

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. 78-40

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
CHEVRON RESOURCES COMPANY  
TEMPERATURE GRADIENT HOLES  
East Mesa Area - Imperial County

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

1. Chevron Resources Company (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger), P.O. Box 3722, San Francisco, CA 94119, submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated January 12, 1978.
2. The discharger proposes to drill about 25 temperature gradient holes in the East Mesa Area to depths ranging from 250 to 2,000 feet. Approximately 3,000 gallons of drilling mud would be discharged into a small mud sump for each hole. The total discharge into all sumps would be about 75,000 gallons. The area of operations includes all of Sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 of T13S, R16E, SBB&M.
3. The discharger proposes that clean-up will be accomplished upon abandonment of each hole. All wastes removed from the sumps would be trucked to a solid waste disposal site approved by the Regional Board to receive such wastes.
4. The discharger estimates that approximately 4 - 6 persons will be working at the well sites at any one time.
5. Shallow groundwaters are of marginal quality and presently are not beneficially used. Deep groundwaters are being tested for potential geothermal power production.
6. 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 the Imperial Hydrologic Unit.
7. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the proposed discharge.

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8. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.
9. These discharge requirements govern the discharge of waste from geothermal exploration wells. This type of activity constitutes only a minor modification to land, and such activity is thereby exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15104, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Administrative Code.

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

A. Discharge Specifications

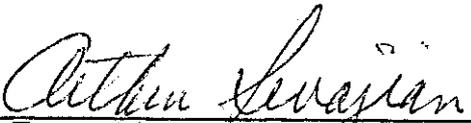
1. Neither the treatment nor the discharge of wastes shall create a pollution or a nuisance as defined in Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. The surface discharge of geothermal fluids into any sump or container that could cause flow or seepage to irrigation drains or canals is prohibited.
3. Geothermal fluids shall not be allowed to pond except in the sumps.
4. Surface runoff of geothermal fluids is prohibited.
5. Adequate protective works and maintenance shall be provided to assure that mud sumps will not become eroded or otherwise damaged during the project period, and/or until all geothermal materials are removed.
6. All geothermal wastes shall be removed from the mud sumps and discharged at a disposal site approved by the Regional Board to receive such wastes. Cleanup of all contents shall be accomplished upon abandonment of each hole. Lack of activity at a hole site for a period of six (6) months shall constitute abandonment for the purpose of this Order.

B. Provisions

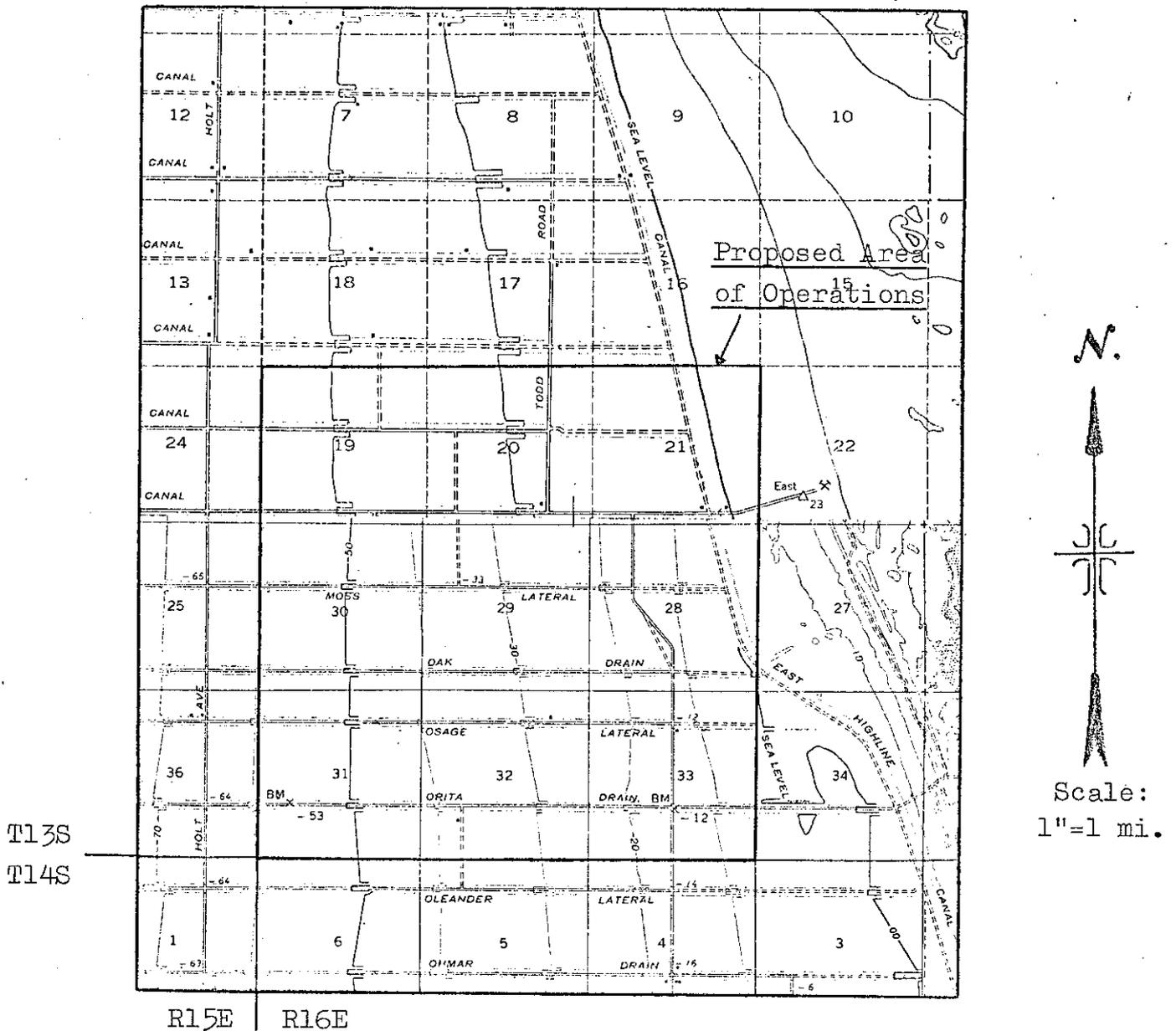
1. Upon request from this Board's Executive Officer the discharger shall furnish technical and/or monitoring reports on the treatment and discharge of waste.

2. Prior to any proposed change in operation which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater discharged, or any material change in location of the area of operations, the discharger shall report in writing to the Regional Board.

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 May 10, 1978.

  
Executive Officer

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SITE MAP

CHVRON RESOURCES COMPANY  
TEMPERATURE GRADIENT HOLES

East Mesa Area - Imperial County

Sections: 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, T13S, R16E, SBB&M

Holtville and Iris 15 min. Topographic Maps

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