

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

**ORDER NO. 96-008  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
DESERT WATER AGENCY, OWNER/OPERATOR  
DESERT WATER AGENCY RECLAMATION FACILITY  
Palm Springs - Riverside County**

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

1. Desert Water Agency, owner/operator (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 1200 Gene Autry Trail South, P.O. Box 1710, Palm Springs, California, 92263-1710, provided the updated information given below.
2. The discharger owns and operates a wastewater reclamation facility that provides tertiary treatment to the secondary effluent received from the Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. At present, the design capacity of the plant is five (5) million gallons-per-day (MGD) and the average daily flow is 2.0 MGD.
3. Desert Water Agency submitted a Report of Waste Discharge on August 2, 1994, to update the Waste Discharge Requirements proposing an increase in design capacity from five (5) MGD to ten (10) MGD. The average daily flow is expected to be increased from 2.0 MGD to 5.0 MGD. Peak high demand may be increased to 8 MGD.
4. The discharger has stated that since July 1, 1995, the facility is operative with the increased capacity. The tertiary processes are, in order, coagulation, clarification, filtration and disinfection. Following is the list of the treatment units after expansion:
  - a. One influent equalization reservoir (2.0 MG)
  - b. Four influent pumps (2,300 GPM-per-unit)
  - c. Two flocculation structures
  - d. Six adsorption clarifiers and mixed media filter modules
  - e. One filtered effluent siphon and chlorination chamber
  - f. One reclaimed water chlorine contact and storage reservoir (2.3 MG)
  - g. Four effluent pumps (2,300 GPM-per-unit)
5. The facility is located in the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 20, T4S, R5E; SBB&M, as indicated on the attached site map.
6. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on November 17, 1993, and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
7. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit are:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
  - c. Agricultural supply (AGR)

8. This discharge has been subject to waste discharge requirements adopted in Board Order No. 91-004.
9. This Board Order updates the waste discharge requirements to comply with current laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the California Code of Regulations.
10. The discharger has reported that depth-to-ground water near the vicinity of the facility is approximately 200 feet below ground surface. The soil type in the vicinity of the facility is Myoma fine sand to very fine sand. The nearest groundwater monitoring well is located about 650 feet northwest of the facility. The laboratory analysis of this ground water monitoring well as reported by the discharger is as follows:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	240.0
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> )	mg/L	64.4
pH	---	8.0

11. The discharger has reported that the annual rainfall ranges from 3 to 5 inches per year.
12. The discharger reports that there is no production wells located on the site or adjacent to the site. The Tahquitz Wash is located 600 feet south of the site.
13. Section 13523 of the California Water Code provides that a Regional Board, after consultation with and reception of recommendation from the DOHS, and if it determines such action to be necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare, shall prescribe wastewater reclamation requirements for wastewater which is used or proposed to be used as reclaimed water.
14. The DOHS has established statewide reclamation criteria in Section 60301, Chapter 2, Division 4, Title 22, California Code of Regulations, et. seq. for the use of reclaimed water and has developed guidelines for specific uses.
15. 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.
16. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.
17. On December 19, 1989, the Board of Directors of the Desert Water Agency determined that the new wastewater treatment facility upgrade would have no significant effect on the environment. As a consequence, a Negative Declaration was filed in accordance with Article 6, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code Regulations.
18. Federal Regulations for storm water discharges were issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 16, 1990 (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 122, 123, and 124). In conformance with these regulations, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a General Permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activities, Water Quality Order No. 91-13-DWQ (as amended by Water Quality Order No. 92-12-DWQ), NPDES

CAS000001, on September 17, 1992. Industrial facilities, including sewage treatment plants are required to obtain NPDES permits for their storm water discharges.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 91-004 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

