

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

ORDER NO. R7-2002-0099

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR
COACHELLA INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND
INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS
Coachella – Riverside County**

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

1. Coachella Sanitary District (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 1515 Sixth Street, Coachella, California 92236, submitted an application to update its Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Coachella Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant, and wastewater collection and disposal systems.
2. The discharger owns and operates an industrial wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system within the City of Coachella. The industrial treatment plant is located at 86-889 Avenue 52, Coachella, California 92236. It consists of seven (7) percolation/evaporation ponds (a total area of 6 acres) and has a total design capacity of .175 MGD. Annual average flow to the facility is approximately .08 MGD.
3. The industrial wastewater is collected from six (6) agricultural packing plants with the possibility of accepting wastewater from three (3) more packing plants in the future. The wastewater consists of vegetable and fruit packaging wash water and refrigeration and air conditioning wastewater.
4. The collection system consists of 6-inch through 18-inch diameter sewer lines and the wastewater is conveyed to a lift station located off Avenue 52 at 86-301 Avenue 52. The wastewater is then pumped via a 6-inch diameter force main to the industrial plant ponds. Control valves are used to manage the wastewater flows to the ponds.
5. The sludge generated is minimal due to very low suspended solids in the agricultural wastewater and it is mixed in with the soil as needed to maintain percolation rates.
6. There are no domestic wells within 500 feet of the wastewater treatment plant ponds described in Finding No. 2 above.
7. This discharge has been subject to WDRs adopted in Board Order No. 91-037
8. This Board Order updates the WDRs to comply with the current laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the California Code of Regulations.
9. 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.

10. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit are:
 - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
 - b. Industrial supply (IND)
 - c. Agricultural supply (AGR)
11. Federal regulations for storm water discharges were promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (40 CFR Parts 122, 123, and 124). The regulations require specific categories of facilities which discharge storm water associated with industrial activity to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and to implement Best Conventional Pollutant Technology (BCT) to reduce or eliminate industrial storm water pollution.
12. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted Order No. 97-03-DWQ (General Permit No. CAS000001), specifying WDRs for discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities, excluding construction activities, and requiring submittal of a Notice of Intent by industries to be covered under the Permit.
13. Presently, there are no storm water discharges from this site. The storm water is contained on the site in the ponds, therefore, a NPDES Permit for storm water discharges is not necessary for this facility.
14. The discharger states that there are no discharges of pollutants (as defined in 33 U.S.C. Section 1362 (12) from this site. Therefore, an NPDES permit is not necessary for this facility.
15. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these WDRs, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.)
16. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update WDRs for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
17. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 91-037 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 30-day average daily dry weather discharge flow shall not exceed 0.175 MGD.
2. The effluent discharge values for pH shall not be below 6.0 or above 9.0.
3. The increase in concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) in the wastewater discharged to the ponds over that contained in the water supply to the community shall not exceed 400 mg/L. If the TDS limitation is exceeded, the discharger shall develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures, which are acceptable to the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

B. Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes from the facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Section 13050(l) 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 percolation/evaporative ponds.
3. Public contact with non-disinfected wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives. The non-disinfected wastewater is not approved for off-site distribution. Conspicuous signs shall be posted in a prominent location in each area where non-disinfected wastewater is stored on-site. Each sign or label with "Non-disinfected wastewater - No body contact or drinking" wording shall be displayed as well as the international warning symbol.
4. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
5. The percolation/evaporation ponds shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes, in particular:
 - a. An erosion control program should assure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface;
 - b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.
 - c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
6. Objectionable odors originating at this facility shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the industrial wastewater treatment and disposal area.
7. The percolation/evaporation ponds shall be maintained so they will be kept in aerobic conditions.
8. As a means of discerning compliance with Discharge Specifications No. 6 and No. 7 for discharge to wastewater treatment ponds, the dissolved oxygen content in the upper zone (one foot) of percolation/evaporation ponds shall not be less than 1.0 mg/L.
9. The industrial wastewater 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.

C. Prohibitions

1. The direct discharge of any wastewater from the facility to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Bypass, overflow, discharge or spill of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.
3. The discharge of waste to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.
4. Discharge of treated wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in Finding Nos. 2 and 4, above, are prohibited.

5. The discharger shall not accept waste in excess of the design treatment capacity of the disposal system.

D. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0099, and future revisions 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. Facilities shall be available to keep the plant in operation in the event of commercial power failure.
7. The discharger's wastewater treatment plant shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing certification of appropriate grade pursuant to Section 3680, Chapter 26, Division 3, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. The discharger shall ensure that all operating personnel are familiar with the contents of this Board Order.
8. The discharger shall comply with all of the conditions of this Board Order. Any noncompliance with this Board Order constitutes a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and is grounds for enforcement action.
9. The discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all systems and components of collection, treatment and control which are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate process controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. All systems both in service and reserved, shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records shall be kept of the inspection results and maintenance performed and made available to the Regional Board upon demand.
10. The discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. The discharger shall immediately report orally, information of the noncompliance as soon as (1) the discharger has knowledge of the discharge, (2) notification is possible, and (3) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, to the Regional Board office and the Office of Emergency Services. During non-business hours, the discharger shall leave a message on the Region Board office voice recorder. A written report shall also be provided within five (5) business days of the time the discharger becomes aware of the incident. The written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance, the anticipated time to achieve full

compliance, and the steps taken or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The discharger shall report all intentional or unintentional sewage spills in excess of one thousand (1,000) gallons occurring within the facility or collection system to the Regional Board office in accordance with the above time limits.

