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**CALIFORNIA**  
**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
**DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

**IN RE:** Descanso Community Water District  
4131 Northgate Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**Attn:** Dan DeMoss, General Manager  
Descanso Community Water District

**COMPLIANCE ORDER FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**  
**Compliance Order No. 05-14-16R-001**  
**Issued on May 16, 2016**

Section 116655, Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 104 of the California Health and Safety Code (H&S Code), authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter "Board"), Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter "Division") to issue a compliance order for failure to comply with the requirements of Chapter 4, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, or any regulation, permit, standard, or order issued or adopted thereunder.

The Board, acting by and through its Division and the Deputy Director for the Division hereby issues this Compliance Order (hereinafter "Order") to Descanso Community Water District (hereinafter "Descanso") (4131 Northgate Blvd Sacramento, CA 95834) for violation of California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Section 64442 subsection (a).

**APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

**Section 116555 of the H&S Code states in relevant part:**

- (a) Any person who owns a public water system shall ensure that the system does all of the following:
  - (1) Complies with primary and secondary drinking water standards.
  - (2) Provides a reliable and adequate supply of pure, wholesome, healthful, and potable water.

**Section 116655 of the H&S Code states in relevant part:**

- (a) Whenever the department determines that any person has violated or is violating this chapter, or any permit, regulation, or standard issued or adopted pursuant to this chapter, the director may issue an order doing any of the following:
  - (1) Directing compliance forthwith.
  - (2) Directing compliance in accordance with a time schedule set by the department.
  - (3) Directing that appropriate preventive action be taken in the case of a threatened violation.

**CCR, Title 22, Section 64442, subsection (a) provides, in relevant part:**

(a) Each community and nontransient-noncommunity water system (system) shall comply with the primary MCLs in Table 64442 in the drinking water supplied to the public and use the DLRs for reporting monitoring results:

**Table 64442  
Radionuclide Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)  
and Detection Levels for Purposes of Reporting (DLRs)**

| <i>Radionuclide</i>  | <i>MCL</i>                                      | <i>DLR</i>     |
|--|---|----------------|
| <i>Radium-226</i>  | <i>5 pCi/L (combined radium-226 &amp; -228)</i> | <i>1 pCi/L</i> |
| <i>Radium-228</i>  |   | <i>1 pCi/L</i> |
| <i>Gross Alpha particle activity (excluding radon and uranium)</i> | <i>15 pCi/L</i>                                 | <i>3 pCi/L</i> |
| <i>Uranium</i>   | <i>20 pCi/L</i>                                 | <i>1 pCi/L</i> |

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Descanso water system is located in San Diego County and operated under Water Supply Permit No. 05-14-02P-004, issued on May 08, 2002. Descanso contracted out operations to California Rural Water Association Specialized Utility Services Program in mid-July 2012. Before July 2012, Descanso was operated by California American Water Company. Descanso serves water to approximately 870 customers through 322 service connections. Descanso has one active well (Well 5) and one standby well (Well 6). The wells pump water directly into distribution system, not directly into the system's two storage tanks. Total production capacity of the wells is 235 gallons per minute (gpm). Well 5 has 115 gpm and Well 6 has 120 gpm production capacity. Descanso has 750,000 gallons of storage capacity from two tanks. Descanso does not have interties or emergency connections with any other water system.

Descanso provides treatment at Well 5 in the form of continuous chlorination and the addition of sequestering agent to control iron and manganese. Permit # 05-14-02P-004 allows Descanso to utilize a sequestering agent as a form of treatment to improve water quality until May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at which time Descanso was required to submit a request for a waiver. To be eligible for a waiver, the iron and manganese cannot be greater than three times the secondary MCL.

Based on the historical water quality data in the Table 1a and 1b below, Descanso was not eligible to apply for a waiver and the Division recommended installation of a centralized iron and manganese treatment system for both wells to allow for blending down gross alpha and uranium levels in 2013 Sanitary Survey report, issued on March 18,

2014. This recommendation was to modify Descanso's SRF 3710009-004 project scope of work (SOW), which proposed wellhead treatment for iron and manganese.

