

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT R5-2010-0526

MANDATORY PENALTY  
IN THE MATTER OF

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION  
DEUEL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION  
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

This Complaint is issued to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (hereafter Discharger) pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13385, which authorizes the imposition of Administrative Civil Liability, and CWC section 13323, which authorizes the Executive Officer to issue this Complaint. This Complaint is based on findings that the Discharger violated provisions of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2008-0164 (NPDES No. CA0078093).

The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) finds the following:

1. The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, and provides sewerage service to the Deuel Vocational Institution. Treated municipal wastewater is discharged into Deuel Drain, a water of the United States and part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and tributary to Paradise Cut and Old River.
2. On 25 April 2003, the Central Valley Water Board issued Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2003-0066, providing the Discharger with a time schedule until 1 March 2008 to comply with effluent limitations for nitrate, ammonia, total dissolved solids (TDS), and electrical conductivity. On 21 October 2005, the Board issued CDO R5-2005-0152. This CDO extended the time schedule until 1 March 2009 to comply with new effluent limitations for electrical conductivity, TDS, ammonia, nitrate, total coliform, turbidity, bromodichloromethane, bromoform, and dibromochloromethane. It also provided a time schedule until 1 March 2008 to comply with new effluent limitations for benzene, bromoform, chloroform, dibromochloromethane, cis-1,2-dichloroethane, ethylbenzene, tetrachloroethene, toluene, trichloroethene, and xylenes.
3. On 24 October 2008, the Central Valley Water Board issued WDRs Order R5-2008-0164, which rescinded the previous Order for the Deuel Vocational Institution, and regulates the discharges of waste from the facility. On 24 October 2008, the Board also issued CDO R5-2008-0165, which established interim effluent limitations for bromoform, chlorodibromomethane, electrical conductivity, dichlorobromomethane, and nitrate until 31 December 2009. On 29 January 2010, the Board issued Order R5-2010-0010 amending CDO R5-2008-0165 to extend the final compliance date for dibromochloromethane to 31 December 2010.
4. This Complaint considers the protection from Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) provided by the three CDOs.

5. On 12 November 2009, the Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint R5-2009-0571 for mandatory minimum penalties for effluent violations from 1 January 2009 through 31 July 2009. The Discharger paid the administrative civil liability and the Board considers the matter resolved.
6. This Complaint covers the period of 1 August 2009 through 31 March 2010. On 3 May 2010, the Central Valley Water Board staff issued the Discharger a draft Record of Violations for the time period of 1 August 2009 through 28 February 2010. The Discharger responded on 18 May 2010 and agreed with the violations. This Complaint extends the period of record to 31 March 2010 and adds one violation.
7. CWC sections 13385(h) and (i) require assessment of mandatory penalties and state, in part, the following:

CWC section 13385(h)(1) states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each serious violation.

CWC section 13385 (h)(2) states:

For the purposes of this section, a "serious violation" means any waste discharge that violates the effluent limitations contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements for a Group II pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 20 percent or more or for a Group I pollutant, as specified in Appendix A to Section 123.45 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, by 40 percent or more.

CWC section 13385(i)(1) states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, and except as provided in subdivisions (j), (k), and (l), a mandatory minimum penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be assessed for each violation whenever the person does any of the following four or more times in any period of six consecutive months, except that the requirement to assess the mandatory minimum penalty shall not be applicable to the first three violations:

- A) Violates a waste discharge requirement effluent limitation.
- B) Fails to file a report pursuant to Section 13260.
- C) Files an incomplete report pursuant to Section 13260.
- D) Violates a toxicity effluent limitation contained in the applicable waste discharge requirements where the waste discharge requirements do not contain pollutant-specific effluent limitations for toxic pollutants."

8. CWC section 13385(j) exempts certain violations from the mandatory minimum penalties, and states, in relevant part:

Subdivisions (h) and (i) do not apply to any of the following:

...

(3) A violation of an effluent limitation where the waste discharge is in compliance with either a cease and desist order issued pursuant to Section 13301 or a time schedule order issued pursuant to Section 13300 or 13308 if all of the following requirements are met:

...

(C) The regional board establishes a time schedule for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitation that is as short as possible....For the purposes of this subdivision, the time schedule may not exceed five years in length ....

Protection from mandatory minimum penalties for electrical conductivity and nitrate plus nitrogen contained in the CDOs has expired.

