

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

ORDER R7-2014-0055

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER  
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM  
Coachella – Riverside County**

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

1. Coachella Sanitary District, (CSD or Discharger) located at 1515 6th Street, Coachella, California 92236, owns and operates an industrial wastewater collection and disposal system within the City of Coachella.
2. This discharge has been subject to Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) adopted in Order 02-099 on May 8, 2002. The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that WDRs for the discharge are in need of revision. The Facility and these WDRs are identified in the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) by WDID No. 7A361040011.
3. This Order updates the WDRs to comply with current laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the California Code of Regulations.

**Facility**

4. The industrial wastewater collection and disposal system is located at 86-889 Avenue 52, Coachella, California 92236, as shown on Attachment A, incorporated herein and made a part of this Order. It consists of seven (7) percolation/evaporation ponds (a total area of 6 acres) and has a total design capacity of 0.175 million gallons per day (MGD). The annual average daily flow to the facility is approximately 0.08 MGD.
5. The industrial wastewater is collected from six (6) agricultural packing plants with the possibility of accepting wastewater from three (3) more packing plants in the future. The wastewater consists of vegetable and fruit packaging wash water and refrigeration and air conditioning wastewater.
6. The collection system consists of 6-inch through 18-inch diameter sewer lines and the wastewater is conveyed to a lift station located off Avenue 52 at 86-301 Avenue 52. The wastewater is then pumped via a 6-inch diameter force main to the industrial plant ponds. Control valves and standpipes are used to manage the wastewater flows to the ponds.
7. The sludge generated is minimal due to very low suspended solids in the agricultural wastewater and it is mixed in with the soil as needed to maintain percolation rates.

**Hydrogeologic Conditions**

8. Annual precipitation in the Coachella area averages about 3 inches. Annual evapotranspiration rate is about 71 inches.
9. The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is about one mile east of the Facility.
10. Water supply to the community from groundwater production wells within the subbasin to the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin has an average Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentration of about 180 mg/L.
11. There are no domestic wells within 500 feet of the wastewater disposal ponds described in Finding No. 4 above.
12. The site is located in a seismically active desert region.

### **Basin Plan, Beneficial Uses, and Regulatory Considerations**

13. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan), as amended to date, designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface water in this Region.
14. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit are:
  - a. Municipal and domestic supply (MUN)
  - b. Agricultural supply (AGR)
  - c. Industrial service supply (IND)
15. WDRs implement numeric and narrative water quality objectives for ground and surface waters established by the Basin Plan. The numeric objectives for groundwater designated for municipal and domestic supply are the maximum contaminant levels (MCL), and bacteriological limits specified in Section 64421 et seq. of Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR). The narrative objectives are: Ground water for use as domestic or municipal water supply (MUN) shall not contain taste or odor-producing substances in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses as a result of human activity (Basin Plan, page 3-8).
16. Discharges of water softener regeneration brines, other mineralized wastes, and toxic wastes to disposal facilities which ultimately discharge in areas where such wastes can percolate to ground water usable for domestic and municipal purposes are prohibited (Basin Plan, page 3-8).
17. Section 13267 of the California Water Code (CWC) authorizes the regional water boards to require technical and monitoring reports. The Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) establishes monitoring and reporting requirements to implement federal and state requirements.
18. It is the policy of the State of California that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This order promotes that policy by requiring discharges to meet maximum contaminant levels designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use.

19. This Order establishes WDRs pursuant to Division 7, Chapter 4, Article 4, of the CWC for discharges that are not subject to regulation under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402 (33 U.S.C. Section 1342).
20. Pursuant to CWC section 13263(g), the discharge of waste is a privilege, not a right, and adoption of this Order does not create a vested right to continue the discharge.

### **Groundwater Degradation**

21. State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution 68-16 ("Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters of the State", hereinafter Resolution 68-16) requires a regional water board in regulating the discharge of waste to maintain high quality waters of the state (i.e., background water quality) until it is demonstrated that any change in quality will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses, and will not result in water quality less than as described in plans and policies (e.g., violation of any water quality objective). Moreover, the discharge is required to meet WDRs that result in the best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) of the discharge necessary to assure pollution or nuisance will not occur, and highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people will be maintained.
22. The discharge of wastewater from the industrial wastewater collection and disposal system, as permitted herein, reflects BPTC. The controls assure the discharge does not create a condition of pollution or nuisance, and that water quality will be maintained which is consistent with the anti-degradation provisions of Resolution 68-16.
23. The constituents in agricultural wastewater that present the greatest risk to groundwater are pesticides, nutrients, and dissolved salts (TDS). The WDRs contained in this Order minimize the risk of degradation to areal groundwater. The facilities that use the industrial wastewater collection and disposal system contribute to economic development in the area, and washing locally grown agricultural products before transporting them reduces energy consumption and vehicle emissions. These factors are consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State. Accordingly, the discharge as authorized is consistent with the anti-degradation provisions of Resolution 68-16.

