

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

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. 91-034
AGAINST THE
CITY OF EL CENTRO
IMPERIAL COUNTY**

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

1. On June 28, 1989 this Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted Order No. 89-044 (NPDES No. CA0104426), prescribing waste discharge requirements for the discharge of wastewater by the City of El Centro (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger) into the Central Drain near the center of Section 25, T15S, R13E, SBB&M. The drain flows 8 miles before it enters the Alamo River.
2. Board Order No. 89-044 requires, in part, the discharger to comply with the following Specification A.1.:

"Representative samples of wastewater discharged to Central Drain shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>30-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>	<u>7-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>
20°C BOD ₅	lbs/day	1,251	1,876
	mg/l	30	45
Suspended Solids	lbs/day	1,251	1,876
	mg/l	30	45
Settleable Matter	ml/l	0.3	0.5"

3. Recent monthly monitoring reports submitted by the discharger indicate several months of non-compliance with effluent limitations as described in Finding No. 2, above, in regards to the allowable limits of 20°C BOD₅ and suspended solids. These violations are further confirmed by inspections conducted by the Regional Board staff. Following is a summary of the violations for the recent several months:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION</u>
April 1990	Exceeded Suspended Solid Limitations, Exceeded BOD Limitations
June 1990	Exceeded Suspended Solid Limitations, Exceeded BOD Limitations

*Received
5/27/91*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION</u>
July 1990	Exceeded Suspended Solid Limitations, Exceeded BOD Limitations
September 1990	Exceeded Suspended Solid Limitations
December 1990	Exceeded Suspended Solid Limitations, Exceeded BOD Limitations, Raw Sewage Spill(s)
January 1991	Exceeded Suspended Solid Limitations, Exceeded BOD Limitations
February 1991	Polymer Poisoning that Disrupted STP's Operation
March 1991	Exceeded Suspended Solid Limitations, Polymer Poisoning that Disrupted STP's Operation

4. The City's Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is having severe operational problems with its various components including the anaerobic digester. As a result, some of the unit processes are either not utilized or are under-utilized. The resultant violation of effluent limitations noted above is partly due to this non or under-utilization of treatment processes. Although the City of El Centro has taken actions to correct the above-mentioned problems, as of this date the problems at its STP have not been resolved to the satisfaction of the Regional Board staff.
5. The Regional Board finds that the STP is still in non-compliance with Regional Board Order No. 89-044.
6. The City of El Centro's STP is receiving wastewater flows in excess of its rated design capacity. Regional Board staff conducted various meetings with the City regarding this issue. The City has taken several actions to address this issue, however, this issue needs to be addressed in an expeditious manner.
7. On May 15, 1991, the Regional Board conducted a public hearing for consideration of issuance of a Cease and Desist Order against the City of El Centro.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

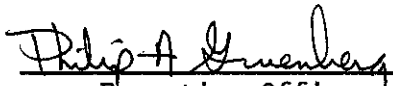
1. The discharger cease and desist from discharging and threatening to discharge wastewater contrary to the limitations specified in Board Order No. 89-044, and as indicated in Finding No. 2 of this Board Order.
2. The discharger shall implement any pretreatment measures needed to keep the STP in compliance with Board Order No. 89-044.
3. The discharger take specific actions as indicated in the following time schedule to achieve compliance with all requirements of Board Order No. 89-044 on a continuing basis.

<u>TASK</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATE</u>	<u>REPORT DUE TO REGIONAL BOARD</u>
a. Conduct necessary repairs to all unit processes (except the older primary digester) that need repair and place all units into adequate operational mode	September 1, 1991	September 5, 1991
b. Complete a preliminary report to address future capacity requirements at STP	December 1, 1991	December 15, 1991
c. Complete design report to address future capacity requirements at STP	September 1, 1993	September 15, 1993
d. Start construction to address future capacity requirements at STP	January 1, 1994	January 15, 1994
e. Complete construction	July 1, 1995	July 15, 1995

In addition to the above reports, the discharger is required to submit monthly progress reports on the tasks above. Monthly progress reports are due by the 15th of every month after this Board Order goes into effect.

4. The discharger is required to provide the above-described reports to the Regional Board, explaining progress towards compliance with specific tasks.
5. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the discharger fails to comply with this Board Order, the Executive Officer is directed to issue a compliant against the discharger under Article 2.5, Chapter 5, Division 7 of the California Water Code and seek appropriate administrative civil liability and/or request the Attorney General to take appropriate action against the City of El Centro, including injunction and civil monetary liability as deemed appropriate.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, 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 May 15, 1991.



 Executive Officer