**Table 1a - Iron and Manganese results at Well 5**

| Well 5        |             |            |              |        |            |
|---------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| iron          | (ug/L)<br>* | Result/MCL | manganese    | (ug/L) | Result/MCL |
| 9/14/2010     | 1,400       | 4.7        | 9/14/2010    | 210    | 4.2        |
| 9/28/2010     | 1,300       | 4.3        | 9/28/2010    | 221    | 4.4        |
| 1/7/2011      | 1,280       | 4.3        | 1/7/2011     | 199    | 4.0        |
| 12/5/2011     | 1,090       | 3.6        | 12/5/2011    | 235    | 4.7        |
| 9/10/2012     | 2,400       | 8.0        | 9/10/2012    | 215    | 4.3        |
| 12/19/2012    | 1,050       | 3.5        | 12/19/2012   | 178    | 3.6        |
| 3/5/2013      | 1,230       | 4.1        | 3/5/2013     | 163    | 3.3        |
| 6/28/2013     | 1,600       | 5.3        | 6/28/2013    | 184    | 3.7        |
| 9/26/2013     | 2,590       | 8.6        | 9/26/2013    | 229    | 4.6        |
| 12/18/2013    | 1,070       | 3.6        | 12/18/2013   | 201    | 4          |
| 03/16/2014    | 2,600       | 8.7        | 03/16/2014   | 238    | 4.8        |
| 07/18/2014    | 1,020       | 3.4        | 07/18/2014   | 183    | 3.7        |
| 09/29/2014    | 1,560       | 5.2        | 09/29/2014   | 186    | 3.7        |
| 12/30/2014    | 1,080       | 3.6        | 12/30/2014   | 183    | 3.7        |
| 06/29/2015    | 932         | 3.1        | 06/29/2015   | 190    | 3.8        |
| 12/19/2015    | 1600        | 5.3        | 12/19/2015   | 170    | 3.4        |
| 03/02/2016    | 1,360       | 4.5        | 03/02/2016   | 167    | 3.3        |
| MCL: 300 ug/L |             |            | MCL: 50 ug/L |        |            |

\*ug/L: microgram per liter

**Table 1b - Iron and Manganese results at Well 6**

| Well 6        |        |            |              |        |            |
|---------------|--------|------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| iron          | (ug/L) | Result/MCL | manganese    | (ug/L) | Result/MCL |
| 9/14/2010     | 3,400  | 11.3       | 9/14/2010    | 270    | 5.4        |
| 12/5/2011     | 2,970  | 9.9        | 12/5/2011    | 272    | 5.4        |
| 12/19/2012    | 2,530  | 8.4        | 12/19/2012   | 210    | 4.2        |
| 3/5/2013      | 2,080  | 6.9        | 3/5/2013     | 211    | 4.2        |
| 6/28/2013     | 2,450  | 8.2        | 6/28/2013    | 246    | 4.9        |
| 12/18/2013    | 2,430  | 8.1        | 12/18/2013   | 231    | 4.6        |
| 03/16/2014    | 2,600  | 2.6        | 03/16/2014   | 138    | 2.8        |
| 07/18/2014    | 2,580  | 2.58       | 07/18/2014   | 235    | 4.7        |
| 09/29/2014    | 2,990  | 2.99       | 09/29/2014   | 240    | 4.8        |
| 12/30/2014    | 2,730  | 2.73       | 12/30/2014   | 245    | 4.9        |
| 06/29/2015    | 2,480  | 2.48       | 06/29/2015   | 244    | 4.9        |
| 12/19/2015    | 2,330  | 2.33       | 12/19/2015   | 240    | 4.8        |
| 03/02/2016    | 2,880  | 2.88       | 03/02/2016   | 242    | 4.8        |
| MCL: 300 ug/L |        |            | MCL: 50 ug/L |        |            |

1 **On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, the Division received a copy of triennial radiological monitoring  
2 results for Descanso. Analysis of the sample taken at Well 5 on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012,  
3 indicated *adjusted Gross Alpha* (Gross Alpha – Uranium) levels of 4 picoCuri per Liter  
4 (pCi/L) and uranium levels of 22 pCi/L.

5 **On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012**, the Division issued a letter to Descanso and pursuant to Title  
6 22, CCR, Section 64442(g) (1) & (3), Descanso was required to collect one (1) sample at  
7 Well 5 per quarter for Radiological analyses starting between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>,  
8 2013.

9 **In 2012 and 2013**, Descanso applied to receive a Safe Drinking Water State Revolving  
10 Fund (SDWSRF) loan (Project No. 3710009-004) to install iron and manganese removal  
11 systems for Well 5 and Well 6 to improve the water quality, come into compliance with the  
12 secondary MCL's, and get Division approval for changing the status of Well 6 from  
13 standby to active.

14 **On August 27, 2014**, Descanso was issued Citation 05-14-14C-002 (Attachment 1) for  
15 failure to comply with the MCL for uranium in water produced by Well 5 for the running  
16 annual average (RAA) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2014. Under Title 22, CCR, Section  
17 64442(a) & (h), compliance with the uranium MCL of 20 pCi/L is based on a RAA of four  
18 consecutive quarters of sampling results, for each monitoring location.

