

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

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12 -13, 2014

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

ITEM: 3

**SUBJECT: AMENDED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH
TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT WASTEWATER RECYCLING
PLANT**

CHRONOLOGY: February 28, 1974 The Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, Board Order No. 6-74-23, for discharges from the wastewater treatment facility to Indian Creek Reservoir.

December 6, 1979 The Water Board adopted WDRs and NPDES permit, Board Order No. 6-79-43.

February 9, 1984 The Water Board adopted WDRs, Board Order No. 6-84-24. The Discharger altered discharge practices and the NPDES permit was no longer required.

February 8, 1990 The Water Board adopted updated WDRs, Board Order No. 6-90-14.

June 8, 1995 The Water Board adopted updated WDRs, Board Order No. 6-95-65.

March 10, 2004 The Water Board adopted updated WDRs, Board Order No. R6T-2004-0010.

ISSUES: Should the Water Board adopt WDRs that will amend the South Tahoe Public Utility District's current WDRs by deleting the effluent limitations for turbidity, chemical oxygen demand, and settleable solids?

DISCUSSION: The South Tahoe Public Utility District (Discharger) has been regulated under WDRs and, formerly, WDRs that served as an NPDES permit. In 2011 the Discharger requested to eliminate testing for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD). The District also analyzes for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) a different test that measures similar characteristics concerning wastewater treatment. The Discharger indicated that the COD testing procedure used small amounts of hazardous materials, generating a small amount of hazardous waste that required special disposal and handling.

The testing was eliminated from the monitoring and reporting program by the Executive Officer in 2011. The proposed amendment will eliminate the COD requirement from the effluent limitations. Staff reviewed all effluent limits in preparing the amendment and identified that turbidity and settleable solids effluent limitations were also in the WDRs. Both limits appear to have been left over from when the discharge was to a surface water under an NPDES permit. There is no need to have effluent limits for settleable solids or turbidity for recycled water discharges to land, thus staff is proposing the Board also delete these effluent limits.

Water Board staff received comments on a tentative Order from the District and County of Alpine Board of Supervisors. The District's comment (Enclosure 2) found an error referring to settleable solids and suggested replacing it with turbidity to be correct. County of Alpine Board of Supervisors wrote a letter in support of the amendment to the Order, Enclosure 3.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Order as proposed.

ENCLOSURE	Item	Bates Number
1	Proposed Order	3-5
2	E-mail from South Tahoe Public Utility District	3-11
3	Letter from County of Alpine Board of Supervisors	3-15

ENCLOSURE 1

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

**BOARD ORDER NO. R6T-2004-0010A1
WDID 6A095900700**

**AMENDED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT WASTEWATER RECYCLING PLANT**

EL DORADO AND ALPINE COUNTIES

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

1. Discharger

The South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District (Discharger) owns and operates the South Tahoe Public Utility District Wastewater Recycling Plant, which is regulated by Water Board Order No. R6T-2004-0010, adopted on March 10, 2004.

2. Reason for Action

This Board Order is being adopted to amend Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) in Board Order No. R6T-2004-0010. The amendment will remove effluent limitations for chemical oxygen demand (COD), turbidity, and settleable solids. The Executive Officer shall follow-up this Order by amending Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. 2004-0010-A1 to eliminate associated MRP requirements.

Removal of COD Effluent Limit

In fiscal year 2011, the Discharger requested that the requirement to monitor for chemical oxygen demand (COD) sampling and analysis be dropped. The Discharger wished to reduce their sampling expenditures and minimize the production of a hazardous waste because COD analysis uses hazardous materials and produces small quantities of hazardous waste. Since the Discharger continues to conduct regular sampling of the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), which is a similar test, and the Discharger has seldom exceeded the COD or BOD, the COD sampling was eliminated previously by amending MRP No. R6T-2004-0010, as delegated to the Executive Officer. It is appropriate to follow up by removing the effluent limitation for COD from the WDRs.