### **CEQA and Public Participation**

24. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these WDRs, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.).
25. The Colorado River Basin Water Board has notified the Discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to draft WDRs for this discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
26. The Colorado River Basin Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that Board Order 02-099 is rescinded upon the effective date of this Order, except for enforcement purposes, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the Discharger shall comply with the following:

**A. Discharge Prohibitions**

1. Discharge of waste classified as “hazardous”, as defined in Title 23, CCR, Section 2521(a), or “designated”, as defined in California Water Code Section 13173, is prohibited.
2. The treatment or disposal of wastes from the facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050(l) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
3. Discharge of treated wastewater to a location other than the designated disposal pond system is prohibited.
4. The discharge of any wastewater from the facility to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
5. Bypass, overflow or spill of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.

**B. Effluent Limitations**

1. The 30-day average daily dry weather discharge flow shall not exceed 0.175 MGD.
2. The effluent discharge values for pH shall not be below 6.0 or above 9.0.
3. The increase in concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) in the wastewater discharged to the ponds over that contained in the water supply to the community shall not exceed 400 mg/L. If the TDS limitation is exceeded, the Discharger shall develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures, which are acceptable to the Colorado River Basin Water Board’s Executive Officer.

**C. Groundwater Limitations**

1. Discharge from the industrial wastewater collection and disposal system ponds shall not cause groundwater to:
  - a. Contain waste constituents in concentrations statistically greater than background water quality.
  - b. Contain constituents in excess of California Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), as set forth in Title 22, Section 64426.1 for bacteriological constituents; Section 64431 for inorganic chemicals; Section 64432.1 for nitrates; and Section 64444 for organic chemicals.
  - c. Acquire taste, odor, toxicity, or color that creates nuisance or impairs beneficial use.

**D. Discharge Specifications**

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes from the facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Section 13050(l) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. A minimum depth of freeboard of two (2) feet shall be maintained at all times in the percolation/evaporative ponds.
3. Public contact with non-disinfected wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives. The non-disinfected wastewater is not approved for off-site distribution. Conspicuous signs shall be posted in a prominent location in each area where non-disinfected wastewater is stored on-site. Each sign or label with "Non-disinfected wastewater - No body contact or drinking" wording shall be displayed as well as the international warning symbol.
4. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
5. The percolation/evaporation ponds shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes, in particular:
  - a. An erosion control program should assure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface;
  - b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.
  - c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
6. Objectionable odors originating at this facility shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the industrial wastewater treatment and disposal area.
7. The percolation/evaporation ponds shall be maintained so they will be kept in aerobic conditions.
8. As a means of discerning compliance with Discharge Specifications D.6 and D.7 for discharge to wastewater treatment ponds, the dissolved oxygen content in the upper zone (one foot) of percolation/evaporation ponds shall not be less than 1.0 mg/L.
9. The industrial wastewater treatment facility shall be protected from any washout or erosion of wastes or covering material, and from any inundation, which could occur as a result of floods, having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.

#### **E. Provisions**

1. The Discharger shall comply with all of the conditions of this Board Order. Noncompliance is a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (CWC Section 13000 et seq.), and is grounds for enforcement action.
2. The Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R7-2014- 0055, and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer, which is incorporated by this reference and

attached hereto.

3. The Discharger shall not cause degradation of any water supply in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16.
4. Prior to any modifications in this facility, which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the Discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Colorado River Basin Water Board and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
5. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the Discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Colorado River Basin Water Board.
6. The Discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
7. The Discharger shall allow the Colorado River Basin Water Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
  - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
8. The Discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all systems and components of treatment and control, including, but not limited to, sludge use and disposal facilities which are installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to, effective performance, adequate process controls, adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. All systems, both those in service and reserved, shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records shall be kept of the inspection results and maintenance performed and made available to the Colorado River Basin Water Board upon demand.
9. The Discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. Information shall be provided orally within 24 hours of when the

Discharger becomes aware of the incident to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office and the Office of Emergency Services. The Discharger shall also leave a message on the Colorado River Basin Water Board office voice recorder during non-business hours. A written report shall also be provided within five (5) 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. The Discharger shall report all intentional or unintentional sewage spills in excess of 1,000 gallons occurring within the facility or collection system to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office in accordance with the above time limits.

10. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
11. The Discharger shall ensure that all operating personnel are familiar with the contents of this Board Order.
12. The Discharger is the responsible party for the WDRs and the monitoring and reporting program for the facility. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of these WDRs. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Colorado River Basin Water Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability or in modification or revocation of these WDRs by the Colorado River Basin Water Board.
13. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board Executive Officer and in Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2014-0047. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted. Documents that are normally sent via mail by the Discharger, such as regulatory reports, documents, submissions, materials, data, and correspondence, to the Colorado River Basin Water Board shall be converted to Portable Document Format (PDF) or other appropriate Microsoft application, such as Excel, and emailed to [RB7-wdrs\\_paperless@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB7-wdrs_paperless@waterboards.ca.gov). Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk and mailed to the Colorado River Basin Water board office in Palm Desert.

## **F. Limitations**

14. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations
15. This Board Order does not convey property rights of any sort, or exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize injury to private property or invasion of personal rights, or infringement of federal, state, or local laws\_ or regulations
16. This Board Order may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by-the Discharger for a Board Order modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification ·· of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Board Order condition. Causes for modification· include the promulgation of new regulations, modification of land application plans,

adoption of new regulations by the State Water Resources Control Board, the adoption of SNMPs and other: revisions of the Basin Plan

I, Robert Purdue, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on September 18, 2014.

Original signed by

Robert Purdue  
Executive Officer

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

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM R7-2014-0055

FOR  
COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR COACHELLA INDUSTRIAL  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER  
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

Coachella – Riverside County

Location of Discharge:  
N ½, N ½ of Section 9, T6S, R8E, SBB&M

**MONITORING**

1. This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring a wastewater system and groundwater quality (when needed). This MRP is issued pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13267. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Executive Officer.
2. Water Code section 13267 states, in part:

*“In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the Colorado River Basin Water Board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.”*
3. Water Code section 13268 states, in part:

*“(a) (1) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of § 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of Section 13399.2, or falsifying any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b). (b) (1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with Article 2.5 (commencing with § 13323) of Chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand*

*dollars (\$1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs.”*

4. The Discharger owns and operates the wastewater system that is subject to Board Order R7-2014-0055. The reports are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall implement the MRP and shall submit the monitoring reports described herein.
5. 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 sample chain of custody form. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Colorado River Basin Water Board staff.
6. 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 as described in the “Reporting” section of this MRP.
7. The collection, preservation and holding times of all samples shall be in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved procedures. Unless otherwise approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified by the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, Division of Drinking Water, State Water Resources Control Board. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of the “Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants” (40 CFR Part 136), promulgated by the USEPA.
8. Samples shall be collected at the locations specified in this Board Order. If no locations are specified, sampling shall be conducted at the most representative sampling point available.
9. 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.

## INFLUENT MONITORING

The wastewater influent to the treatment plant shall be monitored at the lift station for the following:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
20°C BOD <sub>5</sub> <sup>1</sup>	mg/L <sup>2</sup>	Grab	Quarterly
Suspended Solids	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly
Flow (Total Plant influent)	MGD <sup>3</sup>	Flow Measurement	Daily <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BOD<sub>5</sub> –Biochemical Oxygen Demand

<sup>2</sup> mg/L = Milligrams per Liter

<sup>3</sup> Million Gallons-Per-Day

<sup>4</sup> Reported quarterly for each day with average monthly flow calculated

## EFFLUENT MONITORING

Wastewater discharged from the facility shall be monitored at the outlet pipe to the percolation/evaporation ponds where representative samples of effluent can be obtained. Wastewater discharged into any percolation/evaporation ponds shall be monitored for the following constituents:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
pH	pH units	Grab	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly
Volatile Organic Compounds <sup>6</sup>	µg/L <sup>5</sup>	Grab	Annually

<sup>5</sup> mg/L = microgram-per-liter

<sup>6</sup> Analysis of Volatile Organic Compounds is to be accomplished using the USEPA test methods 601 and 602 or 624.