19 Descanso had no radionuclides violations until exceeding the uranium RAA MCL for the  
20 first time during second and third quarters of 2014. The Division directed Descanso to  
21 submit to Division for its approval a uranium reduction plan within 60 days issuance of  
22 Citation 05-14-14C-002. The plan shall include actions and capital improvements to be

made by Descanso to achieve compliance with the uranium MCL of 20 pCi/L and include a schedule for implementing those actions and improvements.

A summary of the monitoring results from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016 are shown in Table 2 below. As shown in Table 2, Descanso has continued to produce water that exceeds the uranium MCL and Descanso has given public notice in accordance with Title 22, CCR, Section 64463.4 for exceeding the uranium RAA MCL for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2014, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2015, and also 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016.

**Table 2. Quarterly Uranium Results at Well 5**

| Monitoring Quarter        | Months Included in Quarter | Sample Date            | Average Uranium Result (pCi/L) | RAA (pCi/L) | PN Distributed (Y/N) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2013 | Jul – Sept, 2013           | July 25, 2013          | 20                             | 18          | N                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2013 | Oct – Dec, 2013            | Oct. 7, 2013           | 22                             | 18          | N                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. 2014 | Jan – Mar, 2014            | Jan. 21, 2014          | 23                             | 19          | N                    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2014 | Apr – Jun, 2014            | Apr 17 & June 24, 2014 | 19*                            | 21          | Y                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2014 | July - Sept, 2014          | July 18, 2014          | 22                             | 21          | Y                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2014 | Oct – Dec, 2014            | Oct 27, 2014           | 19                             | 21          | Y                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. 2015 | Jan – Mar, 2015            | Jan 28, 2015           | 28                             | 22          | Y                    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2015 | Apr – Jun, 2015            | Apr 23, 2015           | 25                             | 24          | Y                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2015 | July – Sep, 2015           | July 28, 2015          | 19                             | 23          | Y                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2015 | Oct – Dec, 2015            | Oct 21, 2015           | 22                             | 24          | Y                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. 2016 | Jan – Mar, 2016            | Jan 20, 2016           | 21                             | 22          | Y                    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2016 | Mar – Jun, 2016            | April 14, 2016         | 26                             | 22          | Y                    |

\*Average of April and June 2014 results [19 pCi/L=(14.6+23.3)/2]

**On August 2, 2012,** the Division allowed Descanso to modify the scope of work for SDWSRF Project No. 3710009-004 to address the Well 5 uranium MCL exceedance. Specifically, the refined scope of work included a transmission line for conveying water from Well 5 to Well 6 and a dedicated blending facility at Well 6 site to reduce the uranium concentration to acceptable levels (hereinafter “Treatment Project”). The Treatment Project improvements include:

1. A treatment facility at Well 6 for Iron and Manganese removal

- 1 2. Blending water from Well 5 and Well 6 at the Well 6/treatment facility
- 2 site to achieve Uranium compliance
- 3 3. A new transmission pipeline between Well 5 and Well 6
- 4 4. A permanent, buried pipeline along Viejas Grade Road to increase
- 5 system pressure, flow, and redundancy in that portion of the
- 6 distribution system.
- 7 5. Some other site improvements, including backup generators at the
- 8 Well 5 and Well 6 sites.
- 9

10 **In 2014**, an income survey was performed by Rural Community Assistance Corporation,  
11 and on June 18, 2014 the Division of Financial Assistance made a determination and  
12 notified Descanso and the Division that Descanso was not eligible for grant funding.  
13

14 **In September 2015**, Descanso submitted an application to US Department of Agriculture  
15 (USDA) for the Treatment Project.  
16

17 **On September 16, 2015 and January 22, 2016**, conference calls were held between  
18 Descanso and the Division. The Division was informed that Descanso was required to  
19 submit a preliminary engineering report and environmental documentation for the  
20 Treatment Project before May 2016 in order to be eligible for USDA's 2015/2016 fiscal  
21 year (October 1 to September 30).  
22

23 **On February 28, 2016**, the Division received the draft Treatment Project Schedule and  
24 was informed that the improvements are currently anticipated to be funded with support  
25 from USDA. The Division requested additional detail to be included in the schedule on  
26 March 29, 2016. The revised Treatment Project Schedule was received on April 6, 2016  
27 and the Division found the schedule acceptable. A copy is included in Attachment 2.