Removal of Turbidity Effluent Limit

In reviewing the effluent limit for COD, staff identified that turbidity limitations appear to be an outdated requirement. Turbidity limitations originated from when the Discharger discharged into a navigable water of the United States, Indian Creek Reservoir, triggering requirements that no longer apply. The effluent requirement for turbidity is no longer necessary because the discharge is to Harvey Place Reservoir, which the Discharger constructed to store wastewater prior to discharge to irrigated lands in Alpine County (regulated under various Water Board reclamation (recycling) requirements). Removal of the turbidity effluent limit is appropriate; the effluent limitation and associated costs of monitoring and reporting, and compliance tracking, are unjustified.

Removal of Settleable Solids Effluent Limit

Similarly, staff identified that the settleable solids effluent limit appears to be a carryover from a former WDR. It first appeared in a 1984 Board Order issued to the Discharger. Revisions the WDRs in 1990 added total suspended solids (TSS) limits, but did not remove the settleable solids limit. The TSS is commonly used instead of settleable solids as a measure of secondary wastewater treatment. The limitation for settleable solids is no longer necessary. Removal is appropriate; the effluent limitation and associated costs of monitoring and reporting, and compliance tracking, are unjustified.

3. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

The Water Board has determined that the revocation of limitations is categorically exempt according to the California Code of Regulations (CCR) title 14, section 15321(a)(2), for actions by a regulatory agency.

4. Notification and Consideration of Comments

The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested parties of its intent to issue amended WDRs for the discharge. A notice of the availability of a draft order was also provided by posting a copy of the tentative WDRs to the Lahontan Water Board internet website on November 19, 2013. The Water Board has considered comments provided in accordance with applicable time limits, and adopted this Order at a public meeting following opportunity to comment.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Water Code Section 13263, that Board Order No. R6T-2004-0010 is amended as follows. With reference to Order No. R6T-2004-0010, deletions are shown with strikethrough text.

Amendments

1. On page 7, the tabulation, with footnotes, under section I. Discharge Specifications, 1. Effluent Limitations, No. 1, is amended as follows:

Parameter	Units	Mean ¹	Maximum
BOD ²	mg/l	30	45
COD³	mg/l	60	300
Suspended Solids	mg/l	30	60
Settleable Solids	mg/l	--	0.1
Turbidity	NTU	10	20

Footnote 3 describes "Chemical Oxygen Demand" and is also deleted as follows:

³~~Chemical Oxygen Demand.~~

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian 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 February 12, 2014.

PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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ENCLOSURE 2

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Tucker, Robert@Waterboards

From: Terry Powers <tpowers@stpud.dst.ca.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 2:22 PM
To: Tucker, Robert@Waterboards
Subject: STPUD Waste Discharge Requirements' Amendment

Hi Rob,

There may be an error in the first paragraph of page 2, line 8: *Removal of the settleable solids effluent limit* should be changed to *Removal of the turbidity effluent limit*.

Please let me know if this is correct.

Terry Powers

South Tahoe Public Utility District
Laboratory Director
1275 Meadow Crest Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: 530.543.6231
web site: <http://stpud.us/>

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ENCLOSURE 3

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**COUNTY OF ALPINE
Board of Supervisors**

December 17, 2013



Patty Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: Support for tentative Board Order No. R6T-2014-0010 and R6T-2014-0028

Dear Ms. Kouyoumdjian:

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors has reviewed proposed changes for Waste Discharge Requirements for South Tahoe Public Utility District Wastewater Recycling Plant in the tentative Board Order No. R6T-2014-0010; and, proposed changes for Waste Discharge Requirements for Sorensen's Resort Wastewater Treatment Systems in the tentative Board Order No. R6T-2014-0028.

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the tentative board orders and supports the Regional Board's changes to the waste discharge requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Woodrow".

Terry Woodrow, Chair
Alpine County Board of Supervisors

cc. Robert Tucker, Waste Resource Control Engineer
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

John Brissenden
Sorensen's Resort
14255 Highway 88
Hope Valley, CA 96120