CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. 83-79

MOUNT SAN JACINTO WINTER PARK AUTHORITY West of Palm Springs - Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

- 1. Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), P. O. Drawer FF, Palm Springs, CA 92263, operates the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Wastewater from restrooms and a restaurant at the upper tramway station is discharged to a septic tank/leach field system located in Long Valley in the NE⁴, Section 23, T4S, R3E, SBB&M.
- 2. The Regional Board adopted waste discharge requirements on September 30, 1976 in Order No. 76-53 for said wastewater discharge of a minimum of 2,000 gallons-per-operating-day to a maximum of 15,000 gallons-per-operating-day.
- 3. The waste discharge requirements provide, in part, as follows:
 - A. Discharge Specifications
 - 1. Neither the treatment nor the discharge of wastes shall cause a pollution or a nuisance.
 - 4. Sewage effluent discharged subsurface shall be retained underground with no materials of sewage origin evident on the ground surface.
 - 5. Adequate protective works shall be provided to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the treatment and discharge facilities inoperable.

Provisions B.1. and B.2. established a compliance time schedule by which recurrent surfacing of wastewater from the leach fields was to be eliminated. The final compliance date was January 1, 1978.

4. The discharger failed to make any significant improvements to the wastewater disposal system during 1977. Surfacing of wastewater occurred during May 1977 and May 1978. On July 12, 1978 the Regional Board adopted Cease and Desist Order No. 78-73 which prescribed a compliance time schedule having a final compliance date of December 1, 1978.

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- 5. The discharger installed additional septic tank/leach field systems in Long Valley and refurbished the existing system in response to the cease and desist order. Water conservation measures were implemented which reportedly reduced the water comsumption by half. The expansion of the leach field system was approximately half complete by December 1978, with final completion in late 1980.
- 6. No surfacing of wastewater was observed in 1979 and 1980, and the Board rescinded Cease and Desist Order No. 78-73 on March 25, 1981.
- 7. On May 20, 1983, the discharger reported that wastewater was surfacing above the leach fields serving the upper tramway station.
- 8. On May 20, 1983, and June 1, 1983, the Board staff observed violations of Discharge Specifications A.1., A.4., and A.5. of said Order No. 76-53.
- 9. Unless additional changes are made in the disposal facilities and/or in the operation of those facilities, the discharger will remain in threatened violation of Discharge Specifications A.1., A.4., and A.5. of Order No. 76-53.
- 10. On July 13, 1983, the Regional Board conducted a public hearing in the City of Palm Springs, after due notice to the discharger and all other interested persons, at which the discharger appeared and evidence was received concerning the discharge.
- 11. Upon the basis of the evidence received, the Regional Board determined that the discharger is violating and is threatening further violations of Discharge Specifications A.1., A.4., and A.5. of Order No. 76-53.
- 12. This enforcement action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.) in accordance with Section 2714, Chapter 3, Title 23, California Administrative Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority cease and desist from discharging wastes contrary to requirements listed in Finding No. 3. (above).
- 2. The discharger shall take all necessary action to prevent the discharge of sewage to Long Valley Creek and to exclude the public from areas of possible contamination.
- 3. Compliance with the Board's discharge requirements shall be completed according to the following time schedule.

| Task | Completion Date | Report of Compliance due |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Submit Plans and Specifications for Construction for review by the Executive Officer | 7-22-83 | |
| Commence Construction | 8-1-83 | 8-15-83 |
| Completed Construction | 11-1-83 | 11-15-83 |
| Submit Technical Report on Water Conservation Measures | 11-15-83 | - |
| Submit Engineer's Certification of Compliance | 11-15-83 | - |

4. The discharger shall submit monthly reports, under penalty of perjury, to the Executive Officer concerning the following. Said reports shall be due by the 15th day of the following month.

- a. A record consisting of a list of any dates when surfacing leachate is observed, and a description of the extent of the problem, or a written statement that no surfacing was observed.
- b. Any changes in the method of operation of the sewage disposal facilities, or any additional construction or renovation of the sewage disposal facilities during the month.
- c. An estimate of the water usage at the upper tramway station for each day of the month.
- 5. Upon completion of all construction and implementation of water conservation efforts, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board a certificate signed by a California Registered Civil Engineer stating that the wastewater treatment/disposal facilities will achieve compliance with Cease and Desist Order No. 83-79 and Regional Board Order No. 76-53.
- 6. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer is directed to request the Attorney General to take appropriate action against the discharger, including injunction and civil monetary remedies, if appropriate.

I, Arthur Swajian, 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, Colorado River Basin Region, on July 13, 1983.

Executive Officer