



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 23, 2015

Mr. John F. Babbitt
President
California Sulphur Company
P.O. Box 176
Wilmington, CA 90748

Dear Mr. Babbitt

REVISED TENTATIVE TERMINATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs) AND NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR CALIFORNIA SULPHUR COMPANY, WILMINGTON, CA. (NPDES NO. CA0059064, CI NO. 6546)

Our letter dated March 5, 2015, transmitted the tentative termination of Waste Discharge requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to California Sulphur Company ((hereinafter CSC or Discharger) for the discharge of wastewater (i.e., treated process water and storm water) stored in the ponds at the CSC facility. The tentative termination was scheduled for consideration during the May 14, 2015, Board hearing. During the April 8, 2015, teleconference call between CSC and Regional Water Board staff, CSC requested to postpone the Board hearing for consideration of the tentative termination to evaluate options for managing wastewater stored onsite for reuse and the storm water only discharge. Several emails transpired between the Discharger and Regional Water Board staff regarding the termination of the NPDES permit.

The June 18, 2015, email from the Discharger to staff indicated that the discharge pipe of the pond will be plugged upon Board's approval of the termination of the permit and provide photographic documentation. As such, no wastewater stored in the pond will be discharged. Only storm water from the driveways will be discharged during significant storm event. The storm water only discharge is covered under the General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (General Permit No. CAS000001, State Water Board Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ).

Since 1993, CSC has implemented water conservation and recycled all waste process water and storm water after treatment and storage for reuse in the facility's manufacturing process. The Discharger reconstructed and upgraded the treatment system in 2013 which increased the capacity of the wastewater treatment clarifiers/filters (from 900-gallon tanks to 1,500-gallon tanks). The treated process water and storm water retention pond system is designed to hold a 100-year storm event. There has not been a discharge of wastewater from the retention pond to surface water since 1994.

CHARLES STRINGER, CHAIR | SAMUEL UNGER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Therefore, the NPDES permit (Order No. R4-2014-0059) regulating the discharge is no longer needed.

In accordance with administrative procedures, this Regional Water Board at a public hearing to be held on September 10, 2015, at 9:00 A.M., at Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board Room, 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California, will consider the enclosed revised tentative Order, which will terminate the requirements in Order No. R4-2014-0059. The Board members will hear any testimony pertinent to this matter. It is expected that the Board will take action at the hearing; however, as testimony indicates, the Board, at its discretion, may order further investigation.

Written submissions pertaining to the revised tentative Order must be submitted to the Regional Water Board staff at losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy submitted to Rosario Aston at Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 23, 2015, in order to be evaluated by Staff and included in the Board's agenda folder. Timely submittal of written comments is encouraged to ensure that Regional Water Board staff is able to provide timely review, and that Regional Water Board members have sufficient time to give full consideration to the comments and issues raised. The Regional Water Board chair may exclude from the record written materials received after this date. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648.4.)

Should any future activities at the subject Facility result in discharges of any wastewater to surface waters, you are required to file a Report of Waste Discharge with this Regional Water Board prior to discharge.

If you have any questions, please contact Rosario Aston at (213) 576-6653.

Sincerely,



Cassandra D. Owens, Chief
Industrial Permitting Unit (NPDES)

Enclosures

cc: See Mailing List

Mailing List (Via Email Only)

Ms. Robyn Stuber, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Permits Branch (WTR-5)
Mr. Kenneth Wong, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Bryant Chesney, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Jeff Phillips, Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. William Paznokas, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5
Ms. Leah Walker, State Water Resources Control Board, Drinking Water Division
Ms. Teresa, Henry, California Coastal Commission, South Coast Region
Mr. Theodore Johnson, Water Replenishment District of Southern California
Mr. Tim Smith, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Works, Waste Management
Division
Mr. Angelo Bellomo, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health
City of Wilmington
Mr. Peter Shellenbarger, Heal the Bay
Ms. Liz Crosson, Los Angeles WaterKeeper
Ms. Anna Kheyfets, Natural Resources Defense Council
Ms. Kristy Allen, Tetra Tech
Mr. Ralph Appy, Environmental Consultant for California Sulphur Company