

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2017-0065

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ORDER R5-2014-0070-02 (NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0079138)

CITY OF STOCKTON
REGIONAL WASTEWATER CONTROL FACILITY
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

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

1. On 6 June 2014, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2014-0070, prescribing waste discharge requirements for the Regional Wastewater Control Facility, San Joaquin County. The Central Valley Water Board subsequently adopted amended Order R5-2014-0070-01 on 9 October 2014 and adopted amended Order R5-2014-0070-02 on 11 December 2015. For purposes of this Order, the City of Stockton is hereafter referred to as "Discharger" and the Regional Wastewater Control Facility is hereafter referred to as "Facility."
2. The Discharger owns and operates a publicly-owned treatment works. The Facility consists of tertiary level wastewater treatment. After primary and secondary treatment, the wastewater undergoes tertiary treatment in facultative lagoons, constructed wetlands, two nitrifying biotowers, dissolved air floatation, mixed-media filters, and is disinfected using chlorination/dechlorination facilities. The Facility is authorized to discharge up to an average dry weather flow of 55 million gallons per day (MGD). The average discharge for the past two years is 23 MGD.
3. Order R5-2014-0070-02 established receiving water monitoring requirements in the Monitoring and Reporting Program, Attachment E, Section VII.A.1 that states:

"The Discharger shall monitor San Joaquin River flow at RSW-001A. Flow information reported to the Discharger by the USGS, collected from the flow monitoring station located approximately 500 feet south of the outfall at RSW-001A shall be used. Flow will continue to be recorded in 15-minute intervals and reported within self-monitoring report as a daily net flow value in units of cubic feet per second."
4. The Discharger relies on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to operate the flow monitoring station in order to meet the monitoring requirement. Recently, USGS has asked the Discharger to enter into a new 3-year agreement to pay for the maintenance of the flow monitoring station. The amount of the new agreement is \$216,365.

5. By letter dated 16 February 2017, the Discharger requested the amendment of Order R5-2014-0070-02 to remove San Joaquin River flow monitoring requirements based on cost of compliance considerations. The San Joaquin River flow monitoring requirement was originally included in the Discharger's 2002 NPDES permit (R5-2002-0083). At the time, the Discharger was planning to request mixing zones and the flow data was needed for near-field mixing zone analyses. The Facility has since been upgraded to tertiary filtration with ammonia removal, which provides an increased level of treatment such that near-field mixing zones are no longer needed. San Joaquin flow data is not needed to evaluate compliance with the permit and there are no other analyses that would rely on the data.
6. On 24 September 2013, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted Resolution 2013-0029 Directing Actions in Response to Efforts by Stakeholders on Reducing Costs of Compliance While Maintaining Water Quality Protection. The resolution directs State and Regional Water Board staffs to "identify duplicative or unnecessary monitoring and reporting requirements in existing permits."
7. The Central Valley Water Board finds that San Joaquin River flow monitoring near the outfall is not necessary to evaluate compliance with the permit. In addition, flow monitoring near the outfall is not needed for mixing zone analyses. The Facility has been upgraded such that near-field mixing zones for aquatic life criteria are not needed. The permit allows mixing zones for human carcinogens; however, due to the tidal nature of the San Joaquin River in the vicinity of the discharge, flow monitoring near the outfall is not used to evaluate far-field impacts of human health mixing zones. Hydrodynamic modeling is needed for these evaluations, such as the Department of Water Resources' Delta Simulation Model 2. Removing the San Joaquin River flow monitoring near the outfall will not impact the ability to evaluate human health mixing zones. This Order amends Order R5-2014-0070-02 to remove the San Joaquin River flow monitoring requirement, in accordance with the State Water Board's directive to remove duplicative or unnecessary monitoring and reporting requirements.
8. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 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:

1. Effective immediately, Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2014-0070-02 (NPDES No. CA0079138) is amended to remove the San Joaquin River flow monitoring requirement. Order R5-2014-0070-02 is amended as shown in Items a-e below.

- a. The Order number is changed from R5-2014-0070-02 to R5-2014-0070-03.
- b. Cover Page. Modify the last paragraph as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

I, **PAMELA C. CREEDON**, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on **6 June 2014**, and amended by Order R5-2014-0122 on **9 October 2014**, and Order R5-2015-0142 on **11 December 2015**, and Order R5-2017-0065 on 9 June 2017.

- c. **Attachment E, Monitoring and Reporting Requirements.** Remove monitoring location RSW-001A in Table E-1, Monitoring Station Locations, as shown in strikeout format below:

Table E-1. Monitoring Station Locations

Discharge Point Name	Monitoring Location Name	Monitoring Location Description
--	RSW-001A	San Joaquin River, flow monitoring station located approximately 500 feet south of the Facility's outfall

- d. **Attachment E, Monitoring and Reporting Requirements.** Modify Section VII.A to remove Section VII.A.1 and renumber subsection as shown in underline/strikeout format below. In addition, remove all references to Section VII.A.2 throughout Order R5-2014-0070-02:

A. Monitoring Location RSW-001, ~~RSW-001A~~, RSW-002, RSW-002A, and RSW-003

- ~~1. The Discharger shall monitor San Joaquin River flow at RSW-001A. Flow information reported to the Discharger by the USGS, collected from the flow monitoring station located approximately 500 feet south of the outfall at RSW-001A shall be used. Flow will continue to be recorded in 15-minute intervals and reported within self-monitoring report as a daily net flow value in units of cubic feet per second.~~
- 12. The Discharger shall monitor the San Joaquin River at RSW-001, RSW-002, RSW-002A, and RSW-003 as follows:

- e. **Attachment E, Monitoring and Reporting Requirements.** Modify Section VII.B as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

B. Visual Observations RSW-002, RSW-002A, and RSW-003

1. In conducting the weekly receiving water sampling the Discharger shall report the direction of receiving water flow, based on visual observation, at the time of sampling, and a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions throughout the reach bounded by RSW-002, RSW-002A, and RSW-003. A description, including at the minimum, the presence or absence of the following shall be recorded and summarized in the monthly self-monitoring reports.
 - a. Floating or suspended matter;
 - b. Discoloration;
 - c. Bottom deposits;
 - d. Aquatic life;
 - e. Visible films, sheens, or coatings;
 - f. Fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths; and
 - g. Potential nuisance conditions.

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 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, 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 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 **9 June 2017**.

Original Signed By
PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer