

Uncontested NPDES Permit Buff

CHEVRON U.S.A. INC., STATION 36 – CARRIER CANAL, KERN RIVER OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron) is currently authorized to discharge treated oil field produced water to the Carrier Canal, a water of the U.S., pursuant to WDR Order No. R5-2002-0052 (NPDES Permit No. CA0080853) and Special Order R5-2005-0136. Discharge to the Carrier Canal is a contingency when the pipeline which normally conveys treated produced water to the Cawelo Water District Reservoir B is unavailable. Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. (Texaco), previously discharged to the Canal separately under Order No. R5-2002-0053 (NPDES Permit No. CA0078352). Chevron and Texaco completed a corporate merger in 2003 and since then operates as Chevron. In June 2002, Chevron consolidated the discharge outfalls to the Canal and now only one permit is necessary. Discharge to the canal is limited to 480 hours annually by agreement with the canal owners, the City of Bakersfield and the Kern Delta Water District. The tentative Order renews the contingency discharge to the Carrier Canal and authorizes a maximum discharge flow limit of 18 mgd, or one-third the rate of freshwater flow in the Canal, whichever is less. The discharge specifications and effluent limitations authorized in the tentative Order are at least as stringent as those in Order No. R5-2002-0052 and Special Order R5-2005-0136, and the discharge is consistent with the anti-backsliding requirements of the Clean Water Act and federal regulations. Also, the discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provisions of 40 CFR 131.12 and State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. (DAM)