**1 DETERMINATIONS**

2 Based on the above Statement of Facts, The Division has determined that Descanso  
3 continues to violate Section 116555 of the H&S Code, and Section 64442 subsection (a)  
4 of the CCR, in that the water produced by Descanso's Well 5 has continued to exceed the  
5 uranium MCL from 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2014 to 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016, Descanso's sources exceed the  
6 secondary MCL's for iron and manganese, and Descanso is not eligible for an iron or  
7 manganese waiver. The Division has determined that Treatment Project Scope of Work  
8 and Treatment Project Schedule received on April 6, 2016 are acceptable.  
9

**10 DIRECTIVES**

11 Descanso is hereby ordered to take the following actions:

- 12 1. Forthwith, cease and desist from failing to comply with H&S Code, Section  
13 116555(a)(3) by ensuring that the system is provided with a reliable and adequate  
14 supply of pure, wholesome, healthful, and potable water.
- 15 2. On or before December 1, 2016, Descanso shall submit a full application to USDA,  
16 including Final Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Final CEQA/NEPA  
17 documents for the Treatment Project. Copies of the Final PER and CEQA/NEPA  
18 documents shall be submitted to the Division.
- 19 3. On or before March 1, 2017, Descanso shall complete Treatment Project 60% Design  
20 and submit Plans and Specifications to the Division.
- 21 4. On or before May 1, 2017, Descanso shall complete Treatment Project 90% Design  
22 and submit Plans and Specifications to the Division.

- 1 5. On or before June 1, 2017, Descanso shall complete Final Design and submit  
2 Treatment Project 100% Plans and Specifications to the Division.
- 3 6. On or before July 1, 2017, Descanso shall complete Treatment Project Bidding  
4 Documents and begin advertising and bidding process.
- 5 7. On or before October 1, 2017, Descanso shall issue the Notice to Proceed for the  
6 Treatment Project.
- 7 8. On or before May 1, 2018, Descanso shall complete Treatment Project construction  
8 and begin commissioning.
- 9 9. On or before August 1, 2018, Descanso shall place Treatment Project into service.
- 10 10. On or before August 1, 2016 and every three months thereafter, submit a report to the  
11 Division in the form provided as Attachment No. 3, hereto, showing actions taken  
12 during the previous calendar three months to comply with this Compliance Order.
- 13 11. Not later than ten (10) days following the date of compliance with the uranium MCL,  
14 demonstrate to the Division that the water delivered by Descanso complies with the  
15 uranium MCL.
- 16 12. Descanso shall submit a written response within 30 days of issuance of this Order,  
17 indicating its willingness to comply with the directives of this Order.
- 18 13. The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Order as it may  
19 deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be issued  
20 as amendments to this Order and shall be effective upon issuance. If Descanso fails to  
21 perform any of the directives specified in this Order by the time described herein or by  
22 the time subsequently extended pursuant to Item 12, below, Descanso shall be  
23 deemed to have not complied with the obligations of this Order and may be subject to

1 additional judicial action, including civil penalties specified in H&S Code, Sections  
2 116725 and 116730. All submittals required by this Order shall be addressed to:

3  
4 Sean Sterchi, P.E.  
5 District Engineer  
6 California Department of Public Health  
7 Southern California Branch  
8 Drinking Water Field Operations  
9 1350 Front Street, Room 2050  
10 San Diego, CA 92101  
11

12 14. If Descanso is unable to timely perform the directives specified in this Order for any  
13 reason, whether within or beyond Descanso's control, and if Descanso notifies the  
14 Division in writing no less than 30 days prior to the due date, the Division may, at its  
15 sole discretion, extend the time for performance if Descanso demonstrates it has  
16 utilized its best efforts to comply with the schedules and other requirements of this  
17 Order. If Descanso fails to perform any of the directives specified in this Order by the  
18 time described herein or by the time as subsequently extended pursuant to this  
19 paragraph, the Division may deem Descanso in material breach of this Order and in  
20 noncompliance with the requirements of H&S Code, Section 116555. Further,  
21 Descanso's failure to timely perform the terms and requirements of this Order may  
22 result in administrative and/or judicial action including civil penalties pursuant to  
23 California Health and Safety Code, Article 9, sections 116650 (d) and (e).

24 15. The State of California shall not be liable for any injuries or damages to persons or  
25 property resulting from acts of omissions by Descanso, its employees, agents, or  
26 contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Order, nor shall the State of  
27 California be held as a party to any contract entered into by Descanso or its agents in  
28 carrying out activities pursuant to this Order.

**PARTIES BOUND**

This Order shall apply to and be binding upon Descanso, its officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

**SEVERABILITY**

The requirements of this Order are severable, and Descanso shall comply with each and every provision thereof notwithstanding the effectiveness of any provisions.

**CIVIL PENALTIES**

Section 116650(e) of the H&S Code allows for the assessment of a civil penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of Chapter 4. This section specifically defines penalties for violations.

