

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region**

**Order No. R8-2008-0072
Amending Order No. R8-2007-0003
NPDES No. CA8000326**

**Waste Discharge Requirements and Producer/User Water Recycling
Requirements**

for the

**Irvine Ranch Water District's
Michelson Water Reclamation Plant
Orange County**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

Order No. R8-2008-0072
Amending Order No. R8-2007-0003

Waste Discharge and Producer/User Reclamation Requirements
For
Irvine Ranch Water District's
Michelson Water Reclamation Plant
Orange County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Regional Board), finds that:

1. On November 30, 2007, the Regional Board adopted Order No. R8-2007-0003, prescribing Producer/User Water Recycling Requirements for the Irvine Ranch Water District's (hereinafter Discharger) Michelson Water Reclamation Plant in Orange County.
2. In a meeting with Regional Board staff on January 14, 2008, the Discharger requested several minor changes to Order No. R-8-2007-0003, to correct an error, to clarify the Water Reclamation Requirements for adding new users of recycled water, and some modifications to the monitoring and reporting requirements.
3. Order No. R8-2007-0003, at Part III. Discharge Prohibition G, prohibits the discharge of recycled water to the Sand Canyon Reservoir at Discharge point 004 from October 1 through May 1 of each year when the reservoir surface water elevation is at or above 176.5 feet above mean sea level. The May 1 date is an error. The intent of the prohibition is to prevent the discharge of recycled water from the reservoir during the winter season. In previous Waste Discharge Requirements adopted by the Regional Board, this prohibition applied from October 1 through March 1, which allowed the Discharger to fill the reservoir with recycled water during the typically warm and dry months, when the demand for recycled water is the greatest. It is appropriate to amend the May 1 deadline in Order No. R8-2007-0003 to March 1, the date specified in prior Regional Board Orders for the IRWD facility.

4. Order No. R8-2007-0003, at Part IV. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications, and at Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Part IV. Effluent Monitoring Requirements to Surface Water, establishes effluent limits, discharge specifications, and monitoring and reporting requirements for discharges of recycled water from the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant to the recycled water distribution system and three storage reservoirs. One of these reservoirs is privately owned, while the other two are surface waters of the United States. The Discharger does not provide different treatment of recycled water for discharges to the various reservoirs and the recycled water system (at Discharge Locations 001 through 004), so these discharges are of essentially the same quality. The proposed amendment allows the Discharger to demonstrate compliance with the Effluent Limitations, Discharge Specifications, and Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for discharges at all Discharge Locations by monitoring at Discharge Location 001.
5. It is appropriate to amend Order No. R8-2007-0003 to correct the error in the date of the prohibition on discharges to Sand Canyon Reservoir, to clarify the requirements for adding new users of recycled water, and to specify amended Monitoring and Reporting requirements.
6. This Order is an amendment of waste discharge requirements for an existing facility and, as such, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100 et. seq.) in accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.
7. The Board has notified the Discharger and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend the producer/user water recycling requirements set forth in Order No. R8-2007-0003 and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
8. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to these water-recycling requirements.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. R8-2007-0003 be amended as follows:

1. Page 13 of the Order, Discharge Prohibitions, modify paragraph III.G. as follows:
 - G. The discharge of recycled water into the Sand Canyon Reservoir is prohibited from October 1 through March 1 of each year whenever the reservoir surface water elevation is at or above 176.5 feet above mean sea level.

2. Page 18 of the Order, Reclamation Specifications, modify paragraph IV.C.2. as follows:
 2. For new reuse sites, the use of recycled water shall only commence after the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) grants final approval for such use. If CDPH does not respond or does not explicitly disapprove the use of recycled water at new reuse sites within 30 days of receipt of the information required in IV.C.7., below, then the Discharger may assume final approval by CDPH and may commence distribution of recycled water at the new site(s). The Discharger shall provide the Regional Water Board with a copy of the CDPH approval letter, if provided, within 30 days of the approval notice.
3. Page 19 of the Order, Reclamation Specifications, modify Paragraph IV.C.7. as follows:
 7. Prior to delivering recycled water to any new user, the Discharger shall submit to the CDPH and the County Environmental Health Department a report containing the information specified in a-f, below, for review and approval. The Discharger shall maintain this new user information and make it available onsite during inspection upon request by Regional Board, CDPH and/or County Environmental Health Department staff. This new user information shall be submitted to the Regional Board upon request by the Executive Officer.
4. Page E-13 of Attachment E, Effluent Monitoring Requirements to Surface Waters, add new paragraph IV.A.7. as follows:
 7. The Discharger shall monitor and report the volume of groundwater pumped from the Newport Bay Watershed and discharged into the Discharger's reservoirs. The Discharger shall also monitor and report when there is "No Discharge" to the reservoirs of either groundwater or recycled water.
5. Page E--16 of Attachment E, Reclamation Monitoring Requirements, add new paragraph VII.A.2. as follows:
 2. The Discharger may demonstrate compliance with the Effluent Limitations, Discharge Specifications, and Monitoring and Reporting Requirements in this Order for discharges at all Discharge Locations, including recycled water reuse sites, by monitoring at Discharge Location 001.

6. All other conditions and requirements of Order No. R8-2007-0003 shall remain unchanged.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on September 5, 2008.



Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

September 5, 2008

STAFF REPORT

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Amendment of Order No. R8-2007-0003, Waste Discharge Requirements and Producer/User Water Recycling Requirements for Irvine Ranch Water District's Michelson Water Reclamation Plant – Order No. R8-2008-0072.