## WATER SUPPLY TO THE COMMUNITY

The domestic water supply shall be sampled for the following constituent:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Grab	Annually

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The Discharger shall inspect the collection system, pump station, standpipe distribution system and ponds annually and report the results to the Colorado River Basin Water Board. Any equipment failures or repairs and maintenance of the ponds shall be documented and reported. Calibration of flow meters and other monitoring equipment shall be performed at least annually and documented and reported

## **PRETREATMENT**

In the event that Significant Industrial Users [40 C.F.R. section 403.3(t)] are discharging wastewater to the wastewater treatment facility or the discharge rate exceeds 5 MGD, or the discharges to the facility are otherwise subject to pretreatment requirements, then the Discharger shall provide the Colorado River Basin Water Board with an annual report describing the pretreatment program activities over the previous twelve (12) month period and it shall include:

1. A summary of actions taken by the Discharger which ensures industrial-user compliance;
2. An updated list of industrial users (by SIC categories) which were issued permits, and/or enforcement orders, and a status of compliance for each user; and
3. The name and address of each user that received a revised discharge limit.

## **REPORTING**

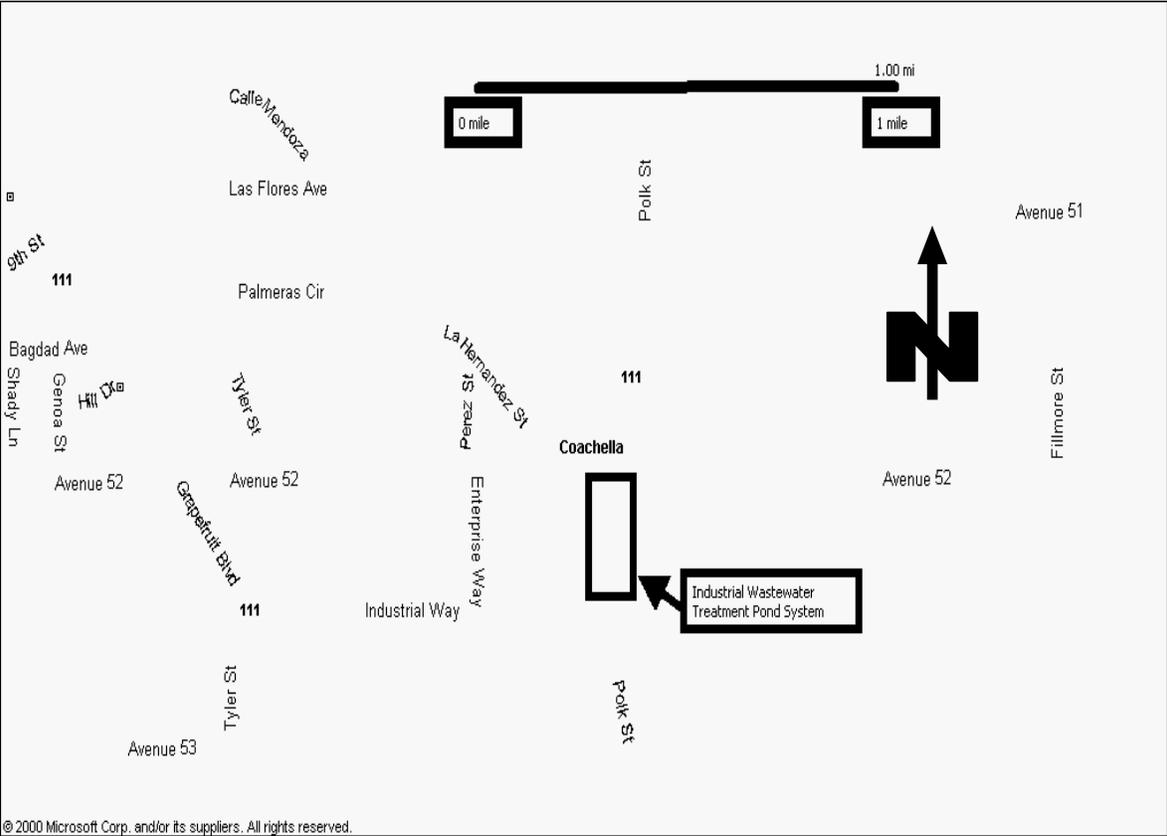
1. The Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the specified information is readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner as to clearly illustrate whether the facility is operating in compliance with waste discharge requirements.
2. Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement(s);
  - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurement(s);
  - c. The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - e. The analytical techniques or method used; and
  - f. The results of such analyses.
3. The results of any analysis taken, more frequently than required at the locations specified in this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported to the Colorado River Basin Water Board.
4. Monitoring reports shall be certified under penalty of perjury to be true and correct, and shall contain the required information at the frequency designated in this monitoring report.
5. Each report shall contain the following statement:

"I declare under the penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant





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



**Attachment A – Site Location Map**

**COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR  
INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL  
SYSTEM**

**Coachella – Riverside County  
N ½, N ½ of Section 9, T6S, R8E, SBB&M**

**Board Order R7-2014-0055**