Failure to comply with any provision or compliance schedule of this Order may result in the Division imposing additional enforcement actions and administrative penalties.

May 16, 2016  
Date

Jeff O'Keefe  
Jeff O'Keefe, P.E.  
Regional Engineer  
South Coast Section  
Southern California Branch  
Drinking Water Field Operations

**CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 7012 3460 0002 3404 4125**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1) Citation No. 05-14-14C-002
- 2) Treatment Project Schedule
- 3) Quarterly Progress Report

cc: Keith Kezer, Program Coordinator for Department of Environmental Health  
Land & Water Quality Division, County of San Diego (via email)  
Maureen Philips, Board President PO Box 295 Descanso, CA 91916  
Sheri Minix, PO Box 810, Descanso, CA 91916  
Gary Sanner, PO Box 691, Descanso, CA 91916  
Jeff Rozendal, PO Box 944, El Cajon, CA 92022  
Hadley Johnson, 25228 Manzanita Lane #C, Descanso, CA 91916

**ATTACHMENT 1.**

**CITATION NO. 05-14-14C-002**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**  
**DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

**TO:** Descanso Community Water District  
4131 Northgate Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**Attn:** Dan DeMoss, General Manager  
Descanso Community Water District

**CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS,  
TITLE 22, SECTION 64442(a) - WATER SYSTEM NO. 3710009  
C I T A T I O N N O. 05-14-14C-002**

**Issued on August 27, 2014**

Section 116650 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the issuance of a citation to a public water system for violation the California Safe Drinking Water Act (Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, commencing with Section 116270) (hereinafter "California SDWA"), or any regulation, standard, permit or order issued or adopted thereunder.

The State Water Resources Control Board, acting by and through its Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter "Division") and the Deputy Director for the Division hereby issues a citation to Descanso Community Water District (hereinafter "Descanso") (4131 Northgate Blvd Sacramento, CA 95834) for violation of California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Section 6442 subsection (a).



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**Table 64442**  
**Radionuclide Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)**  
**and Detection Levels for Purposes of Reporting (DLRs)**

| <i>Radionuclide</i>  | <i>MCL</i>                                      | <i>DLR</i>     |
|--|---|----------------|
| <i>Radium-226</i>  | <i>5 pCi/L (combined radium-226 &amp; -228)</i> | <i>1 pCi/L</i> |
| <i>Radium-228</i>  |   | <i>1 pCi/L</i> |
| <i>Gross Alpha particle activity (excluding radon and uranium)</i> | <i>15 pCi/L</i>                                 | <i>3 pCi/L</i> |
| <i>Uranium</i>   | <i>20 pCi/L</i>                                 | <i>1 pCi/L</i> |

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Descanso water system is operated under Water Supply Permit No. 05-14-02P-004, issued on May 08, 2002.

Descanso contracted out operations to California Rural Water Association Specialized Utility Services Program in mid-July 2012. Before July 2012, Descanso was operated by California American Water Company.

Descanso serves water to approximately 870 customers through 306 service connections. Descanso has one active well (Well 5) and one standby well (Well 6). The wells pump water directly into distribution system, not directly into the system's two storage tanks. Total production capacity of the wells is 235 gallons per minute (gpm). Well 5 has 115 gpm and Well 6 has 120 gpm production capacity. Descanso has 750,000 gallons of storage capacity from two tanks. Descanso does not have interties or emergency connections with any other water system.

1 Descanso provides treatment at Well 5 in the form of continuous chlorination and the  
 2 addition of sequestering agent to control iron and manganese. Permit (# 05-14-02P-  
 3 004) allows Descanso to utilize a sequestering agent as a form of treatment to  
 4 improve water quality until May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at which time Descanso was required to  
 5 submit a request for a waiver. To be eligible for a waiver, the iron and manganese  
 6 cannot be greater than three times the secondary MCL.

7 Based on the historical annual water quality data in the table 1a and 1b below,  
 8 Descanso was not eligible to apply for a waiver and removal treatment must be  
 9 installed as stated in 2013 Sanitary Survey report, issued on March 18, 2014.

