State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

ORDER NO. R8-2007-0052
Amending Order No. 98-3
Waste Discharge Requirements
for
City of Corona
Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2
Riverside County

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

1. On April 17, 1998, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (the Regional Board) adopted Order No. 98-3, prescribing Waste Discharge Requirements for the discharge of secondary treated wastewater from the City of Corona Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 to three evaporation/percolation ponds.

2. On January 24, 1995, a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Basin Plan) became effective. The Basin Plan was amended significantly to incorporate revised boundaries for groundwater subbasins, now termed "management zones", new nitrate-nitrogen and total dissolved solids (TDS) objectives for the new management zones, and new nitrogen and TDS management strategies applicable to both surface and ground waters.

3. In accordance with the amended Basin Plan, discharge from the City of Corona Plant No. 2 overlies the Temescal Groundwater Management Zone. The water quality objectives for TDS for this Management Zone have been revised since the issuance of Order No. 98-3.

4. It is appropriate to amend Order No. 98-3 to include revised total dissolved solids limits to implement the amended Basin Plan.

5. The amendment Order also limits the total volume of discharges from the City of Corona's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 to the percolation ponds to 3.0 mgd. This limitation applies pending the completion and review of the hydrogeological investigation of the fate of wastewater discharged to the evaporation/percolation ponds.

6. This action involves the amendment of waste discharge requirements for an existing facility that discharges treated wastewater to land and as such, is exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (commencing with Section 21100) in that the activity is exempt pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15301.

7. The Board has notified the discharger and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

8. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 98-3 be amended as follows:

1. Order No. 98-3, Page 1 of 15, modify Finding No. 6 as Follows:

   6. Plant No. 2 discharges treated municipal wastewater to three evaporation/percolation ponds located in portions of Sections 23 and 24, T3S, R7W, SBB&M. One pond, called the Lincoln pond, is located at the north-east corner of the intersection of Rincon Street and Lincoln Avenue. The remaining two ponds, called the Cota Street ponds, are located westerly of Cota Street on the north and south side of Rincon Street. These two ponds also receive up to 5.5 mgd of secondary treated wastewater from the City of Corona's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1.

2. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, modify Finding No. 8 as Follows:

   8. The City has a raw sewage treatment and disposal connection to discharge to the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. This connection could be utilized to divert influent flows into Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 that exceed Plant No. 2's current design capacity to the Western Regional Treatment Plant.

3. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, replace Finding No.10 with the following:

   10. The Regional Water Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Basin Plan) that became effective on January 24, 1995. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters in the Santa Ana Region addressed through the plan. More recently, the Basin Plan was amended significantly to incorporate revised boundaries for groundwater subbasins, now termed "management zones", new nitrate-nitrogen and TDS objectives for the new management zones, and new nitrogen and TDS management strategies applicable to both surface and ground waters. This Basin Plan Amendment was adopted by the Regional Board on January 22, 2004. The State Water Resources Control Board and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Amendment on

September 30, 2004 and December 23, 2004, respectively. The U.S. EPA approved the surface water standards and related provisions of the Amendment on June 20, 2007. This Order implements relevant provisions of the approved N/TDS Basin Plan Amendment.

4. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, modify Finding No. 11 with the following:

   11. The discharge overlies the Temescal Groundwater Management Zone, the beneficial uses of which include:

      a. Municipal and domestic supply,
      b. Agricultural supply,
      c. Industrial service supply, and
      d. Industrial process supply

5. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, delete Finding No. 13.

6. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, delete Finding No. 14.

7. Order No. 98-3, Discharge Specifications A.1.a., Page 3 of 15, replace Table as follows:

   1. The discharge of treated wastewater containing constituent concentrations in excess of the following limits is prohibited:

      a.

DISCHARGE SPECIFICATION		
CONSTITUENTS	MAXIMUM DAILY CONCENTRATION (mg/L)	MONTHLY AVERAGE CONCENTRATION (mg/L)
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	45	30
Suspended Solids	45	30

      a.

CONSTITUENT	12- MONTH AVERAGE LIMIT (mg/L)
Chloride	180
Sodium	120
Sulfate	160

CONSTITUENT	12- MONTH AVERAGE LIMIT (mg/L)
Total Dissolved Solids	770
Total Hardness	440
Total Inorganic Nitrogen	10 (See also Sections C.7. & C.8., Compliance Determination)
Antimony	.006
Chromium (VI)	.05
Cobalt	0.2
Iron	0.3
Lead	0.05
Mercury	.0024

8. Order No. 98-3, Page 8 of 15, Compliance Determination C.10. modify as follows:

   C.10. Compliance with the TIN limits shall be based on the combined flow weighted average of the monthly TIN discharges from Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2 to the percolation ponds.

