

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

**CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 87-72  
AGAINST  
RAMON CLEANERS, INC.**

**Palm Springs, Riverside County**

The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region finds that:

1. On May 4, 1987 Regional Board staff accompanied by Mr. Robert Lehmann (Riverside County Environmental Health Division) during the process of conducting an investigation of chemical use and storage (under the AB1803, program) at Ramon Cleaners at 115 S. Indian Avenue, Palm Springs, California, 92262. The investigating team observed approximately 165 gallons of a liquid substance in a cement containment area along the outside wall of the building. Larry Brady, an employee of the Ramon Cleaners stated that he had no knowledge of the liquid substance stored in cement containment area.
2. On May 8, 1987 Regional Board staff conducted an inspection of the above area accompanied by Mr. Robert Lehmann and Mr. Zachary Pitts, Vice President, Ramon Cleaners, Inc. The following information was obtained:
  - a. Mr. Zachary Pitts is the owner and operator of the dry cleaning facility.
  - b. According to Mr. Pitts, the liquid had been in the cement containment area for approximately two (2) years. Mr. Pitts heard we had questions on the said liquid substance and decided to discharge the liquid substance into the sewerage system.
  - c. Mr. Pitts was informed that the said liquid substance in the cement containment area had an oil sheen, and if discharged into the sewerage system, it could be a violation of State and Federal laws and regulations. Mr. Pitts then told the investigation team that the said liquid substance was only detergent and water.
  - d. Filters are used in the dry cleaning process. Mr. Pitts places/stores contaminated filters on the ground in such a manner that the drainage flows directly into the sewage collection system. Filters are then placed into original cartons and picked up by the distributor.
  - e. On May 13, 1987 Regional Board staff obtained a sample of residue from the bottom of the cement containment area for analysis.

*Cancelled  
1/10/89*

*Replaced by  
87-83*

- f. On June 5, 1987 Department of Health Services Laboratory in Los Angeles reported the sample to contain petroleum distillates and hydrocarbons.
3. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California was adopted by the Board on November 1984.
4. The discharger did not request or receive waste discharge requirements from the Regional Board for its discharge.
5. The community sewerage system is owned and operated by the City of Palm Springs. The effluent from the sewage treatment plant is allowed to percolate into ground water.
6. The discharge of petroleum distillates and hydrocarbons into the sewerage system is therefore threatening the beneficial uses of ground water as a domestic water supply.
7. This enforcement action is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Sections 15307 and 15321, Chapter 3, Division 6, Title 14, of the California Administrative Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that pursuant to Section 13304 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, Ramon Cleaners, Inc. and/or Zachary Pitts, jointly and/or severally shall:

1. Submit a schedule for Plan of Corrective Action to determine the extent of contamination on and around said cement containment area/premises by July 6, 1987.
2. Submit information on solvent use and disposal practices with all supporting documentation for the last ten (10) years.

ORDERED BY:

Arthur Levajian  
Executive Officer

June 8, 1987  
Date