

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

ORDER NO. R7-2002-0105

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL, OWNER/OPERATOR  
IMPERIAL CLASS III MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY  
Calexico – Imperial County

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

1. Imperial County (hereinafter referred to as the Discharger), 155 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, El Centro, California 92243-2853, owns and operates the Imperial Waste Management Facility (WMF).
2. On March 27, 2002, the Discharger submitted an application to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) for the purpose of updating the current Waste Discharge Requirements.
3. On April 21, 2000 the Discharger submitted Revision 1: March, 2000 Joint Technical Document and Preliminary Closure/Post Closure Maintenance Plan for Imperial Solid Waste Site. On June 6, 2001 the Discharger submitted revision pages to the Joint Technical Document, dated April 20, 2001.
4. Definitions of terms used in this Order:
  - a. Discharger – Any person who discharges waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, and includes any person who owns a waste management unit or who is responsible for the operation of the waste management unit (Title 27, California Code or Regulations).
  - b. Waste Management Facility (WMF) – The entire parcel of property at which waste discharge operations are conducted. Such a facility may include one (1) or more waste management units.
  - c. Waste Management Unit (WMU) – An area of Land, or a portion of a Waste Management Facility at which waste is or was discharged. The term includes containment features, ancillary features for precipitation and drainage control and monitoring.
  - d. Landfill – A waste management unit at which waste is discharged in or on land for disposal. It does not include surface impoundments, waste piles, land and soil treatment.
5. The WMF is located in a portion of the South 1/2 of Section 24, T15S, R12E, SBB&M, as shown on Attachment A. The WMF lies south of Worthington Road west and north of the east edge of Tiffany Road, six (6) miles west of the City of Imperial. The New River is located just west of the WMF, as shown on Attachment B. Attachments A and B are made a part of this Order by reference. Access to the WMF is off Worthington Road. The WMF entrance is just south of the intersection of Worthington and Tiffany Roads.
6. Surface water runoff is to the New River.
7. Most of the land use within one (1) mile of the WMF is agricultural. Lands to the immediate east, north and south are used for agricultural purposes; most of this land is planted with crops. The

New River is west of the WMF. The El Centro Naval Air Facility is approximately 5,500 feet to the south of the WMF. There are no structures within 1,000 feet of the WMF.

8. Section 20270, Title 27 California Code of Regulations (hereafter Title 27) and Subtitle D, Subpart B, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 258.10 requires owners and operators of new and existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfill units (MSWLF) that are located within 10,000 feet of any airport runway end used by turbojet aircraft must demonstrate that the units are designed and operated so that the MSWLF does not pose a bird hazard to aircraft.
9. The Joint Technical Document states that the WMF poses little danger to the airfield, as demonstrated by regular landfill inspections by the Local Enforcement Agency (Imperial County Environmental Health) with no recent violations in the area of bird control.
10. The WMF is located in the Salton Trough, which lies in the south-central part of the Imperial Valley. The ground surface of the Imperial Valley floor is a flat plain, sloping gently to the northeast. However, elevations at the site vary from 58 feet below mean sea level at the northeast corner to 105 feet below mean sea level at the west side of the WMF.
11. Ground water beneath the WMF occurs at an average depth of 25 feet below ground surface (bgs), and generally flows to the northeast towards the New River. The ground water flow velocity has been calculated at approximately 0.14 ft/day beneath the WMF. The ground water flow gradient trends northwesterly to the New River. The water bearing strata is composed of sandy silt, silty sand and sand, overlain by a five (5) to 10 foot thick layer of low-plasticity clay.
12. The dominant geomorphic feature in the region is the Salton Trough, a part of the Colorado Desert Geomorphic Province. The Imperial Valley is essentially a flat featureless alluvial basin. Below the alluvial cover of Imperial Valley lies an unexposed succession of Tertiary and Quaternary sedimentary rocks thought to be at least 20,000 feet thick. Surface sediments consist of Holocene clay and silt alluvium grading to sandy gravel near the mountains.
13. During Quaternary times, from at least 13,000 years ago to as recently as several hundred years ago, the central parts of Imperial Valley, including the site, periodically lay beneath ephemeral lakes such as ancient Lake Cahuilla. Lake Cahuilla resulted from periodic overflow and diversion of the Colorado River into the Salton Basin. Sediments from these ephemeral lakes consist primarily of silt and clay in the central portion of the basin.
14. Active fault zones occur in the Imperial Valley. The principal fault zone is the San Andreas system, which runs parallel to the northeast margin of the Salton Trough. The Clark and Coyote Creek branches of the San Jacinto fault zone transect the southwest flank of the Salton Trough. The Brawley fault zone, including the seismic zone that marks its northward extension, and the Imperial, Superstition Hills and the Superstition Mountain faults are situated on or near the axis of the Trough. With the exception of the Brawley fault zone, all the above named faults display the surficial features characteristic of the San Andreas system throughout California: linearity, northwest-southwest trend, physiographic evidence of recent activity and right-lateral displacement.
15. The climate of the region is warm and arid. The site does not have a wet and dry season, as the coastal areas of the state, but rather the rainy season extends year-round. The average annual rainfall for the area of the WMF is approximately three (3) inches. The projected 24-hour, 100-year storm event is estimated to yield approximately three (3) inches. The mean pan evaporation rate is 72-84 inches per year.
16. The prevailing winds in the area of the WMF follow two (2) general patterns. From late Fall to early Spring, the winds prevail from the west and northwest. Humidity is lowest under these conditions. During summer, weather patterns are often dominated by an intense, heat-induced

low-pressure area that forms over the interior desert, drawing air from the area to the south of the WMF. Humidity is highest under the summer conditions.

