

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R5-2007-0074

REQUIRING THE CITY OF COLUSA
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
COLUSA COUNTY

TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN ORDER NO. R5-2002-0020
(NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0078999)

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

1. On 1 March 2002, the Regional Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2002-0020 (NPDES No. CA0078999), for the City of Colusa (hereafter Discharger), for the discharge of approximately 0.66 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated domestic wastewater to an unnamed tributary to Powell Slough, which is tributary to the Colusa Trough and the Colusa Basin Drain. The design flow of the facility is 0.90 mgd.
2. The NPDES permit contains Effluent Limitations B.1a. for ammonia and aluminum, for the time period from 1 March 2002 through 31 January 2007, and reads in part as follows:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Average Monthly</u>	<u>Average 4-Day</u>	<u>Average 1-Hour</u>
Ammonia (as N)	mg/l lbs/day ¹	Attachment B	Attachment C	Attachment D
Aluminum	ug/l lb/day ²	--	87 0.65	750 5.6

¹ The mass limit (lb/day) for ammonia shall be equal to the concentration limit (from Attachments) multiplied by the design flow of 0.90 mgd and the unit conversion factor of 8.345 (see footnote 1 for equation).

² Based upon a design treatment capacity of 0.90 mgd [x ug/l x (1 mg/1000 ug) x 8.345 x 0.90 mgd = y lbs/day]

3. Because the Discharger could not consistently comply with the Effluent Limitations for ammonia and aluminum contained in the NPDES permit, the Regional Water Board also adopted Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2002-0021 (CDO) on 1 March 2002. The CDO required the Discharger to comply with the effluent limitations for ammonia and aluminum by 1 February 2007.
4. Order No. R5-2002-0020 includes Effluent Limitations B.1b. that require the Discharger to comply with the effluent limitations after 31 January 2007, and reads in

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part as follows:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Average Monthly</u>	<u>Average Weekly</u>	<u>7-Day Median</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Instantaneous Maximum</u>
BOD ¹	mg/l	10 ²	15	--	20	--
	lbs/day ³	42	63	--	84	--
Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	10 ²	15	--	20	--
	lbs/day ³	42	63	--	84	--
Total Coliform Organisms	MPN/100 m/	--	--	2.2	--	23 ⁴
Turbidity	NTU	--	--	--	2	5 ⁵

¹ 5-day, 20°C biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)

² To be ascertained by a 24-hour composite

³ Based upon a design treatment capacity of 0.90 mgd ($x \text{ mg/l} \times 8.345 \times 0.90 \text{ mgd} = y \text{ lbs/day}$)

⁴ The total coliform organisms concentration shall not exceed 23 MPN/100 m/ more than once in any 30-day period. No sample shall exceed a concentration of 240 MPN/100 m/.

⁵ The turbidity shall not exceed 5 NTU more than 5 percent of the time within a 24-hour period. At no time shall the turbidity exceed 10 NTU.

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Average Monthly</u>	<u>Average 4-Day</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Average 1-Hour</u>
Ammonia (as N)	mg/l lb/day ¹	Attach B	Attach C	-- --	Attach D
Copper	µg/l lb/day ^{2, 3}	Attach E	--	Attach E	--
Aluminum	µg/l lb/day ²	--	87 0.65	--	750 5.6

¹ The mass limit (lb/day) for ammonia shall be equal to the concentration limit (from Attachments) multiplied by the design flow of 0.90 mgd and the unit conversion factor of 8.345 (see footnote 1 for equation).

² Based upon a design treatment capacity of 0.90 mgd [$x \text{ g/l} \times (1 \text{ mg}/1000 \text{ g}) \times 8.345 \times 0.90 \text{ mgd} = y \text{ lbs/day}$]

³ The mass limit (lb/day) shall be calculated according to the equation shown in footnote 4, where $x \text{ µg/l}$ is the concentration limitation from Attachment E.

5. Order No. R5-2002-0020 also includes Effluent Limitation B.2. that require that wastewater shall be oxidized, coagulated, and filtered, or equivalent treatment provided after 31 January 2007.

