

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. 92-026  
NPDES NO. CA0105023

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
AND NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT  
FOR  
SEELEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
Seeley - Imperial County

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

1. Seeley County Water District (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger), P.O. Box 161, Seeley, California 92273, submitted a NPDES Application for Permit to Discharge from a wastewater treatment facility dated May 2, 1991. Said application is assigned Application No. CA 0105023.
2. The discharger presently discharges treated wastewater from two (2) oxidation basins. The treated wastewater is discharged directly to the New River. The maximum monthly discharge to the New River is 0.2 million gallons-per-day (mgd) and is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, T16S, R12E, SBB&M. The facility is located at 1898 W. Main Street, Seeley, CA 92273.
3. The discharger reports that no industrial wastewaters will be discharged to the treatment plant.
4. This discharge has been subject to waste discharge requirements, Board Order No. 86-44, (NPDES No. CA0105023), adopted July 9, 1986, which allows discharge to New River.
5. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California was adopted May 15, 1991 and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
6. The beneficial uses of waters in the New River are:
  - a. Fresh Water Replenishment of Salton Sea (FRSH)
  - b. Noncontact Water Recreation (REC II)
  - c. Warm Water Habitat (WARM)
  - d. Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
  - e. Preservation of Rare, Endangered or Threatened Species (RARE)
  - f. Water Contact Recreation (REC I)
7. The purpose of this Board Order is to renew waste discharge requirements adopted in Board Order No. 86-049.

*Superseded by:  
Board Order # 97-049  
6/25/97*

8. In accordance with Section 13389, Chapter 5.5, Division 7 of the California Water Code, and Section 15263, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these waste discharge requirements is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act requirement to prepare an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration (Public Resources Code, Section 21100 et seq.).
9. The Board has notified the discharger, and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update waste discharge requirements for said discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
10. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.
11. This Board Order shall serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit pursuant to Section 402 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended, and shall become effective upon the date of the hearing at which this Board Order was adopted by the Regional Board, provided the Regional Administrator, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, has no objections.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and the regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following specifications:

A. Effluent Limitations

1. Wastewater discharged to New River shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>30-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>	<u>7-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>
20°C BOD <sub>5</sub>	mg/l	45	65
Suspended Solids	mg/l	95	
Settleable Matter	ml/l	0.3	0.5

2. The pH of the effluent shall be maintained within the limits of 6.0 to 9.0.
3. There shall be no acute toxicity in the treatment plant effluent being discharged to the New River. Acute toxicity is defined as less than ninety percent survival, fifty percent of the time, and less than seventy percent survival, ten percent of the time, of standard test organisms in undiluted effluent in a 96-hour static or continuous - flow test.

B. Receiving Water Limitations

1. Wastewater discharged to the New River shall not:
  - a. Depress the dissolved oxygen content of the New River below 5.0 mg/L. During any period when the River's dissolved oxygen content is already below 5.0 mg/L, the discharger shall not cause any further depression.
  - b. Cause the presence of oil, grease, scum, or sludge.
  - c. Result in the deposition of objectionable solids.
  - d. Contain metals, chemicals, pesticides, or other constituents in concentrations which are toxic to or which produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or indigenous aquatic life.
2. This discharge shall not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standard for receiving waters adopted by the Regional Board or the State Water Resources Control Board as required by the Federal Clean Water Act and regulations adopted thereunder.

C. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050(1) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. A minimum depth of freeboard of two (2) feet shall be maintained at all times in the ponds.

D. Prohibitions

1. The discharger shall not accept waste in excess of the design treatment capacity of the plant as specified in Finding No. 2 of this Board Order.
2. The discharger shall not discharge untreated wastewater to the New River.

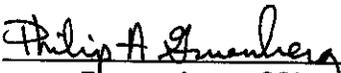
E. Provisions

1. Wastewater discharged to the New River shall be monitored for toxicity using bioassays as specified in "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 92-026" (attached).
2. If the discharge consistently exceeds the applicable chronic or acute toxicity limitation, a toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE) is required. The TRE shall include all reasonable steps to identify the source(s) of toxicity. Once the source(s) of toxicity is identified, the discharger shall take all reasonable steps necessary to reduce toxicity to the required level.
3. Prior to any modifications in this facility which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the discharger shall

