of appropriate grade certified by the State Department of Public Health where reclamation is involved. (California Code of Regulations, Title, 23, Section 3670.1, subdivision (b).)

**ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT
WORKS' ADEQUATE CAPACITY**

21. Whenever a regional board finds that a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant will reach capacity within four years, the board shall notify the discharger. Such notification shall inform the discharger that the regional board will consider adopting a time schedule order pursuant to Section 13300 of the Water Code or other enforcement order unless the discharger can demonstrate that adequate steps are being taken to address the capacity problem. The notification shall require the discharger to submit a technical report to the regional board within 120 days showing how flow volumes will be prevented from exceeding existing capacity or how capacity will be increased. A copy of such notification shall be sent to appropriate local elected officials, local permitting agencies and the press. The time for filing the required technical report may be extended by the regional board. An extension of 30 days may be granted by the executive officer. Longer extensions may be granted by the regional board itself. (California Code of Regulations, Title, 23, Section 2232.)