

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2014-XXXX

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ORDER R5-2010-0114-02 (NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0077682)

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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

1. On 9 December 2010, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2010-0114, prescribing waste discharge requirements for the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. For the purposes of this Order, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District is hereafter referred to as "Discharger" and the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is hereafter referred to as "Facility."
2. On 1 December 2011, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Order R5-2011-0083, amending Order R5-2010-0114 and Time Schedule Order R5-2010-0115 making changes to the Monitoring and Reporting Program, recycled water use, manganese effluent limitations, and interim effluent limitations for chlorpyrifos and diazinon.
3. On 4 October, 2013, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Order R5-2013-0124, amending Order R5-2010-0114 by: conforming ammonia and nitrate effluent limitations to State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WQ 2012-0013; incorporating the effect of the stays of certain time deadlines and schedules issued by the Sacramento County Superior Court; modifying final effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane; and removing effluent limitations and revising monitoring requirements for N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA).
4. On X August 2014, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Order R5-2014-XXXX, amending Order R5-2010-0114-02 by revising total coliform requirements to seasonal total coliform requirements.
5. The Facility's treatment system consists of mechanical bar screens, aerated grit removal, primary sedimentation, pure oxygen activated sludge, secondary clarification, chlorine disinfection with dechlorination and a diffuser for river discharge. Solids handling consists of dissolved air flotation thickeners, gravity belt thickeners, anaerobic digesters and sludge stabilization basins with disposal on-site through land application or biosolids recycling facility. Wastewater is discharged to the Sacramento River at Freeport, a water of the United States.
6. Order R5-2010-0114-02 established new effluent limitations for ammonia and nitrate. The Discharger has identified biological nutrient removal (BNR) secondary treatment as the selected technology for nitrification and denitrification to comply with the new effluent limitations for ammonia and nitrate. The Discharger is on schedule to complete construction of the BNR facilities and comply with the final ammonia and nitrate effluent limits by 11 May 2021.

7. Order R5-2010-0114-02 includes a compliance schedule and interim maximum daily, average weekly, and average monthly effluent limitations for ammonia as shown in Table 1 below. The interim effluent limitations were calculated based on Facility performance and are effective until 11 May 2021.

Table 1 –Existing Interim Ammonia Limitations

Parameter	Units	Interim Effluent Limitations		
		Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N)	mg/L	33	35	45
	lbs/day	49,400	52,920	67,929

8. Pursuant to Water Code section 10608, the Governor has called for a 20 percent reduction in urban water use statewide by 2020 and urban water agencies are required to meet their urban water use target by 2020. In addition, pursuant to Water Code section 10608.16, subdivision (a), the State shall achieve a 20 percent reduction in urban per capita water use in California on or before December 31, 2020. Installation of water meters and calls for water conservation have resulted in decreasing influent wastewater flows to the Facility. With decreasing influent wastewater flows, influent ammonia concentrations have been observed to steadily increase. The current Facility is not designed to remove ammonia, so increased influent ammonia concentrations have resulted in increased effluent concentrations. The Discharger has implemented all feasible controls to limit the discharge of ammonia, but has recently experienced violations of the interim ammonia effluent limitations. Since the ammonia concentration increases are outside the control of the Discharger, this Order revises the interim ammonia limitations based on a recalculation that takes into account the effects of decreasing influent flow due to water conservation. Despite the increase in ammonia concentrations, the effluent ammonia loading rate (total pounds of ammonia per day) remains relatively the same as when the permit was adopted. Thus, the mass loading discharged to the Sacramento River will not increase as a result of modifying the interim limits to deal with the decreasing flow. Therefore, the corresponding interim mass limits for ammonia have not been increased.

Table 2 – Proposed Interim Ammonia Limitations

Parameter	Units	Interim Effluent Limitations		
		Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily
Ammonia Nitrogen, Total (as N)	mg/L	39	43	47
	lbs/day	49,400	52,920	67,929

9. To the extent that anti-backsliding requirements may be applicable to the relaxation of interim effluent limits, the Central Valley Water Board finds that an applicable exception to anti-backsliding is pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 402(o)(2)(B)(i). In pertinent part, this exception applies when information is available which was not available at the time of permit issuance (other than revised regulations, guidance, or test methods) and which would have justified the application of a less stringent effluent limitation at the time of permit issuance. Here,

the new information available to support revised interim ammonia effluent limits is due to new information described in Finding 8, above.

10. Order R5-2010-0114-02 may be reopened and modified in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR section 122.62(a)(2).
11. Issuance of modifications to the NPDES Permit is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Control Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Water Code section 13389.
12. 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 R5-2010-0114-02 (NPDES No. CA0077682) is amended to revise the interim effluent limitations for ammonia as shown in underline/strikeout format in Attachment 1. The amendment shall become effective immediately.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resource Control Board (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 (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 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 7/8 August 2014.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer