

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. 78-11

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY  
Plaster City - Imperial County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. United States Gypsum Company, (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger) Plaster City, California 92289, submitted a report of waste discharge dated November 11, 1977.
2. The discharger is discharging the following:
  - a. Plant sewage and blowdown from cooling towers, in the amount of 25,200 gallons-per-day, is routed through an Imhoff tank, a trickling filter and into oxidation ponds. Overflow from said ponds is discharged to land, flows in a southeasterly direction and supports wildlife habitat. Location of disposal is in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M.
  - b. Sanitary wastewater from village and office, in the amount of 15,300 gallons-per-day, is routed through an Imhoff tank and into oxidation ponds with ultimate disposal by evaporation and infiltration. Location of disposal is near the north quarter corner of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M.
  - c. Industrial wastewater, in the amount of 8,640 gallons-per-day, which contains a little paper pulp but is mostly water from cleanup of pulper equipment, is discharged to land near the east quarter corner of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M. The wastewater flows easterly into Section 9, T16S, R11E, SBB&M, for about one-half mile and supports wildlife habitat.
  - d. Industrial cleanup wastewater, in the amount of 4,320 gallons-per-day, which contains some paper fiber pulp, gypsum stucco, bio-degradable synthetic soap and an

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occasional small amount of emulsified asphalt, is discharged into a lagoon. Overflow from the lagoon is discharged to land and flows for approximately one-quarter mile and supports wildlife habitat. Location of lagoon and surface flow is in the SE¼, Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M.

- e. Industrial wastewater, in the amount of 21,600 gallons-per-day, mostly blowdown from cooling towers with a slight amount of water-base paint cleanup, is discharged to land and flows one-quarter mile southward and supports wildlife habitat. The cooling tower blowdown contains treatment additives consisting of lignin sulfonate, sodium tri-polyphosphate, sulfamic acid, and sodium bisulfate. The location of waste discharge is near the south quarter-corner line of Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M.
3. The discharges from this facility have been subject to waste discharge requirements adopted in Board Resolution No. 69-33.
4. The Water Quality Control Plan for the West Colorado River Basin was adopted by the Board on April 10, 1975. The Basin Plan contains water quality objectives for Imperial Hydrologic Subunit.
5. A well was drilled at the plant site in 1925 to a depth of 600 feet, and the groundwater was found to be saline. A recent report, prepared by the U. S. Geological Survey, indicates that groundwater throughout this area has a Total Dissolved Solids content of from 4,700 mg/l to 54,200 mg/l.
6. This gypsum plant constitutes an ongoing project in accordance with the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21,000 et seq.) and the state guidelines, because the governmental approvals on or after April 5, 1973, do not involve a greater degree of responsibility or control over such activity than the governmental approvals received prior to that date.
7. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to update waste discharge requirements.

8. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications

1. Neither the treatment nor the discharge of wastewater shall create a pollution or a nuisance as defined in Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. All waste disposal shall be confined to property owned or controlled by the discharger.
3. A minimum depth of freeboard of at least two feet shall be maintained in wastewater holding basins at all times.
4. Adequate measures shall be taken to insure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render the discharge facilities inoperable.
5. Treatment and disposal by ponding shall be conducted in such manner that there shall be no stranded or exposed sewage solids.

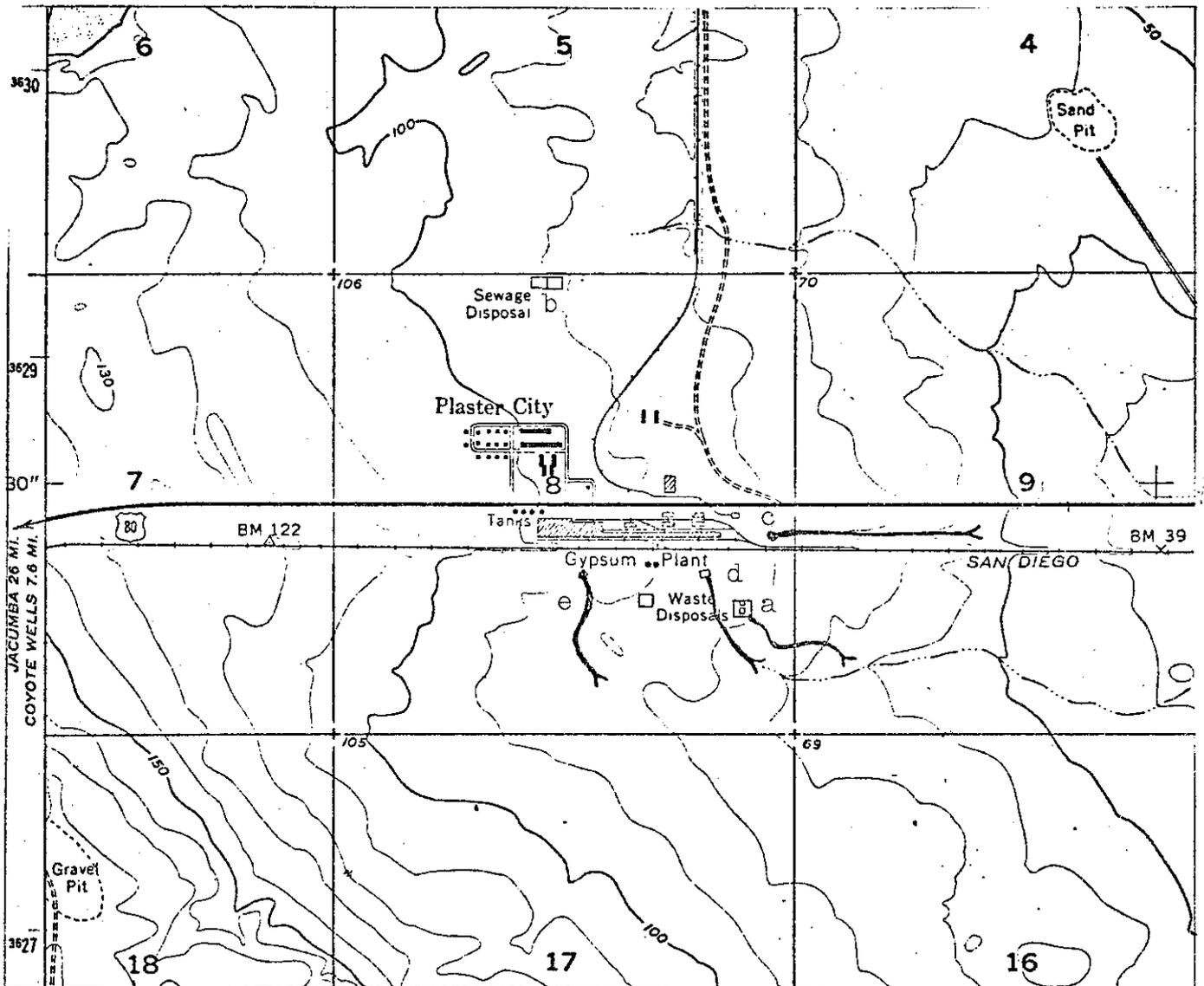
B. Provisions

1. The discharger shall notify the Board at least 30 days prior to any modification in this facility which could result in material change in the quality, quantity, or location of discharge.
2. In the event of any change in the control or ownership of the land upon which the discharge facilities are located, the discharger shall notify the succeeding owner in writing of the existence of this Order, and also forward a copy of said communication to the Regional Board.
3. Upon request from this Board's Executive Officer, the discharger shall furnish technical and/or monitoring reports on the treatment and discharge of wastes.
4. This Order supersedes Board Resolution No. 69-33.

I, Arthur Swajian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on January 25, 1978.

*Arthur Swajian*  
Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD-7



SITE MAP  
 UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY  
 Plaster City - Imperial County

Location of Waste Discharges:

- a. Plant sewage and blowdown from cooling towers
- b. Sanitary sewage from village and office
- c. Industrial wastewater from pulper
- d. Industrial cleanup wastewater
- e. Cooling tower blowdown

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 Scale  
 1"-2000'

U.S.G.S. 7½ min. Topographic Map - Plaster City, California  
 Section 8, T16S, R11E, SBB&M

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