9. CWC section 13323 states, in part:

Any executive officer of a regional board may issue a complaint to any person on whom administrative civil liability may be imposed pursuant to this article. The complaint shall allege the act or failure to act that constitutes a violation of law, the provision authorizing civil liability to be imposed pursuant to this article, and the proposed civil liability.

10. WDRs Order R5-2008-0164 Effluent Limitations IV.A.1.a., include, in part, the following effluent limitations:

a. The Discharger shall maintain compliance with the effluent limitations specified in the following table:

**Table 6. Effluent Limitations – Discharge Point No. 001**

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations				
		Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Instantaneous Maximum	Instantaneous Minimum
Electrical Conductivity @ 25C	µmhos/cm	700 <sup>2</sup>	--	--	--	--
		1,000 <sup>3</sup>				
Nitrate Nitrogen, Total (as N)	mg/L	10	--	--	--	--

<sup>2</sup> Applies from 1 April through 31 August

<sup>3</sup> Applies from 1 September through 31 March

11. WDRs Order R5-2008-0164 Effluent Limitations IV.A.1.d., include, in part, the following effluent limitations:

a. **Temperature.** The maximum temperature of the discharge shall not exceed the natural receiving water temperature by more than 20°F.

12. According to the Discharger’s self-monitoring reports, the Discharger committed seven (7) serious Group I violations of the above effluent limitations contained in WDRs Order R5-2008-0164 during the period beginning 1 August 2009 and ending 31 March 2010. These violations are defined as serious because measured concentrations of Group I constituents exceeded maximum prescribed levels in WDRs Order R5-2008-0164 by 40

percent or more. The mandatory minimum penalty for these serious violations is **twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000)**.

13. According to the Discharger's self-monitoring reports, the Discharger committed five (5) non-serious violations of the above effluent limitations contained in WDRs Order R5-2008-0164 during the period beginning 1 August 2009 and ending 31 March 2010. These five (5) non-serious violation are subject to mandatory penalty under CWC section 13385(i)(1) because they were preceded by three or more similar violations within a six-month period. The mandatory minimum penalty for these non-serious violations is **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)**.
14. The total amount of the mandatory penalties assessed for the cited effluent violations is **thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000)**. A detailed list of the cited effluent violations is included in Attachment A, a part of this Complaint.
15. Issuance of this Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to enforce CWC Division 7, Chapter 5.5 is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321(a)(2).

**THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION IS HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE THAT:**

1. The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board proposes that the Discharger be assessed an Administrative Civil Liability in the amount of **thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000)**.
2. A hearing on this matter will be held at the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled on **22/23/24 September 2010**, unless the Discharger does one of the following by **26 July 2010**:
  - a) Waives the hearing by completing the attached form (checking off the box next to Option 1) and returning it to the Central Valley Water Board, along with payment for the proposed civil liability of **thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000)**; or
  - b) The Central Valley Water Board agrees to postpone any necessary hearing after the Discharger requests to engage in settlement discussions by checking off the box next to Option #2 on the attached form, and returns it to the Board along with a letter describing the issues to be discussed; or
  - c) The Central Valley Water Board agrees to postpone any necessary hearing after the Discharger requests a delay by checking off the box next to Option #3 on the attached form, and returns it to the Board along with a letter describing the issues to be discussed.

3. If a hearing on this matter is held, the Central Valley Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Administrative Civil Liability, or whether to refer the matter to the Attorney General for recovery of judicial civil liability.

If this matter proceeds to hearing, the Executive Officer reserves the right to amend the proposed amount of civil liability to conform to the evidence presented, including but not limited to, increasing the proposed amount to account for the costs of enforcement (including staff, legal and expert witness costs) incurred after the date of the issuance of this Complaint through completion of the hearing.

*Original signed by Frederick Moss for*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

25 June 2010

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Attachment A: Record of Violations  
BLH: 24 June 2010

**WAIVER FORM  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT**

By signing this waiver, I affirm and acknowledge the following:

I am duly authorized to represent California Department Corrections and Rehabilitation (hereafter Discharger) in connection with Administrative Civil Liability Complaint R5-2010-0526 (hereafter Complaint). I am informed that California Water Code section 13323, subdivision (b), states that, "a hearing before the regional board shall be conducted within 90 days after the party has been served. The person who has been issued a complaint may waive the right to a hearing."