10  
 11 **Table 1a - Iron and Manganese results at Well 5**

| Well 5        |         |            |              |        |            |
|---------------|---------|------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| iron          | (ug/L)* | Result/MCL | manganese    | (ug/L) | Result/MCL |
| 9/14/2010     | 1,400   | 4.7        | 9/14/2010    | 210    | 4.2        |
| 9/28/2010     | 1,300   | 4.3        | 9/28/2010    | 221    | 4.4        |
| 1/7/2011      | 1,280   | 4.3        | 1/7/2011     | 199    | 4.0        |
| 12/5/2011     | 1,090   | 3.6        | 12/5/2011    | 235    | 4.7        |
| 9/10/2012     | 2,400   | 8.0        | 9/10/2012    | 215    | 4.3        |
| 12/19/2012    | 1,050   | 3.5        | 12/19/2012   | 178    | 3.6        |
| 3/5/2013      | 1,230   | 4.1        | 3/5/2013     | 163    | 3.3        |
| 6/28/2013     | 1,600   | 5.3        | 6/28/2013    | 184    | 3.7        |
| 9/26/2013     | 2,590   | 8.6        | 9/26/2013    | 229    | 4.6        |
| 12/18/2013    | 1,070   | 3.6        | 12/18/2013   | 201    | 4          |
| MCL: 300 ug/L |         |            | MCL: 50 ug/L |        |            |

12 \*ug/L: microgram per liter

13  
 14 **Table 1b - Iron and Manganese results at Well 6**

| Well 6        |        |            |              |        |            |
|---------------|--------|------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| iron          | (ug/L) | Result/MCL | manganese    | (ug/L) | Result/MCL |
| 9/14/2010     | 3,400  | 11.3       | 9/14/2010    | 270    | 5.4        |
| 12/5/2011     | 2,970  | 9.9        | 12/5/2011    | 272    | 5.4        |
| 12/19/2012    | 2,530  | 8.4        | 12/19/2012   | 210    | 4.2        |
| 3/5/2013      | 2,080  | 6.9        | 3/5/2013     | 211    | 4.2        |
| 6/28/2013     | 2,450  | 8.2        | 6/28/2013    | 246    | 4.9        |
| 12/18/2013    | 2,430  | 8.1        | 12/18/2013   | 231    | 4.6        |
| MCL: 300 ug/L |        |            | MCL: 50 ug/L |        |            |

1 Descanso has applied to receive a Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund  
2 (SDWSRF) loan (Project No. 3710009-004) to install iron and manganese removal  
3 systems for Well 5 and Well 6 to improve the water quality and come into compliance  
4 with the secondary MCL's. The Division has allowed Descanso to modify the scope of  
5 work for this SDWSRF project to address the Well 5 Uranium MCL exceedance as  
6 well.

7  
8 On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Division received a copy of triennial radiological  
9 monitoring results for Descanso. Analysis of the sample taken at Well 5 on October  
10 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, indicated adjusted Gross Alpha levels of 4 pCi/L and  
11 uranium levels of 22 pCi/L. The uranium level in this sample exceeds the 20 pCi/L  
12 MCL.

13  
14 On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the Division issued a letter to Descanso and pursuant to  
15 Title 22, CCR, Section 64442(g) (1) & (3), Descanso was required to collect one (1)  
16 sample at Well 5 per quarter for Radiological analyses starting between January 1<sup>st</sup>  
17 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

18  
19 Under Title 22, CCR, Section 64442(a) & (h), compliance with the Radionuclides MCL  
20 of 20 pCi/L are based on a running annual average (RAA) of four consecutive  
21 quarters of sampling results, for each monitoring location.

22 Descanso had no radionuclides violations until exceeding the uranium RAA MCL for  
23 the first time during second and third quarters of 2014.

24  
25 A summary of the monitoring results from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014 are  
26 shown in Table 2 below. The laboratory results for uranium are included in  
27 Attachment No. 1.

Table 2. Quarterly Uranium Results at Well 5

| Uranium Monitoring Quarter | Months Included in Quarter | Sample Date              | Average Uranium Result (pCi/L) | RAA (pCi/L) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2013  | Jul – Sept, 2013           | July 25, 2013            | 20                             | 18          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2013  | Oct – Dec, 2013            | Oct. 7, 2013             | 22                             | 18          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. 2014  | Jan – Mar, 2014            | Jan. 21, 2014            | 23                             | 19          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2014  | Apr – Jun, 2014            | April 17 & June 24, 2014 | 19*                            | 21          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2014  | July - Sept, 2014          | July 18, 2014            | 22                             | 21          |

\*Average of April and June 2014 results  $[19 \text{ pCi/L} = (14.6 + 23.3) / 2]$

Descanso has conducted public notification for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2014 uranium MCL violation. However, Descanso has not submitted the certification of public notification for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2014 uranium MCL violation to the Division.

**DETERMINATION**

The Division has determined that Descanso failed to comply with the MCL for uranium in water produced by Well 5 for the RAA for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2014. For a public water system monitoring quarterly, each locational RAA, computed quarterly, shall not exceed the MCL of 20 pCi/L for uranium. The uranium locational RAA for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter monitoring period of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, was 21 pCi/L and for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter monitoring period of October 31, 2013 through September 30, 2014 was 21 pCi/L in water produced by Well 5.