9. Order No. 98-3, Page 15 of 15, Provisions, add new Provision 25 as follows:

   25. The total volume of discharge from the City of Corona's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 to the three percolation/evaporation ponds shall not exceed 3.0 mgd pending the completion by the discharger and review by Regional Board staff of the hydrogeological characterization study, approved by the Executive Officer, designed to determine the fate of wastewater discharged to the ponds, as required for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1.

10. All other conditions and requirements of Order No. 98-3 shall remain unchanged.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on September 7, 2007.

Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer

State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

September 7, 2007

STAFF REPORT

ITEM: *7

SUBJECT: Amendment to Order No. 98-3, Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Corona Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 - Order No. R8-2007-0052

I. DISCUSSION:

On April 17, 1998, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (the Regional Board) adopted Order No. 98-3, prescribing Waste Discharge Requirements for the discharge of secondary treated wastewater from the City of Corona Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 to three evaporation/percolation ponds.

The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Basin Plan) that became effective on January 24, 1995. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters in the Santa Ana Region addressed through the plan. More recently, the Basin Plan was amended significantly to incorporate revised boundaries for groundwater subbasins, now termed "management zones", new nitrate-nitrogen and TDS objectives for the new management zones, and new nitrogen and TDS management strategies applicable to both surface and ground waters. This Basin Plan Amendment was adopted by the Regional Water Board on January 22, 2004. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Amendment on September 30, 2004 and December 23, 2004, respectively. The USEPA approved the surface water standards and related provisions of the Amendment on June 20, 2007. This Order implements relevant provisions of the N/TDS Basin Plan Amendment.

The City of Corona Plant No. 2 discharges secondary treated effluent to three evaporation/percolation ponds that overly the Temescal Management Zone. The Temescal Management Zone water quality objective for total dissolved solids (TDS) based on the recent amendments to the Basin Plan is now 770 mg/L, instead of the previous 840 mg/L. It is appropriate to revise Order No. 98-3 to reflect the recent change to the TDS water quality objective for the Temescal Groundwater Management Zone as specified in the amended Basin Plan.

The proposed amendment Order limits the total volume of discharges from the City of Corona's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 to the percolation ponds to 3.0 mgd. This discharge limitation applies pending the completion and review by Board staff of the hydrogeological characterization study of the fate of wastewater discharged to the Lincoln/Cota percolation/evaporation ponds.

II. Proposed changes to the Order.

The following are the recommended changes to Order No. 98-3. (Deleted text is struck out and added text is bold and highlighted).

1. Order No. 98-3, Page 1 of 15, modify Finding No. 6 as follows:

   6. Plant No. 2 discharges treated municipal wastewater to three evaporation/percolation ponds located in portions of Sections 23 and 24, T3S, R7W, SBB&M. One pond, called the Lincoln pond, is located at the north-east corner of the intersection of Rincon Street and Lincoln Avenue. The remaining two ponds, called the Cota Street ponds, are located westerly of Cota Street on the north and south side of Rincon Street. These **two** ponds also receive ~~approximately 2.5~~ **up to 5.5** mgd of secondary treated wastewater from the City of Corona's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1.

2. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, modify Finding No. 8 as follows:

   8. ~~The City of Corona is a participating agency in the Santa Ana Regional Interceptor Project (SARI Line).~~ The City has a raw sewage treatment and disposal ~~right of 3.278 mgd in the SARI Line.~~ **connection to discharge to the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.** This ~~disposal right allows the discharger~~ **connection could be utilized** to divert ~~to the SARI Line a portion of the total~~ influent **flows** into **Wastewater** Treatment Plant **No. 2** ~~which is above the~~ **that exceed** ~~plant's~~ **Plant No. 2's** current design capacity **to the Western Regional Treatment Plant.** ~~Furthermore, all raw sewage flows into Plant No. 2 can be diverted to Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1.~~

3. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, Modify Finding No. 10 as follows:

10. ~~A Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) became effective on January 24, 1995. The Basin Plan contains beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters in the Santa Ana Region.~~ **The Regional Water Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Basin Plan) that became effective on January 24, 1995. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters in the Santa Ana Region addressed through the plan. More recently, the Basin Plan was amended significantly to incorporate revised boundaries for groundwater subbasins, now termed "management zones", new nitrate-nitrogen and TDS objectives for the new management zones, and new nitrogen and TDS management strategies applicable to both surface and ground waters. This Basin Plan Amendment was adopted by the Regional Board on January 22, 2004. The State Water Resources Control Board and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Amendment on September 30, 2004 and December 23, 2004, respectively. The U.S. EPA approved the surface water standards and related provisions of the Amendment on June 20, 2007. This Order implements relevant provisions of the approved N/TDS Basin Plan Amendment.**

4. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, Modify Finding No. 11 as follows:

11. The discharge overlies the Temescal Groundwater ~~Subbasin~~ **Management Zone**, the beneficial uses of which include:

    a. Municipal and domestic supply,
    b. Agricultural supply,
    c. Industrial service supply, and
    d. Industrial process supply

5. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, Delete Finding No. 13 as follows:

   13. ~~Currently, a number of river dischargers and interested parties, including the discharger, are conducting a watershed-wide study of total dissolved solids (TDS) and total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) (hereinafter, TDS/TIN study) which is being coordinated by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. This study may lead to revised findings regarding TDS/TIN assimilative capacity, recommendations for changes to the wasteload allocations, and other TDS/TIN management strategies. Participation in the TDS/TIN study is an acceptable offset for discharges in excess of the TDS limit specified in this Order for the duration of the study or, if the discharger elects to discontinue its involvement, for the duration of the discharger's participation in the study~~.

6. Order No. 98-3, Page 2 of 15, Delete Finding No. 14 as follows:

   14. ~~It is appropriate to defer requiring full compliance with the TIN limit specified in this Order, based upon the discharger's commitment to participate in the TDS/TIN study. This Order establishes an interim limit for TIN until full compliance with the effluent limit is achieved. The interim effluent limitation is based upon past operational performance. If warranted by the results of the TDS/TIN study, this Order will be re-opened to incorporate revised TDS/TIN requirements~~.

7. Order No. 98-3, Discharge Specifications A.1.a., Page 3 of 15, Modify Table as follows:

   A.1.a. The discharge of treated wastewater containing constituent concentrations in excess of the following limits is prohibited:

   a.

DISCHARGE SPECIFICATION		
CONSTITUENTS	MAXIMUM DAILY CONCENTRATION (mg/L)	MONTHLY AVERAGE CONCENTRATION (mg/L)
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	45	30
Suspended Solids	45	30

a.

CONSTITUENT	12- MONTH AVERAGE LIMIT (mg/L)
Chloride	180
Sodium	120
Sulfate	160
Total Dissolved Solids	~~840~~**770**
Total Hardness	440
Total Inorganic Nitrogen	10 (See also Sections C.7. & C.8., Compliance Determination)
Antimony	.006
Chromium (VI)	.05
Cobalt	0.2
Iron	0.3
Lead	0.05
Mercury	.0024

8. Order No. 98-3, Page 8 of 15, Compliance Determination C.10. modify as follows:

   C.10. Compliance with the TIN limits shall be based on the **combined** flow weighted average of the monthly TIN discharges from Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2 to the percolation ponds.

9. Order No. 98-3, Page 15 of 15, Provisions, add new Provision 25 as follows:

   25. The total volume of discharge from the City of Corona's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 2 to the three percolation/evaporation ponds shall not exceed 3.0 mgd pending the completion by the discharger and review by Regional Board staff of an hydrogeological characterization study, approved by the Executive Officer, designed to determine the fate of wastewater discharged to the ponds, as required for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1.

III. WRITTEN COMMENTS

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed discharge limits and the staff report. Comments should be submitted by August 17, 2007, either in person or by mail to:

J. Shami
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

IV. INFORMATION AND COPYING

Persons wishing further information may write to the above address or call J. Shami of the Regional Board at (951) 782-3288. Copies of the application, proposed waste discharge requirements, Fact Sheet, and other documents (other than those which the Executive Officer maintains as confidential) are available at the Regional Board office for inspection and copying between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

V. REGISTER OF INTERESTED PERSONS:

Any person interested in a particular application or group of applications may leave his/her name, address, and phone number as part of the file for an application.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING:

The Regional Board will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed waste discharge requirements as follows:

DATE:	September 7, 2007
TIME:	9:00 a.m.
PLACE:	City Council Chambers of Loma Linda 25541 Barton Road City of Loma Linda, California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R8-2007-0052, amending Order No. 98-3, as presented.

Comments were solicited from the following agencies:

State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – Erik Spiess
California Department of Public Health, San Diego – Steven Williams
California Coastal Conservancy – Mary Small
California Coastal Commission – Steve Rynas
State Department of Water Resources - Glendale
State Department of Fish and Game, Ontario
Orange County Water District – Nira Yamachika/Greg Woodside
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District – Jason Uhley
Riverside County Environmental Health Services
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority – Celeste Cantu
Santa Ana Dischargers Association –
Inland Empire Waterkeeper – Lee Reederl
Orange County Coastkeeper – Garry Brown
Lawyers for Clean Water C/c San Francisco Baykeeper