**(OPTION 1: Check here if the Discharger waives the hearing requirement and will pay in full.)**

- a. I hereby waive any right the Discharger may have to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board.
- b. I certify that the Discharger will remit payment for the proposed civil liability in the full amount of **thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000)** by check that references "ACL Complaint R5-2010-0526" made payable to the *State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account*. Payment must be received by the Central Valley Water Board by **26 July 2010**.
- c. I understand the payment of the above amount constitutes a proposed settlement of the Complaint, and that any settlement will not become final until after a 30-day public notice and comment period. Should the Central Valley Water Board receive significant new information or comments during this comment period, the Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer may withdraw the complaint, return payment, and issue a new complaint. I also understand that approval of the settlement will result in the Discharger having waived the right to contest the allegations in the Complaint and the imposition of civil liability.
- d. I understand that payment of the above amount is not a substitute for compliance with applicable laws and that continuing violations of the type alleged in the Complaint may subject the Discharger to further enforcement, including additional civil liability.

**(OPTION 2: Check here if the Discharger waives the 90-day hearing requirement in order to engage in settlement discussions.)** I hereby waive any right the Discharger may have to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days after service of the complaint, but I reserve the ability to request a hearing in the future. I certify that the Discharger will promptly engage the Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team in settlement discussions to attempt to resolve the outstanding violation(s). By checking this box, the Discharger requests that the Central Valley Water Board delay the hearing so that the Discharger and the Prosecution Team can discuss settlement. It remains within the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board to agree to delay the hearing. Any proposed settlement is subject to the conditions described above under "Option 1."

**(OPTION 3: Check here if the Discharger waives the 90-day hearing requirement in order to extend the hearing date and/or hearing deadlines. Attach a separate sheet with the amount of additional time requested and the rationale.)** I hereby waive any right the Discharger may have to a hearing before the Central Valley Water Board within 90 days after service of the complaint. By checking this box, the Discharger requests that the Central Valley Water Board delay the hearing and/or hearing deadlines so that the Discharger may have additional time to prepare for the hearing. It remains within the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board to approve the extension.

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(Print Name and Title)

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(Signature)

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(Date)

**ATTACHMENT A  
ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT R5-2010-0526**

**Deuel Vocational Institution  
Wastewater Treatment Plant**

RECORD OF VIOLATIONS (1 August 2009 – 31 March 2010) MANDATORY PENALTIES  
(Data reported under Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2008-0164)

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Violation Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Limit</u>	<u>Measured</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>CIWQS</u>
				300				
*	30-Apr-09	EC Dichlorobromomethan	µmhos/cm	0	3040	Daily	3*	824408
*	2-Jun-09	e Dichlorobromomethan	µg/L	15	18	Daily	2*	840984
*	7-Jul-09	e	µg/L	15	18	Daily	2*	840981
1	31-Aug-09	EC	µmhos/cm	700	816	Monthly	4	857160
2	30-Sep-09	Nitrate	mg/L	10	23	Monthly	1	857162
				100				
3	31-Oct-09	EC	µmhos/cm	0	1336	Monthly	4	857164
4	31-Oct-09	Nitrate	mg/L	10	25	Monthly	1	857165
5	30-Nov-09	Nitrate	mg/L	10	25	Monthly	1	868756
6	8-Dec-09	Temperature	deg. F	56	57	Instant	4	868763
				100				
7	31-Dec-09	EC	µmhos/cm	0	1100	Monthly	4	868768
8	31-Dec-09	Nitrate	mg/L	10	28	Monthly	1	868769
9	31-Jan-10	Nitrate	mg/L	10	23	Monthly	1	868775
				100				
10	28-Feb-10	EC	µmhos/cm	0	1140	Monthly	4	868783
11	28-Feb-10	Nitrate	mg/L	10	22	Monthly	1	868784
12	31-Mar-10	Nitrate	mg/L	10	23	Monthly	1	872868

Remarks:

1. Serious Violation: For Group I pollutants that exceed the effluent limitation by 40 percent or more.
2. Serious Violation: For Group II pollutants that exceed the effluent limitation by 20 percent or more.
3. Non-serious violations falls within the first three violations in a six-month period, thus is exempt.
4. Non-serious violation subject to mandatory penalties.

**VIOLATIONS AS OF: 03/31/2010**

Group I Serious Violations:	7
Group II Serious Violations:	0
Non-Serious Exempt from MMPs:	0
Non-serious Violations Subject to MMPs:	5
<b><u>Total Violations Subject to MMPs:</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b>

**Mandatory Minimum Penalty = (7 serious Violation + 5 Non-Serious Violations) x \$3,000 = \$36,000**

\* Supporting violations previously addressed in ACLC R5-2009-0571.