**DIRECTIVES**

Descanso is hereby directed to take the following actions.

1. Forthwith, Descanso shall cease and desist from failing to comply with the MCL for uranium.

1 2. Descanso shall continue to give public notice in accordance with Title 22, CCR,  
2 Section 64463.4 until the system is in compliance with the uranium MCL. Public  
3 notice shall be via 1. mail or direct delivery to each customer, and 2. posting notice  
4 using one or more of the following methods: a) publication in a local newspaper, b)  
5 posting in public places served by the water system or on the Internet, (If posting  
6 in public places served by the water system or on the Internet is selected, notice  
7 shall be posted in place for as long as the violation or occurrence continues, but in  
8 no case less than seven days.) c) delivery to community organizations.  
9 Specifically, Descanso shall conduct public notification for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014  
10 uranium MCL violation within 30 days of receipt of this citation.

11 A draft notification shall be submitted to Division for review and approval prior to  
12 conducting public notification.

13 3. Descanso shall provide to the Division, certification of public notification using the  
14 enclosed form (Attachment No. 2). Descanso shall send a copy of each type of  
15 notice and a certification that the public notice requirements have been met to  
16 Division pursuant to Title 22, CCR, Section 64469(d). Specifically, Descanso shall  
17 submit certification of public notification for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2014 uranium MCL  
18 violation within 10 days of issuance this citation. In addition, Descanso shall  
19 submit certification of public notification for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014 uranium MCL  
20 violation within ten days after issuing the notice.

21 4. Descanso shall include information regarding the uranium MCL violation identified  
22 in this Citation in the 2014 Consumer Confidence Report, which shall be  
23 completed and distributed to customers by July 1, 2015. A draft of the 2014  
24 Consumer Confidence Report shall be submitted to the Division for review and  
25 approval prior to distribution and/or posting.  
26

1 5. Within 60 days of issuance of this citation, submit to Division for its approval an  
2 uranium reduction plan. The plan shall include actions and capital improvements  
3 to be made by Descanso to achieve compliance with the uranium MCL of 20  
4 pCi/L and include a schedule for implementing those actions and improvements.  
5 The plan shall be accompanied with board meeting minutes or equivalent  
6 documenting approval of the plan and a commitment of necessary funds to  
7 implement.

8  
9 The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation as it may  
10 deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be  
11 issued as amendments to this Citation, and shall be deemed effective upon issuance.

12  
13 Nothing in this Citation relieves Descanso of its obligation to meet the requirements of  
14 the California Safe Drinking Water Act, or of any regulation, permit, standard, or order  
15 issued or adopted thereunder.

16  
17 All submittals required by this Citation shall be submitted to the Division at the  
18 following address:

19  
20 Sean Sterchi, P.E.  
21 District Engineer  
22 State Water Resources Control Board  
23 Division of Drinking Water  
24 1350 Front Street, Room 2050  
25 San Diego, CA 92101

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**PARTIES BOUND**

This Citation shall apply to and be binding upon Descanso, its officers, directors, shareholders, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

**SEVERABILITY**

The Directives of this Citation are severable, and Descanso shall comply with each and every provision thereof, notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

**FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

The California SDWA authorizes the Division to: issue citation with assessment of administrative penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation of the requirements of the California SDWA or any permit, regulation, permit or order issued or adopted thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a violation identified in a citation or compliance order. The California SDWA also authorizes the Division to take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the Division; and to petition the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has failed to comply with an order of the Division. The Division does not waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this citation.

5/27/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sean Sterchi, P.E.,  
District Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water  
State Water Resources Control Board

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Laboratory Results for Uranium
2. Proof of Notification Form

cc: Jeff Lamoure, Deputy Director for Environmental Health Services, County of Imperial

**ATTACHMENT 2.**  
**TREATMENT PROJECT SCHEDULE**

## Ertas, Tuba@Waterboards

---

**From:** James Owens <James.Owens@nv5.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2016 3:46 PM  
**To:** Ertas, Tuba@Waterboards  
**Cc:** Aaron Schneider; ddemoss@calruralwater.org; Sterchi, Sean@Waterboards  
**Subject:** RE: Descanso CWD - Projected Schedule for Iron, Manganese, and Uranium Project

Hi Tuba,

The USDA pre-application was submitted in September 2015.

Below are the additional dates you requested for interim submittals.

February 2017 – 60% Design Documents  
April 2017 – 90% Design Documents  
June 2017 – 100%/Final Design & Bidding Documents; The bidding/advertising can start in this month, but the specific date depends on when the board meeting will take place to authorize bidding and/or accept the bidding documents.