6. Order No. R5-2002-0020 also includes Effluent Limitations B.3. that require the arithmetic mean of 20°C BOD (5-day) and of total suspended solids in effluent samples collected over a calendar month shall not exceed 15 percent of the arithmetic mean of the values for influent samples collected at approximately the

same times during the same period (85 percent removal) after 31 January 2007.

7. Order No. R5-2002-0020 also includes Provision G.6. that requires the Discharger to comply with the following time schedule to assure compliance with the tertiary treatment requirements and associated Effluent Limitations of this Order:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Compliance Date</u>	<u>Report Due Date</u>
Submit Annual Status Report		1 February, annually
Submit Workplan/Time Schedule		1 December 2002
Full Compliance	1 February 2007	

8. Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R5-2002-0020 (MRP) requires that continuous chlorine residual monitoring and continuous turbidity monitoring systems, or functional equivalents, shall be operational no later than 1 January 2007.
9. On 29 July 2003 the Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R5-2003-0504 (ACLC) for \$114,000 in mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) Section 13385 (h) and (i) to the Discharger for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-238 (previous NPDES permit) and Order No. R5-2002-0020 for the period 1 January 2000 through 25 February 2003. The ACLC provided that, because the Discharger is a small community with a financial hardship, that it could complete a compliance project in lieu of paying the penalty if it complied with the following:
- Enter into a stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order by 22 August 2003.
 - Submit Alternative Analysis for wastewater treatment plant improvements by 30 March 2004.
 - Submit Pollution Prevention Plan for Aluminum by 1 September 2004.
 - Complete projects and achieve full compliance by 1 February 2007.
10. In response to the ACLC, the Discharger entered into a Stipulated Settlement Agreement with the Executive Officer on 4 November 2003. Then, in response to the CDO and ACLC, the Discharger completed a Wastewater Facilities Plan in March 2004 that evaluated alternatives including surface water discharge and land reclamation options. Upon review of issues including land acquisition costs and further evaluation of an outside alternative proposed by some developers, the Discharger determined that tertiary treatment with a surface water discharge was the most feasible alternative to pursue. However, by that time the Discharger indicated that it could not meet the compliance deadline of 1 February 2007 that is in the CDO, ACLC, and Stipulated Settlement Agreement. By letter dated 22 September 2006, the Discharger requested that the compliance time schedule be extended until March 2008, and by letter dated 16 January 2007, the

Discharger requested the compliance date to be 1 August 2008. The Discharger has not completed plant upgrades as needed to comply with the NPDES permit, CDO, and Stipulated Settlement Agreement, and is in violation of Effluent Limitations B.1b., B.2., and B.3., Provision G.6., and the MRP, as discussed in Findings 4 through 8.

11. As a result of the events and activities described in this Order, the Regional Water Board finds that the Discharger has caused or permitted waste to be discharged in such a manner that it has created, and continues to threaten to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance. The Regional Water Board also finds that the Discharger is discharging waste in violation of Order No. R5-2002-0020 and Order No. R5-2002-0021.

12. Section 13267(b) of the California Water Code states:

“In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.”

13. The Discharger owns and operates the facility subject to this Order. Monitoring reports and other technical reports are necessary to determine compliance with the Waste Discharge Requirements, Amended CDO No. 94-062, the Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program, and with this Order.

14. California Water Code (CWC) section 13300 states: “Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, or the state board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to

correct or prevent a violation of requirements.”

