

**State of California  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R4-2007-YYYY**

**DIRECTING  
THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA TO  
COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN  
ORDER NO. R4-2007-XXXX  
(Ventura Water Reclamation Facility)  
(NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0053651)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (hereafter Regional Water Board), finds:

1. The City of San Buenaventura (City or Discharger) owns and operates the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility (Facility) located at 1400 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura. The Facility discharges tertiary treated wastewater to the Santa Clara River Estuary (Estuary), a water of the United States within the Santa Clara River Watershed, under Waste Discharge Requirements contained in Order No. R4-2007-XXXX, adopted by this Regional Water Board on July 12, 2007. Order No. R4-2007-XXXX also serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES Permit No. CA0053651).
2. The treatment system consists of grit removal, primary sedimentation, flow equalization, roughing filters, activated sludge nitrification and denitrification (NDN), tertiary filters, chlorination and dechlorination, primary sludge thickener, DAF secondary sludge thickener, anaerobically digested, and dewatered (using filter presses). A portion of the dewatered sludge is composted (Class B), and hauled to various users in Ventura County. The remainder of the dewatered sludge is disposed of in the Simi Valley and Chiquita Canyon Landfills.

The Facility currently does not have a full NDN process (full nitrification and partial denitrification). The effluent data between February 2003 and December 2006 showed high effluent nitrate concentration (10.1 – 18.6 mg/L, average: 14.6 mg/L) and very low effluent nitrite concentration (always less than 0.4 mg/L, which is the detection limit). However, the nitrite effluent concentrations could exceed 1 mg/L (the water quality objective specified in the Basin Plan) based on Best Professional Judgement, if the oxidation process of the nitrification is not complete. Therefore, a final nitrite limitation of 1 mg/L has been placed in Order No. R4-2007-XXXX. The Discharger may request to obtain interim nitrite effluent limitations in the future.

3. NPDES Order No. R4-2007-XXXX, adopted on July 12, 2007, prescribes the following effluent limitations for ammonia nitrogen, nitrite plus nitration nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, and nitrate nitrogen:

Constituent	Units	Discharge Limitations	
		Monthly Average	Daily Maximum
Summer Ammonia Nitrogen (May – October)	mg/L	0.045	0.30
	lbs/day	5.3	35
Winter Ammonia Nitrogen (November – April)	mg/L	0.079	0.53
	lbs/day	9.3	62
Nitrite + Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/L	10	--
	lbs/day	1,200	--
Nitrite Nitrogen	mg/L	1	--
	lbs/day	120	--
Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/L	10	--
	lbs/day	1,200	--

- A. Numeric limitations for ammonia resulted from the calculations of the *Saltwater Ammonia Objectives for Inland Surface Water, Resolution No. 2004-022*.
- B. The limitations for nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, and nitrate nitrogen were based on the Water Quality Objectives in the Basin Plan.
- C. These final effluent limits take effect on the effective date of NPDES Order No. R4-2007-XXXX; i.e., 50 days after its adoption (September 1, 2007).
- D. The Discharger cannot meet the effluent limits for ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, and nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen. Therefore, interim limits are needed for these chemicals.
- E. To achieve compliance with the effluent limitations, the Discharger may modify or improve the treatment system, or conduct studies leading to approvable site-specific objectives (SSOs). Regional Water Board approval of Basin Plan amendments for the SSOs must be obtained on or before the compliance dates.
4. California Water Code section 13300 allows the discharger “to submit for approval by the board, with such modifications as [the board] may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements.”
5. In conformance with Water Code section 13385(j)(3), the Discharger shall submit a workplan specifying actions that the Discharger will take in order to prevent the violations of the applicable effluent limitations for ammonia nitrogen, nitrate

nitrogen, nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen. Further, the limitations covered by this Time Schedule Order (TSO) are necessary because the effluent limitations became effective after September 1, 2007, new control measures are necessary to comply with the limitations, and the appropriate control measures cannot be put into operation within 30 days. The Regional Water Board concluded that the Discharger's three year compliance schedule was as short as possible, taking into account the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect the design, development, and implementation of the control measures.

6. This TSO allows the Discharger to achieve full compliance with the ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, and nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen effluent limitations according to water quality objectives specified in the Basin Plan, and prescribes interim limits for ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, and nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen for the Facility to comply until the full compliance date.
7. Exceedances of the final effluent NPDES limits for ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, and nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen are not subject to CWC Section 13385 subdivisions (h) and (i) as long as the City complies with all of the requirements of the TSO; does not exceed the interim limits; and, meets requirements A through D of CWC Section 13385(j)(3).
8. The action taken by this Regional Water Board pertaining to the time schedule does not preclude the possibility of actions to enforce the waste discharge requirements and permit by third parties pursuant to section 505 of the Federal Clean Water Act.
9. The Regional Water Board may reopen this TSO at its discretion or at the request of the Discharger, if warranted.
10. The Discharger's prior waste discharge requirements and NPDES permit already contained provisions for completing facility upgrades. As such, this TSO concerns an existing facility, does not significantly alter the status with respect to the facility, and is, therefore, categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et.seq.) in accordance with Section 15301 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

The Regional Water Board notified the City of San Buenaventura and interested agencies and persons of its intent to issue this Time Schedule Order.

The Regional Water Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all testimony pertinent to this matter. All orders, studies, and other document referred to above and records of hearings and testimony therein are incorporated by reference made a part of the administrative record.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that pursuant to the California Water Code section 13300, the City of San Buenaventura, as operator of the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility, shall:

1. Comply immediately with the following interim effluent limits:

Constituent	Units	Interim Monthly Average	Interim Daily Maximum
Summer Ammonia (May – October)	mg/L	2.1	2.5
	lb/Day	250	290
Winter Ammonia (November – April)	mg/L	3.0	3.6
	lb/Day	350	420
Nitrite + Nitrate	mg/L	19	21
	lb/Day	2,200	2,500
Nitrate	mg/L	19	21
	lb/Day	2,200	2,500

The interim effluent limits, based on normal distribution and effluent data collected from February 2003 to December 2006, were derived statistically at 95 % and 99% percentiles using Minitab software for monthly average and daily maximum, respectively.

2. The above interim limits for ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, and nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen are effective from September 1, 2007 and will expire on August 31, 2010.
3. Submit a pollution prevention plan (PPP) workplan with a time schedule for implementation for approval of the Executive Officer within 120 days after the adoption of this TSO (by November 9, 2007), pursuant to CWC section 13263.3.
4. Submit quarterly progress reports of efforts towards compliance with the effluent limits for ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, and nitrite plus nitrate nitrogen to include, but not limited to:
  - A. Status of the plant modification/ upgrade activities; and/or,
  - B. Status of the development of any SSOs.

Progress reports shall be received by the fifteenth day of the second month following the reporting quarter (February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15). The first progress report shall be received at the Regional Water Board by November 15, 2007, and will cover the months of July 2007 through September 2007.

5. All other provisions and requirements of Order No. R4-2007-XXXX not in conflict with this Order remain in full force and effect.
6. If the Discharger fails to comply with any provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may issue an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint pursuant to California Water Code Section 13323. The Regional Water Board may also refer the case to the Attorney General for injunction and civil monetary remedies, pursuant to California Water Code sections 13331 and 13385.

I, Deborah J. Smith, Interim 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, Los Angeles Region, on July 12, 2007.

Deborah J. Smith  
Interim Executive Officer

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