Let me know how else I can help,  
James

**James F. Owens, P.E.** | Associate | [NV5](#)  
15092 Avenue of Science, Suite 200 | San Diego, CA 92128 | P: 858.385.0500 | F: 858.385.0400 | C: 760.470.8777

**From:** Ertas, Tuba@Waterboards [<mailto:Tuba.Ertas@waterboards.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** James Owens <[James.Owens@nv5.com](mailto:James.Owens@nv5.com)>; Sterchi, Sean@Waterboards <[Sean.Sterchi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sean.Sterchi@waterboards.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Aaron Schneider <[AARON.SCHNEIDER@nv5.com](mailto:AARON.SCHNEIDER@nv5.com)>; [ddemoss@calruralwater.org](mailto:ddemoss@calruralwater.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Descanso CWD - Projected Schedule for Iron, Manganese, and Uranium Project

James/Aaron,

I sent you 3 emails on 3/29 and I haven't got any response back. I would appreciate your immediate respond to my comments below, since I have to finalize the Compliance Order.

- 1.) Please let me know the date Descanso submitted the pre-application to USDA.
- 2.) You need to revise the project schedule including the following comments and submit it to us as a separate document:
  - a) Please include the submittal dates for 60%, 90% design and specifications.
  - b) Please include the dates for 1.) Complete Final Design 2.) Bidding Documents; 3.) Start Advertising/Bidding

Thanks  
Tuba

**From:** Ertas, Tuba@Waterboards  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 2:13 PM  
**To:** 'James Owens'; Sterchi, Sean@Waterboards  
**Cc:** Aaron Schneider; [ddemoss@calruralwater.org](mailto:ddemoss@calruralwater.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Descanso CWD - Projected Schedule for Iron, Manganese, and Uranium Project

James,

In addition to my previous comment (the plan and spec submittals dates that follow, e.g. 60%, 90%, and 100% should be included in the project schedule), the dates for **June 2017 – Complete Final Design/Bidding Documents; Start Advertising/Bidding** need to be sequential. Can you please update the following schedule and submit it to us as a separate document?

**Thanks**  
**Tuba**

**From:** James Owens [<mailto:James.Owens@nv5.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** Sterchi, Sean@Waterboards; Ertas, Tuba@Waterboards  
**Cc:** Aaron Schneider; [ademoss@calruralwater.org](mailto:ademoss@calruralwater.org)  
**Subject:** Descanso CWD - Projected Schedule for Iron, Manganese, and Uranium Project

Good Afternoon Sean and Tuba,

Below is a projected schedule for Descanso CWD's project to address Iron, Manganese, and Uranium compliance. The schedule notes the primary milestones and efforts. The improvements are currently anticipated to be funded with support from USDA Rural Development. Therefore, some USDA-specific processes and milestones are incorporated below.

The proposed improvements generally include:

- A treatment facility at Well No. 6 for Iron and Manganese removal
- Blending water from Well No. 5 and Well No. 6 at the Well No. 6/treatment facility site to achieve Uranium compliance
- A new transmission pipeline between Well No. 5 and Well No. 6
- A permanent, buried pipeline along Viejas Grade Road to increase system pressure, flow, and redundancy in that portion of the distribution system.
- Misc. other site improvements, including backup generators at the Well No. 5 and Well No. 6 sites.

**Schedule:**

November 2016 - Submit Full USDA application, including Final PER and Final CEQA/NEPA Documents  
June 2017 – Complete Final Design/Bidding Documents; Start Advertising/Bidding  
September 2017 – Start Construction  
April 2018 – End Construction; Start Commissioning  
July 2018 – Complete Commissioning; Project Complete

In the coming weeks, we'd like to review the project documents with again via telephone.

Let me know how else we can help.

Regards,  
James

**James F. Owens, P.E.** | Associate | **NV5**  
15092 Avenue of Science, Suite 200 | San Diego, CA 92128 | P: 858.385.0500 | F: 858.385.0400 | C: 760.470.8777

**ATTACHMENT 3.**  
**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

# Quarterly Progress Report

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Water System:         | Water System No.: |
| Compliance Order No.: | Violation:        |
| Calendar Quarter:     | Date Prepared:    |

This form should be prepared and signed by Water System personnel with appropriate authority to implement the directives of the Compliance Order and the Corrective Action Plan. Please attach additional sheets as necessary. The quarterly progress report must be submitted by the 10th day of each subsequent quarter, to the Division of Drinking Water, \_\_\_\_\_ District Office.

**Summary of Compliance Plan:**

**Tasks completed in the reporting quarter:**

**Tasks remaining to complete:**

**Anticipate compliance date:**

**Name**

**Signature**

**Title**

**Date**