15. This Time Schedule Order is issued in accordance with Section 13300 of the California Water Code and establishes a time schedule for compliance.
16. In accordance with CWC section 13385(j)(3), the Regional Water Board finds that the Discharger is not able to consistently comply with the Effluent Limitations B.1b. for BOD, total suspended solids, turbidity, total coliform organisms, and copper, and B.2., and B.3. These limitations are new requirements that became applicable to the Order after the effective date of adoption of the waste discharge requirements, and after July 1, 2000, for which new or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the limitations, and the new or modified control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days.
17. CWC section 13385(h) and (i) require the Regional Water Board to impose mandatory minimum penalties upon dischargers that violate certain effluent limitations. The Discharger has accrued significant penalties for violations of Effluent Limitations B.1b. since 1 February 2007, and will continue to accrue penalties pending completion of its compliance project. However, CWC section 13385(j) exempts certain violations from the mandatory minimum penalties. CWC section 13385(j)(3) exempts the discharge from mandatory minimum penalties *“where the waste discharge is in compliance with either a cease and desist order issued pursuant to Section 13301 or a time schedule order issued pursuant to Section 13300, if all the [specified] requirements are met.”*
18. Compliance with this Order exempts the Discharger from mandatory penalties for violations of effluent limitations for BOD, total suspended solids, total coliform organisms, turbidity, and copper, as well as effluent limitations B.2., and B.3. only, in accordance with CWC section 13385(j)(3). CWC section 13385(j)(3) requires the Discharger to prepare and implement a pollution prevention plan pursuant to section 13263.3 of the California Water Code. Most of the constituents listed above are components of human sewage and are not feasible to be reduced by pollution prevention, but are dependent on additional control measures are in placed in operation. Therefore, a pollution prevention plan is not required except for copper.
19. Because Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2002-0021 provided the Discharger with five years to comply with effluent limitations for aluminum and ammonia, the exemption from mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to CWC section 13385(j)(3) does not apply for these constituents after 1 February 2007.

20. CWC section 13385(j)(3)(A) requires this Order to specify the actions that the discharger is required to take in order to correct the violations that would otherwise be subject to mandatory minimum penalties. This Order requires the Discharger to develop and implement new or modified control measures to comply with Effluent Limitations B.1b., B.2., and B.3., Provision G.6., and the MRP.
21. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, *et seq.*), in accordance with Section 15321(a)(2), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.
22. Any person adversely affected by this action of the Regional Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review the action. The petition must be received by the State Board Office of the Chief Counsel, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA, 95812-0100, within 30 days of the date on which the action was taken. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided on request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT pursuant to the CWC Section 13300 and 13267:

1. The City of Colusa shall comply with the following time schedule to ensure compliance with Order No, R5-2002-0020 Effluent Limitations B.1b. for BOD, total suspended solids, total coliform organisms, turbidity, ammonia, copper, and aluminum, as well as Effluent Limitations B.2, and B.3; and MRP requirements to conduct continuous monitoring for chlorine and turbidity:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Compliance Date</u>
Progress Report/Implementation Schedule	1 September 2007
Develop and Implement Pollution Prevention Plan for Copper and aluminum	1 January 2008
Achieve Full Compliance	1 August 2008

The Discharger shall submit to the Regional Water Board on or before each compliance date, the specified document or, if appropriate, a written report detailing compliance or noncompliance with the specific schedule date and task. If noncompliance is being reported, the reasons for such noncompliance shall be stated, and shall include an estimate of the date when the Discharger will be in compliance. The Discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board by letter when it returns to compliance with the time schedule.

2. The following interim effluent limitations shall be effective until 1 August 2008 or when the Discharger is able to come into full compliance with Order No. R5-2002-0022, whichever is earlier:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Average Monthly</u>	<u>Average Weekly</u>	<u>30-Day Median</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>
BOD ¹	mg/L	60 ²	90 ²	--	120 ²	--
	lbs/day ³	451	676	--	901	--
Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	110 ²	165 ²	--	220 ²	--
	lbs/day ³	826	1239	--	1652	--
Total Coliform Organisms	MPN/100 ml	--	--	23	--	500

¹ 5-day, 20°C biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)

² To be ascertained by a 24-hour composite

³ Based upon a design treatment capacity of 0.90 mgd (x mg/l X 8.345 X 0.90 mgd = y lbs/day)

3. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may apply to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement or issue a complaint for Administrative Civil Liability. If compliance with these effluent limitations is not achieved by the Full Compliance date, the discharge would not be exempt from the mandatory minimum penalties for violation of certain effluent limitations, and would be subject to issuance of a Cease and Desist Order in accordance with CWC section 13301.
4. Until full compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2002-0020, Effluent Limitations B.1a. and B.1b. is achieved, the Discharger shall operate the treatment plant in a nitrification mode to the maximum extent practicable.
5. As required by the California Business and Professions Code Sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, all technical reports required herein shall be prepared by, or under the supervision of, a California Registered Engineer or Registered Geologist (as applicable) and shall be signed by the registered professional.
6. Any person signing a document submitted under this Order shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my knowledge and 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.”

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 22 June 2007.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer