

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

ORDER NO. 87-27

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
IMPERIAL MAGMA - VULCAN II  
GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT WELLS  
SALTON SEA KNOWN GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE AREA (KGRA)  
Imperial County

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

1. Imperial Magma (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger), P.O. Box 17760, Los Angeles, California, 90017, submitted Report of Waste Discharge, dated January 6, 1987.
2. The discharger proposes to drill eleven geothermal exploratory and production wells in the Salton Sea KGRA. These wells will supply geothermal fluid to the Vulcan II Power Plant (a 35 MW (net) multiple flash electric power generating plant owned and operated by Magma Power Company). The eleven proposed wells are in the Del Ranch Unit at the following locations:

Del Ranch Unit Development

M-17	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 33	T11S, R13E, SBB&M
M-18	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 33	T11S, R13E, SBB&M
M-19	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 4	T12S, R13E, SBB&M
M-20	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 4	T12S, R13E, SBB&M
M-21	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 4	T12S, R13E, SBB&M
M-22	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 4	T12S, R13E, SBB&M
M-23	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 4	T12S, R13E, SBB&M
M-24	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 4	T12S, R13E, SBB&M
IW-8	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 34	T11S, R13E, SBB&M
IW-9	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 34	T11S, R13E, SBB&M
IW-10	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	Sec. 34	T11S, R13E, SBB&M

3. A temporary containment basin, capable of containing the maximum expected discharge of drilling mud, cuttings, cleanout fluid, and geothermal test fluid including a two (2) foot freeboard would be constructed at each well site.
4. The discharger proposes to discharge into each temporary containment basin a maximum of 234,000 gallons of geothermal waste. Final disposal would be by subsurface injection or after some evaporation, the residual fluid and solids would be discharged at a Class I or Class II waste disposal facility approved by the Regional Board to receive said wastes.

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Superseded  
w/ Board Order  
No. 91-051

5. Flow from production testing of geothermal wells would be injected subsurface.
6. Geothermal fluids in this portion of the Salton Sea KGRA are known to have a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of approximately 220,000 mg/l.
7. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California was adopted by the Regional Board on November 14, 1984.
8. Beneficial uses to be protected by this Order are as follows:
  - A. Ground Water
    1. Shallow ground waters at the discharge location are saline and are not beneficially used.
    2. Deep ground waters are brine and are being investigated for geothermal development.
  - B. New and Alamo Rivers and Imperial Valley Irrigation Drains
    1. Freshwater replenishment for Salton Sea.
    2. Freshwater habitat for fish and wildlife.
    3. Recreation - nonwater contact.
9. Environmental Impact Report SCH #80102409 was prepared for this project. Imperial County Planning Department determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment in a Notice of Determination approved on September 24, 1986.
10. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for these development wells.
11. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, Imperial Magma shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications

1. Neither the treatment nor the discharge of wastes shall create a pollution or a nuisance as defined in Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Drilling mud and cuttings, geothermal cleanout fluid, and geothermal test fluid shall be injected subsurface or discharged for temporary storage into either:

- (a) Earthen basins with a minimum six (6) inch compacted clay lining having a coefficient of permeability of  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  cm/sec or less. Clay lining shall be defined as: at least 30 percent of the material, by weight, passing a No. 200 U.S. Standard Sieve; or
  - (b) Earthen basins lined with a synthetic liner of not less than 40 mil thickness; or
  - (c) Metal or other type containers approved by the Executive Officer.
  - (d) All basins or containers shall be protected and maintained to ensure their effectiveness.
- 3. A minimum freeboard of at least two (2) feet shall be maintained at each temporary containment basin.
  - 4. Fluid discharged by subsurface injection shall not be injected into any subsurface aquifer which has a TDS concentration of less than 10,000 mg/l, unless the TDS concentration of the injection water is less than or equal to that of the receiving water, or, as an alternative, the discharger demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Regional Board that injection into said zone will not pose a threat to water quality.
  - 5. Fluids discharged by subsurface injection shall be injected below the fracture pressure of the receiving aquifer and of the confining layer immediately above the receiving aquifer.
  - 6. Geothermal waste with extractable water containing a TDS concentration exceeding 6,000 mg/l shall be discharged at a Class I or Class II waste management facility approved by the Regional Board to receive such waste.
  - 7. Geothermal waste with extractable water containing a TDS concentration less than 6,000 mg/l, and not containing hazardous constituents as defined in Article 11, Title 22 of the California Administrative Code and future editions, shall be discharged at a waste management facility approved by the Regional Board to receive such waste.
  - 8. Final disposal of residual waste and cleanup of containment facilities shall be accomplished to the satisfaction of the Executive Officer upon abandonment or closure of operations. Lack of construction or operational activity on-site for a period of one year shall constitute abandonment for the purpose of this Order.

B. Provisions

- 1. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 87-27," and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Executive Officer.
- 2. Permanent (longer than one (1) year) disposal or storage of geothermal waste to on-site temporary containment basins is prohibited.

3. The discharger shall submit to the Board, at least 30 days prior to commencement of operation at each new well, a written report on the proposed method and estimated costs of cleanup and closure in accordance with the requirements of this Order.
4. At least ten days prior to the discharge of any material into a temporary containment basin, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board a report signed by a California Registered Civil Engineer advising the Executive Officer that the temporary containment basin and attendant facilities are constructed to meet the requirements of this Order.
5. Prior to any change of ownership of these operations, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to this Board.
6. This Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

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 March 18, 1987.

  
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Executive Officer

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 87-27  
FOR  
IMPERIAL MAGMA - VULCAN II  
GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT WELLS  
SALTON SEA KNOWN GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE AREA (KGRA)  
Imperial County**

Location: Sections 33 and 34, T11S, R13E, and Section 4, T12S, R13E, SBB&M

**MONITORING**

Imperial Magma shall report monitoring data to the Regional Board in accordance with the following schedule:

1. The discharger shall submit to the Board, at least 30 days prior to commencement of operation at each new well, a written report on the proposed method and estimated costs of cleanup and closure in accordance with the requirements of this Order.
2. At least ten days prior to the discharge of any material into a temporary containment basin, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board a report signed by a California Registered Civil Engineer advising the Executive Officer that the temporary containment basin and attendant facilities are constructed to meet the requirements of this Order.
3. The discharger shall submit the following information:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
(a) Volume of discharge contained in each temporary containment basin.	Gallons	Monthly
(b) Volume of geothermal waste containing greater than 6,000 mg/l TDS concentration discharged at Class I or Class II waste management facility, and name of facility.	Gallons	Monthly

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
(c) Volume and TDS concentration of geothermal waste containing less than 6,000 mg/l TDS discharged at a waste management facility approved by the Regional Board, and name of facility.	Gallons and mg/l	Monthly
(d) Total dissolved solids concentration of fluid waste injected into each injection well.	mg/l	Quarterly
(e) Total dissolved solids concentration of ground water contained in strata proposed to receive fluid waste injection.	mg/l	At least ten days prior to commencement of injection
4. Immediate reporting of any accidental spillage or release of waste material, and immediate measures being taken to correct same and to limit detrimental effects.		
5. Report of completion of removal of all geothermal waste from temporary storage basins within one (1) week following completion of work.		
6. At least ten days prior to destruction of each temporary storage basin, the discharger shall request a Regional Board staff inspection and approval of the cleanup procedures.		

#### REPORTING

Except for Items 1 and 2, above, the above monitoring program shall be implemented immediately upon commencement of discharge at each site.

Monthly reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by the 15th day of the following month. Quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year. Reports for Item 5 (above) shall be forwarded immediately and shall be preceded by phone communication to the Regional Board's office. Phone No. (619) 346-7491. Copies of the reports submitted to the Board pursuant to this Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be maintained at the operations site, and shall also be made available to staff of the Regional Board upon request.

Mail reports to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-271 Highway 111, Suite 21  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

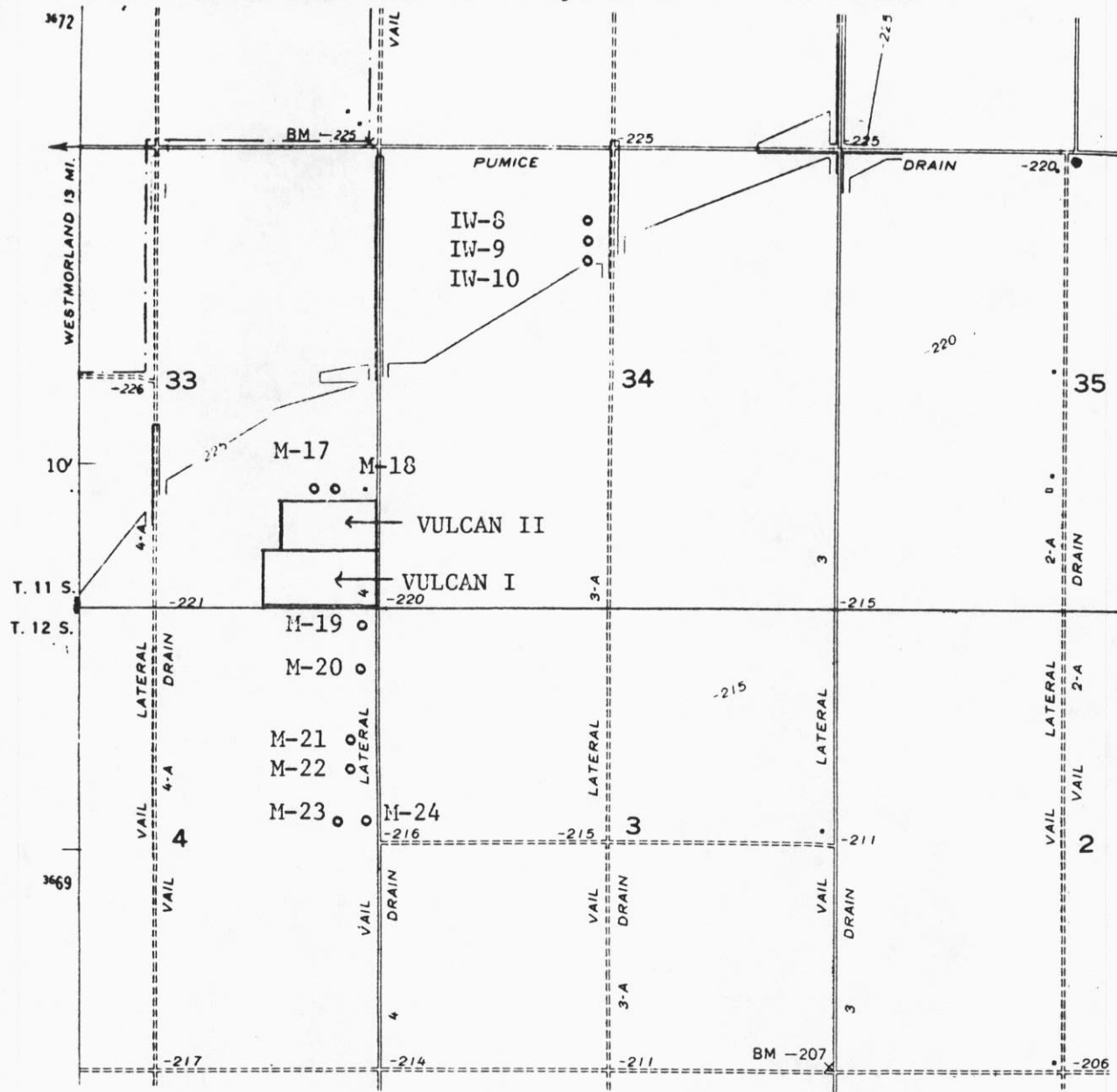
ORDERED BY:

*Arthur Levajian*  
Executive Officer

March 18, 1987

Date

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD -7



IMPERIAL MAGMA  
 GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT WELLS  
 FOR  
 VULCAN II POWER PLANT  
 SALTON SEA KNOWN GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE AREA (KGRA)  
 Imperial County  
 Section 4, T12S, R13E, Section 33 and 34, T11S, R13E, SBB&M  
 USGS Obsidian Butte 15 min. Topographic Map

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