- report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board; and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
4. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
  5. The discharger shall ensure that all site operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order.
  6. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
  7. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 92-026", and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
  8. The discharger shall comply with "Standard Provisions for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit" dated October, 1990 which is part of this Board Order (copy attached).
  9. The discharger's facility shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing certification of appropriate grade pursuant to Section 3680, Title 23, California Code of Regulations.
  10. Facilities shall be available to keep the plant in operation in the event of commercial power failure.
  11. The discharger shall provide a plan as to the method, treatment, handling and disposal of sludge that is consistent with all state and federal laws and regulations. In addition, the discharger shall submit an annual report which gives the amount (in tons) and the method of all sludge disposal for the previous year.
  12. The discharger shall provide a report to the Regional Board when it determines that the plant is operating at 80 percent of the design capacity specified in Finding No. 2. The report must indicate what steps, if any, the discharger intends to take to provide for expected wastewater treatment capacity necessary when the plant reaches design capacity.
  13. The discharger shall implement acceptable operation and maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant so that needed repair and maintenance are performed in a timely manner.
  14. In the event the discharger allows industries to discharge to the wastewater treatment plant, then the discharger shall do so by developing and implementing an approved Industrial Pretreatment Program in accordance with the applicable Federal Pretreatment Regulations in 40 CFR Part 403.
  15. This Board Order expires five years from date of adoption, and the discharger shall file a complete Report of Waste Discharge and NPDES Application for Permit to Discharge in accordance with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, at least 180 days in advance of such date as an application for issuance of new waste discharge requirements.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Board Order No. 86-049 be superseded by this Board Order.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, 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 13, 1992.

  
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Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
 COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 92-026  
 FOR  
 SEELEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
 Seeley - Imperial County

Location of Discharge: New River, in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, T16S, R12E, SBB&M

MONITORING

A. EFFLUENT MONITORING

Wastewater treatment plant effluent discharged to the New River shall be monitored for the constituents indicated below. A sampling station shall be established where representative samples of the effluent can be obtained.

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Discharge to New River	MGD		Daily <sup>1</sup>
Settleable Solids	ml/l	Grab at Peak Flow	Weekly
Suspended Solids	mg/l	24-Hr. Composite	Weekly
20°C BOD <sub>5</sub>	mg/l	24-Hr. Composite	Weekly
pH	pH Units	Grab at Peak Flow	Weekly
Bioassay (Toxicity Test)	tu <sub>c</sub>	8-Hr. Composite	Yearly (See Section on Chronic Toxicity Testing)

B. INFLUENT MONITORING

The wastewater influent to the treatment facility shall be monitored weekly for 20°C BOD<sub>5</sub> and suspended solids, using 24-hour composite samples.

C. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Reporting</u>
To inspect and document any operational and maintenance problems by reviewing each unit process.	Yearly

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<sup>1</sup> Reported Monthly

D. EFFLUENT CHRONIC TOXICITY TESTING

The discharger shall conduct chronic toxicity testing on the treatment plant effluent as follows:

<u>Test</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Samples</u>	<u>Minimum Frequency of Test</u>
Chronic Toxicity	tu <sub>c</sub>	8-Hr. Composite	Yearly

Both test species given below shall be used to measure chronic toxicity:

Critical Life Stage Toxicity Tests

<u>Species</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Test Duration (Days)</u>	<u>Reference</u>
fathead minnow (Pimephales promelas)	larval survival and growth rate	7	Horning & Weber, 1989
water flea (Ceriodaphnia dubia)	survival; number of young	7	Horning & Weber, 1989

Toxicity Test Reference: Horning W.B. and C.I. Weber (eds). 1989. Short Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organism. Second edition. U.S. EPA Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, Cincinnati, Ohio. EPA/600/4-89/001.

Dilution and control waters should be obtained from an unaffected area of the receiving waters. Standard dilution water should be used if the above source exhibit toxicity greater than 1.0 tu<sub>c</sub>. The sensitivity of the test organism to a reference toxicant shall be determined concurrently with each bioassay and reported with the test results.

Chronic toxicity shall be expressed and reported as toxic units (tu<sub>c</sub>) where:

$$tu_c = 100/NOEL$$

and the No Observed Effect Level (NOEL) is expressed as the maximum percent effluent of test water that causes no observed effect on a test organism, as determined in a critical life stage toxicity test (indicated above).