**A. Effluent Limitations**

1. The discharge shall not contain total dissolved solids concentrations in excess of 400 mg/L above the domestic supply water source.
2. Tertiary treated effluent directly reused shall conform to the following:
  - a. Reclaimed water, used for the irrigation of parks, playgrounds, schoolyards and other areas where the public has access or exposure, shall be at all times adequately disinfected, oxidized, coagulated, clarified filtered wastewater or a wastewater treated by sequence of unit processes that will assure an equivalent degree of treatment and reliability.
    1. The wastewater shall be considered adequately disinfected if the median number of coliform organisms in the effluent does not exceed 2.2 per 100 milliliters, as determined from the bacteriological results of the last 7 days for which analyses have been completed, and the number of coliform organisms does not exceed 23 per 100 milliliters in any sample.
    2. Filtered wastewater means an oxidized, coagulated, clarified wastewater which has been passed through natural undisturbed soils or filter media, such as sand or diatomaceous earth, so that turbidity, as determined by an approved laboratory method, does not exceed an average operating turbidity of two turbidity units and does not exceed five turbidity units more than five percent of the time during any 24 hour period.

**B. Prohibitions**

1. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.
2. The discharge of treated wastewater to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.
3. Discharge of treated wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in Finding Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 above, is prohibited.
4. The discharger shall not accept secondary effluent in excess of the design treatment capacity of the reclamation facility.
5. Use or installation of hose bibs on any reclaimed irrigation system, regardless of hose bib construction or identification is prohibited.

**C. Specifications**

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050(l) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.

2. The treatment facility shall be protected from any washout or erosion of wastes or covering material, and from any inundation which could occur as a result of floods having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.
3. Public contact with undisinfected wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives.
4. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
5. There shall be no direct or indirect discharge of reclaimed wastewater into any on-site domestic or irrigation supply well as a result of reclaimed wastewater irrigation use on golf courses and landscape areas.
6. The producer shall discontinue delivery of reclaimed wastewater to users during any period in which there is a reason to believe that the conditions described in item (a) above are not being met. The delivery of the reclaimed water shall not be resumed until all conditions which caused the discrepancy have been removed.
7. The storage, delivery, or use of reclaimed water shall not individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, result in a pollution or nuisance, or adversely affect water quality as defined in the California Water Code.
8. The delivery or use of reclaimed water shall be in conformance with the reclamation criteria contained in Chapter 3, Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, or amendments thereto, for the irrigation of food crops, irrigation of fodder, fiber, and seed crops, landscape irrigation, supply of recreational impoundments and ground water recharge.
9. The discharger shall be responsible for assuring that reclaimed water is utilized in conformance with this Board Order and the reclamation criteria contained in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.
10. Reclaimed wastewater shall not be delivered to any new user who has not first received a discharge permit from the Regional Board and approval from the State Department of Health Services.
11. There shall be no cross-connection between potable water supply and piping containing reclaimed water. Augmenting reclaimed water from the domestic supply shall not be allowed except through an air-gap separation. An air-gap or reduced principle device shall be provided to all domestic service connections to reclaimed water use areas.
12. There shall be at least a 10-foot horizontal and 1-foot vertical separation, with domestic water above the reclaimed pipeline, between all pipelines transporting reclaimed wastewater and those transporting domestic water unless otherwise approved by the State or County Department of Health Service.
13. All waste solids collected and/or generated at the facility shall be disposed on in a manner approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

#### D. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 96-008", and future revision thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The discharger shall ensure that all site operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
5. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
6. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
  - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
7. The discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with this Board Order. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a discharger only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order.
8. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
9. The discharger shall comply with the following:
  - a. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
  - b. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order, for a period of at least 5 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Regional Board's Executive Officer at any time.