DISCUSSION:

On November 30, 2007, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (the Regional Board) adopted Order No. R8-2007-0003, prescribing Waste Discharge Requirements and Producer/User Water Recycling Requirements for the Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) Michelson Water Reclamation Plant in Orange County.

Order No. R8-2007-0003, at Part III. Discharge Prohibition G, prohibits the discharge of recycled water to the Sand Canyon Reservoir at Discharge point 004 from October 1 through May 1 of each year when the reservoir surface water elevation is at or above 176.5 feet above mean sea level. The May 1 date is an error. The intent of the prohibition is to prevent the discharge of recycled water from the reservoir during the winter season. In previous Waste Discharge Requirements adopted by the Regional Board, this prohibition applied from October 1 through March 1, which allowed the Discharger to fill the reservoir with recycled water during the typically warm and dry months, when the demand for recycled water is the greatest. It is appropriate to amend the May 1 deadline in Order No. R8-2007-0003 to March 1, the date specified in prior Regional Board Orders for the IRWD facility.

Order No. R8-2007-0003, at Part IV Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications, and at Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Part IV Effluent Monitoring Requirements to Surface Water, establishes effluent limits, discharge specifications, and monitoring and reporting requirements for discharges of recycled water from the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant to the recycled water distribution system, and three storage reservoirs. One of these reservoirs is privately owned, while the other two are surface waters of the United States. The Discharger does not provide different treatment of recycled water for discharges to the various reservoirs and the recycled water system (at Discharge Locations 001 through 004), so these discharges are of essentially the same quality. The proposed amendment allows the Discharger to demonstrate compliance with the Effluent Limitations, Discharge Specifications, and Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for discharges at all Discharge Locations by monitoring at Discharge Location 001.

At the request of IRWD, staff has prepared amendments to Order No. R8-2007-0003 to address these changes and also to clarify the requirements for adding new recycled water users. The amendments are of a minor nature and do not significantly change the requirements of Order No. R8-2007-0003.

The following show the proposed changes to Order No. R8-2007-0003. Additions are bold and highlighted. Deletions are shown in strike-out type.

1. Page 13 of the Order, Discharge Prohibitions, modify paragraph III.G. as follows:
 - G. The discharge of recycled water into the Sand Canyon Reservoir is prohibited from October 1 through **May March** 1 of each year whenever the reservoir surface water elevation is at or above 176.5 feet above mean sea level.
2. Page 18 of the Order, Reclamation Specifications, modify paragraph IV.C.2. as follows:
 2. For new reuse sites, the use of recycled water shall only commence after the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) grants final approval for such use. **If CDPH does not respond or does not explicitly disapprove the use of recycled water at new reuse sites within 30 days of receipt of the information required in IV.C.7., below, then the Discharger may assume final approval by CDPH and may commence distribution of recycled water at the new site(s).** The Discharger shall provide the Regional Water Board with a copy of the CDPH approval letter, **if provided**, within 30 days of the approval notice.
3. Page 19 of the Order, Reclamation Specifications, modify Paragraph IV.C.7. as follows:
 7. Prior to delivering recycled water to any new user, the Discharger shall submit to the CDPH and the County Environmental Health Department a report containing the information **specified in a-f, below**, for review and approval. **The Discharger shall maintain this new user information and make it available onsite during inspection upon request by Regional Board, CDPH and/or County Environmental Health Department staff. This new user information shall be submitted to the Regional Board upon request by the Executive Officer.**

4. Page E-13 of Attachment E, Effluent Monitoring Requirements to Surface Waters, add new paragraph IV.A.7. as follows:
 7. **The Discharger shall monitor and report the volume of groundwater pumped from the Newport Bay Watershed and discharged into the Discharger's reservoirs. The Discharger shall also monitor and report when there is "No Discharge" to the reservoirs of either groundwater or recycled water.**

5. Page E--16 of Attachment E, Reclamation Monitoring Requirements, add new paragraph VII.A.2. as follows:
 2. **The Discharger may demonstrate compliance with the Effluent Limitations, Discharge Specifications, and Monitoring and Reporting Requirements in this Order for discharges at all Discharge Locations, including recycled water reuse sites, by monitoring at Discharge Location 001.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R8-2008-0072, as presented.

Comments were solicited from the following agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Permits Issuance Section (WTR-5) – Doug Eberhardt
U.S. Army District, Los Angeles, Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality – Phil Isorena
State Department of Fish and Game, Los Alamitos
State Department of Water Resources - Glendale
California Department of Public Health, Santa Ana – Oliver Pacifico
California Department of Public Health, Carpinteria - Jeff Stone
Orange County Health Care Agency
Orange County Water District - Nira Yamachika
Orange County Sanitation District – Robert Ghirelli
Southern California Association of Governments – Mark A. Pisano
The Irvine Company - Sat Tamaribuchi
Orange County, Resources and Development Management Department -
City of Newport Beach – City Manager
City of Irvine – City Manager
SPON – Jack Skinner
Robert Caustin

*Order No. R8-2008-0072
Amending Order No. R8-2007-0003
IRWD's Michelson Water Reclamation Plant
Staff Report*

Page 4 of 4

Orange County Coastkeeper - Garry Brown
Lawyers for Clean Water C/c San Francisco Baykeeper
Irvine Ranch Water District – Paul Cook