

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2015-0010

AMENDING  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2013-0146  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0079391  
FOR  
CITY OF JACKSON  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
AMADOR COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Central Valley Water Board), finds that:

1. On 5 December 2013, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2013-0146, prescribing waste discharge requirements for the City of Jackson Wastewater Treatment Plant, in Amador County. For the purposes of this Order, the City of Jackson is hereafter referred to as “Discharger” and the Wastewater Treatment Plant is hereafter referred to as “Facility”.
2. The Facility’s treatment system consists of headworks, two oxidation ditches, two secondary clarifiers, chlorine injection, four sand filters, chlorine contact basin, alkalinity adjustment system, and sulfur dioxide dechlorination.
3. Order R5-2013-0146 authorizes the discharge of up to 0.71 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to Jackson Creek, a water of the United States, and a tributary to Amador Lake within the Mokelumne River watershed.
4. Order R5-2013-0146 contains an average monthly effluent limitation of 3.9 µg/L and a maximum daily effluent limitation of 6.2 µg/L for copper, based on the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (SIP) and the *California Toxics Rule* (CTR) hardness-dependent metals criteria for the protection of aquatic life. Order R5-2013-0146 also contains a reopener provision that allows the Order to be reopened and the effluent limitations to be modified if the Discharger performs a site-specific water-effect ratio (WER) study for calculating new criteria.
5. The Discharger submitted a *Copper Water-Effect Ratio Study* (Study), dated 26 September 2014, that followed the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s *2001 Streamlined Water-Effect Ratio Procedure for Discharges of Copper* (EPA 822-R-01-005), to determine a site-specific WER value and calculate site-specific criteria for copper. The Study results

indicated that a site-specific WER of 5 is applicable to the discharge to Jackson Creek. Using the site-specific WER value of 5 to calculate the new criteria results in new acute and chronic criteria for copper of 54 µg/L and 37 µg/L, respectively. As explained in Attachment A, the discharge does not demonstrate reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an in-stream excursion above the site-specific copper criteria. Therefore, this amendment removes the effluent limitations for copper contained in Order R5-2013-0146. Removal of the copper effluent limitations is in accordance with federal anti-backsliding regulations.

6. Order R5-2013-0146 contains an average monthly effluent limitation of 42 µg/L and a maximum daily effluent limitation of 57 µg/L for zinc, based on the SIP and the CTR hardness-dependent metals criteria for the protection of aquatic life. Order R5-2013-0146 can be reopened if new information, that was not available at the time of permit issuance, becomes available that justifies different permit conditions.
7. The Discharger has completed Facility upgrades to improve the biological treatment process that included, in part, addition of filter cells, improvements to coagulation/flocculation, and an alkalinity adjustment/pH control system. The alkalinity adjustment system also effectively increases the hardness of the treated wastewater effluent. Additionally, the zinc concentration in the influent to the Facility has been reduced due to the termination of the use of zinc orthophosphate as a corrosion control agent in the water supply by the local water purveyor. Based on the Facility upgrades and the new information that was not available when Order R5-2013-0146 was adopted, as explained in Attachment A, the discharge does not demonstrate reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an in-stream excursion above the zinc criteria. Therefore, this amendment removes the effluent limitations for zinc contained in Order R5-2013-0146. Removal of the zinc effluent limitations is in accordance with federal anti-backsliding regulations.
8. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, section 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA") pursuant to Water Code section 13389, since the adoption or modification of a NPDES permit for an existing source is statutorily exempt and this Order only serves to modify a NPDES permit (*Pacific Water Conditioning Ass'n, Inc. v. City Council of City of Riverside* (1977) 73 Cal.App.3d 546, 555-556.).
9. The Central Valley Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend Waste Discharge Requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2013-0146 is amended as shown in underline/strikeout format in Attachment A.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday (including mandatory furlough days), the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request

I, Pamela C. Creedon, 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, Central Valley Region, on **6 February 2015**.

***Original Signed By:***

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PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

Attachment A