- c. Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures under 40 CFR part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this Board Order.
10. Unless otherwise approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
  11. All regulated disposal systems shall be readily accessible for sampling and inspection.
  12. The discharger is the responsible party for the waste discharge requirements, and the monitoring and reporting program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these waste discharge requirements. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in modification or revocation of these waste discharge requirements by the Regional Board.
  13. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
  14. All storm water discharges from this facility must comply with the lawful requirements of municipalities, counties, drainage districts, and other local agencies, regarding discharges of storm water to storm water drain systems or other courses under their jurisdiction.
  15. Storm water discharges from the facility shall not cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance.
  16. The discharger's wastewater treatment plant shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing certification of appropriate grade. The discharger shall ensure that all operating personnel are familiar with the contents of this Board Order.
  17. Collected screenings, sludges, and other solids removed from liquid wastes shall be disposed of in a manner that is consistent with Chapter 15, Division 3, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations and approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
  18. Compliance with the effluent limitations contained in this Board Order shall be determined at an appropriate point located at the end of the discharge pipe.
  19. According to the guidelines provided by the DOHS, there should be no irrigation or impoundment of reclaimed water within 500 feet of any well used for domestic supply or 100 feet of any irrigation well unless it can be demonstrated that special circumstances justify lesser distances to be acceptable. A written waiver from DOHS is required prior to the construction of such wells or impoundments.
  20. The discharger shall inform this office by telephone of all occurrences of bypasses or spills within the treatment or distribution systems within one business day of the occurrence. Within 5 days of the occurrence, the discharger shall send a report to this office which shall include the starting date and time, an estimate of the total discharge and the corrective measures taken (or which will be taken) by the discharger. The discharger shall maintain a log of this information. The log shall be kept at the facility and shall be available upon facility inspection.

21. Water reclamation requirements shall conform with the statewide reclamation criteria established by DOHS as specified in the "Wastewater Reclamation Criteria (Title 22, Division 4, Section 60301 through 60355) in the California Code of Regulations. These regulations apply to those reclaimed water use areas supplied water from sewage treatment plants having reliability features and operational histories meeting the Regional Water Quality Control Board and "Wastewater Reclamation Criteria" requirements. Additional precautions may be required where these conditions are not met.

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 January 24, 1996.

  
Executive Officer

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 96-008  
FOR  
DESERT WATER AGENCY, OWNER/OPERATOR  
DESERT WATER AGENCY WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY  
Palm Springs - Riverside County**

Location of Discharge: S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 20, T4S, R5E, SBB&M

**TERTIARY EFFLUENT MONITORING**

Tertiary treated effluent shall be sampled for the following constituents:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Fecal Coliform	MPN/100 ml	Grab	Daily
Volume of Wastewater Used for Irrigation at Each Location	Gallons/Day	Flow Measurement	Monthly
Turbidity	NTU	Continuous	Daily
Chlorine Residual	mg/L	Grab	Daily

The discharger shall provide the location of all sites being irrigated, and the name of the person, company or agency responsible for the irrigation at individual sites.

The discharger shall provide the following information regarding off-site use of tertiary effluent:

- a. Name and location of the golf courses/landscape areas being irrigated.
- b. Name and person, company or agency responsible for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system
- c. Quantity and quality of the tertiary effluent being provided to individual customers.
- d. The discharger shall immediately notify the Regional Board's Executive Officer of any changes regarding Items a, b, c, above.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The discharger shall report the following:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Reporting</u>
To inspect and document any operation/maintenance problems by inspecting each unit process	Annually

### REPORTING

1. The discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the specified information is readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner as to clearly illustrate whether the facility is operating in compliance with waste discharge requirements.
2. Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement(s);
  - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurement(s);
  - c. The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - e. The analytical techniques or method used; and
  - f. The results of such analyses.
3. Each report shall contain the following statement:

"I declare under the penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document, and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."
4. A duly authorized representative of the discharger may sign the documents if:
  - a. The authorization is made in writing by the person described above;
  - b. The authorization specified an individual or person having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated disposal system; and
  - c. The written authorization is submitted to the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
5. Report immediately any failure in the waste disposal system to the Regional Board and Director of County Environmental Health by telephone with follow-up by letter.
6. Monitoring reports shall be certified under penalty of perjury to be true and correct, and shall contain the required information at the frequency designated in this monitoring report.
7. The collection, preservation and holding times of all samples shall be in accordance with U. S. Environmental Protection Agency approved procedures. All analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Department of Health Services to perform the required analyses.

8. Compliance with the discharge limitations shall be determined at the effluent discharge pipeline sampling point.
9. If the facility is not in operation, or there is no discharge during a required reporting period, the discharger shall forward a letter to the Regional Board indicating that there has been no activity during the required reporting period.
10. Daily and monthly monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by the 15th day of the following month.
11. Annual monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by January 15 of each year.
12. Submit monitoring reports to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-720 Fred Waring, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Ordered by: Philip A. Gruenberg  
Executive Officer

January 24, 1996  
Date