11. 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.
12. 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 five (5) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application.
 - c. Records of monitoring information shall include:
 1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements.
 2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements.
 3. The date(s) analyses were performed.
 4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses.
 5. The results of such analyses.
13. 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 USEPA.
14. The discharger shall provide a report to the Regional Board when it determines that the treatment plant's average dry weather flowrate for any month exceeds 80 percent of the design treatment capacity specified in Findings No. 2 above. The report should indicate what steps, if any; the discharger intends to take to provide for the expected wastewater treatment capacity necessary when the plant reaches design capacity.

15. The discharger is the responsible party for the WDRs and the Monitoring and Reporting Program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these WDRs. 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 WDRs by the Regional Board.
16. The discharger shall provide adequate notice to the Regional Board's Executive Officer of the following:
 - a. Any new introduction of pollutants into any of the treatment facilities described in the Findings of this Board Order from an indirect discharger which would be subject to Section 301 or 306 of the Clean Water Act, if it were directly discharging the pollutants.
 - b. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into any of the treatment facilities described in the Findings of this Board Order by an existing or new source.
 - c. Any planned physical alterations or additions to the facilities described in this Board Order, or changes planned in the discharger's sludge use or disposal practice, where such alterations, additions, or changes may justify the application of Board Order conditions that are different from or absent in the existing Board Order, including notification of additional disposal sites not reported during the Board Order application process, or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan.
17. The discharger shall report all instances of noncompliance. Reports of noncompliance shall be submitted with the discharger's next scheduled self-monitoring report or earlier if requested by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, or if required by an applicable standard for sludge use and disposal
18. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
19. 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.
20. Storm water discharges from the facility shall not cause or threaten to cause pollution or contamination.
21. Storm water discharges from the facility shall not contain hazardous substances equal to or in excess of a reportable quantity listed in 40 CFR Part 117 and/or 40 CFR Part 302.
22. Ponds shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow, design seasonal precipitation, ancillary inflow, and infiltration during the non-irrigation season. Design seasonal precipitation shall be based on total annual precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns.
23. In the event that the discharger has storm water discharges associated with industrial activities, the discharger shall submit a Notice of Intent and/or maintain coverage under the General Storm Water Permit.
24. 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.

25. This Board Order may be modified, rescinded and reissued, for cause. The filing of a request by the discharger for a Board Order modification, rescission and reissuance, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Board Order condition. Causes for modification include the promulgation of new regulations, modification of land application plans, or modification in sludge use or disposal practices, or adoption of new regulations by the State Board or the Regional Board, including revisions to the Basin Plan.

E. Pretreatment

1. In the event that (i) the facility has an average dry weather flow or treatment capacity of five (5) mgd or more and Industrial Users [40 CFR 403.3(n)] are discharging pollutants which Pass Through [40 CFR 403.3(n)] or Interfere [40 CFR 403.3(i)] with the operation of the wastewater treatment facility or are otherwise subject to National Pretreatment Standards [40 CFR 403.3(j), (ii) California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 2233] requires the facility to have and enforce an adequate pretreatment program, or (iii) the Regional Board or its Executive Officer determines that other circumstances warrant, then:
 - a. The discharger shall notify the Regional Board within 30 days after there are discharges that trigger the pretreatment requirements.
 - b. The discharger shall submit a revised Report of Waste Discharge and the pretreatment program for Regional Board review and approval as soon as possible but not later than one (1) year of the notice of pretreatment requirements.
 - c. The discharger shall enforce the federal categorical pretreatment standards on all Categorical Industrial Users (CIUs).
 - d. The discharger shall notify the CIU of its discharge effluent limits. The limits must be as stringent as the pretreatment standards contained in the applicable federal category (40 CFR Part 400-699). The discharger may develop more stringent, technically based local limits if it can show cause.
 - e. The discharger shall notify the Regional Board if the CIU violates its discharge effluent limits.
2. The discharger shall provide the Regional Board with an annual report describing the pretreatment program activities over the previous 12-month period. The report shall be transmitted to the Regional Board office no later than January 31 of each year and include:
 - a. A summary of actions taken by the discharger which ensures industrial-user compliance;
 - b. An updated list of industrial users (by SIC categories) which were issued permits, and/or enforcement orders, and a status of compliance for each user; and
 - c. The name and address of each user that received a revised discharge limit.
3. The Regional Board retains the right to take legal action against an industrial user and/or the discharger where a user fails to meet the approved applicable pretreatment standards.

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 8, 2002.

Executive Officer