

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF JUNE 10, AND 11, 2009
Victorville**

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: **RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS –
BOARD ORDER NOS 6-95-31 AND 6-95-31A1 FOR TEST
AREA 1-46 EVAPORATION PONDS, AIR FORCE
RESEARCH LABORATORY, EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE,
KERN COUNTY**

CHRONOLOGY: March 9, 1995 Waste Discharge Requirements
(Board Order No. 6-95-31)
September 14, 2001 Amended Waste Discharge Requirements
(Board Order No. 6-95-31A1)

ISSUE: Should the Water Board rescind Waste Discharge Requirements?

DISCUSSION: The U.S. Air Force owns and operated industrial wastewater facilities located at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) consisting of two double-lined evaporation ponds. During operation, the facility disposed of saline wastewater from a research and development complex. The Evaporation ponds are no longer used and are closed.

It is appropriate to rescind Board Order Nos. 6-95-31 and 6-95-31A1, because there is no longer a discharge of industrial wastewater from the research and development complex. The ponds have been cleaned, closed and there is no threat to water quality. Board staff has inspected the facilities and confirmed the above conditions. The U.S. Air Force has requested rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for the evaporation ponds.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of the Order as proposed.

Enclosure: 1. Proposed Board Order

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2009-(PROPOSED)
WDID NO. 6B159501001

RESCISSION OF BOARD ORDER NOS. 6-95-31 AND 6-95-31A1

FOR

TEST AREA 1-46 EVAPORATION PONDS
AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

Kern County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) finds that:

1. Discharger

The U.S. Department of the Air Force, Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) owns and operated industrial wastewater disposal ponds located at the Air Force Research Laboratory (formerly Phillips Laboratory) area of the Base. For the purposes of this Water Board Order (Order), EAFB is referred to as the "Discharger."

2. Facility

The facility consists of two evaporation ponds (surface impoundments) located at Test Area 1-46 at the Phillips Laboratory (north and south ponds). Each pond measures 160 feet by 140 feet (22,400 square feet) and is four feet deep. Combined, the two ponds cover approximately one acre. The ponds were lined with a concrete and synthetic material double liner system with a leachate collection and recovery system (LCRS) between the two liners. The Facility was used to dispose saline industrial wastewater from operations in test area 1-110, a research and development complex. The quantity of waste to the evaporation ponds varied but did not exceed 135,000 gallons per month. For the purposes of this Order, the north and south ponds are referred to as the "Facility."

3. Order History

On March 9, 1995, the Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Facility under Board Order No. 6-95-31. The Water Board adopted amended Waste Discharge Requirements under Board Order No. 6-95-31A1 on September 14, 2001.

10-0002

4. Reason for the Action

The Facility is no longer in use and wastewater has not been discharged to the evaporation ponds since June 2004, such that both north and south evaporation ponds have been dry, other than from rain water. Groundwater monitoring has been conducted quarterly while the ponds were active and to the present.

The synthetic liners have been removed and disposed of at an approved facility. A drainage system has been installed to prevent the accumulation of rainwater in the pond bottoms. A fence and locked gate currently secure the area. The concrete structure of the ponds has been maintained for potential future projects. Any future activity involving waste discharges to these ponds requires notification by the Discharger to the Regional Water Quality Control Board office prior to initiating any discharge.

The Discharger has closed the surface impoundments and completed confirmation sampling of soil beneath the former surface impoundments. The Discharger analyzed the soils for volatile and semi-volatile organics, metals and inorganics and the sample results indicate that waste has not leaked from the ponds into the vadose zone below the ponds.

Based on reports submitted by the Discharger, monitoring of the leachate collection sump showed that only minor amounts of water was ever detected in the sump. The small amounts are believed to be from condensate and were less than the 10 gallons per day maximum allowable rate specified under the Discharge Specifications of Board Order No. 6-95-31.

Water Board staff has reviewed the Final Closure and Post Closure Report and monitoring data regarding completion of the closure activities. Closure activities are complete and data demonstrate that site conditions are protective of water quality. As such, it is appropriate to rescind Board Orders Nos. 6-95-31 and 6-95-31A1.

5. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

This action is being taken by this regulatory agency, to rescind Board Order Nos. 6-95-31 and 6-95-31A1, pursuant to the California Water Code and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321(a)(2).

6. Public Notification

The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested parties of its intent to rescind Board Order Nos. 6-95-31 and 6-95-31A1. The Water Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Board Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order Nos. 6-95-31 and 6-95-31A1 be rescinded.

I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on June 10, 2009.

HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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PROPOSED