REPORTING

Weekly and daily monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by the 15th day of the following month. Annual reports shall be submitted by January 15 of the following year.

Submit monitoring reports to:

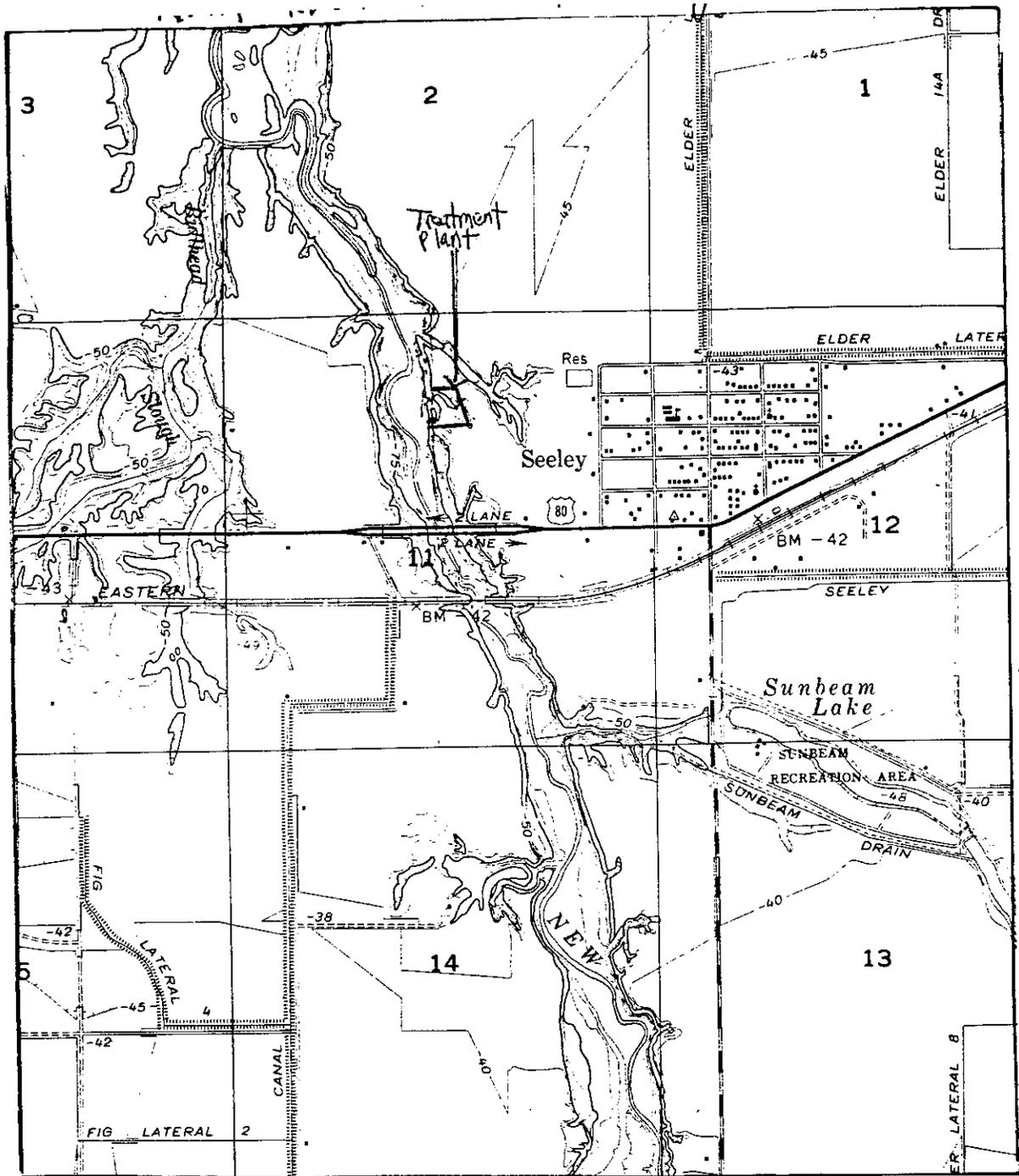
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-271 Highway 111, Suite 21  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

ORDERED BY:

Philip A. Gruenberg  
Executive Officer

May 13, 1992

Date



SITE MAP

Seeley County Water District  
Imperial County  
Discharge Location: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 11, T16S, R12E, SBB&M  
USGS Seeley 75 Min Topographic Map