17. The WMF first came under Regional Board regulation with Resolution No. 70-037 on December 10, 1970. Resolution No. 70-037 was replaced when the WMF became subject to Waste Discharge Requirements under Board Order No. 91-025, adopted on May 15, 1991.
18. On September 15, 1993, the Regional Board adopted Board Order No. 93-071, which amended all municipal solid waste landfill Board Orders to comply with federal regulations.
19. The WMF is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Board Order No. 97-010, adopted on January 22, 1997 and Board Order No. 93-071. This Board Order updates Board Order No. 97-010 to incorporate the laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and combined State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)/California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) Regulations, Division 2, Title 27 (hereinafter referred to as Title 27) and federal regulations under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), also known as Subtitle D.
20. A Final Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT) Report was prepared in 1993. As part of the SWAT investigation, four (4) ground water monitoring wells were installed in 1991. The wells are designated I-WW-1 through I-WW-4. The depths of these wells range from 21.5 to 61.5 feet below ground surface (bgs). All four (4) ground water monitoring wells are currently monitored as part of the current Detection Monitoring Program, as described in Part II.B.4. of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105. The monitoring wells are shown on Attachment C, which is made a part of this Order by reference.
21. The Landfill is unlined and has no leachate collection and removal system. It is designed and operated to receive a maximum of 130 tons-per-day (tpd) on a sustained basis. The WMF currently averages approximately 21 tpd. The site receives refuse about 102 days during the year. The following non-hazardous wastes are accepted at the Class III WMF:
  - a. Residential
  - b. Agricultural
  - c. Commercial
  - d. Construction/Demolition
  - e. Dead Animals
  - f. Triple-rinsed, punctured pesticide containers
22. Triple-rinsed, punctured pesticide containers have not been received at the WMF since 1994; however, the Discharger will maintain the separate pesticide container cell for future use.
23. The WMF also accepts tires, but tires are not disposed of at the WMF. The WMF will accept less than 500 tires for on-site storage. The tires will be periodically transported to a tire-recycler.
24. The total area of the site is 69 acres. The footprint of the Landfill is approximately 18 acres, as shown on Attachment D, which is made part of this Order by reference.
25. The WMF's remaining refuse capacity is estimated to be approximately 131,668 cubic yards, as of January 1, 2000.
26. The Discharger has estimated that the WMF will have a service life of approximately 22 years, 8 months, based on the average daily inflows, as of January 2000. It is estimated that the WMF will reach capacity in August 2022. Should Imperial County implement their waste diversion program, the WMF would have an anticipated approximate closure date of June 2004.
27. Currently, the proposed post-closure end use for the WMF will be non-irrigated open space.

28. The area fill method is used for waste disposal at the WMF. Waste is compacted and covered daily.
29. The Discharger has a load-checking program for identifying and removing hazardous and prohibited wastes from the municipal waste stream coming to the WMF. Any hazardous materials found at the WMF will be handled and removed pursuant to Title 22, California Code of Regulations.
30. The WMF is located in the Imperial Hydrologic Unit.
31. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on November 17, 1993, and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface water in the Region.
32. The designated beneficial uses of the ground waters in the Imperial Hydrologic Unit are:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
33. Within the Imperial Valley area of the Imperial Hydrologic Unit, much of the ground water is too saline for municipal use.
34. The beneficial uses of waters of the New River are:
  - a. Fresh Water Replenishment of Salton Sea (FRSH)
  - b. Water Contact Recreation (REC I)
  - c. Noncontact Water Recreation (REC II)
  - d. Warm Water Habitat (WARM)
  - e. Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
  - f. Preservation of Rare, Endangered or Threatened Species (RARE)
35. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. Seq.) Imperial County Planning Department, as Lead Agency approved a Negative Declaration on June 29, 2000 for Imperial WMF. CEQA compliance was necessary to revise the facility's Solid Waste Permit to include operational changes since 1979. The approved Negative Declaration takes into account the future anticipated diversion via transfer of waste from both the Brawley Solid Waste Site and the Ocotillo Solid Waste, shortening the expected life of the WMF.
36. The Regional Board concurs that the proposed changes would have no significant water quality impacts.
37. The monitoring and reporting requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2000-0105 are necessary to determine compliance with these WDRs and to determine the facility's impacts, if any, on ground water.
38. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) promulgated federal regulations for storm water discharges (40 CFR, Parts 122, 123, and 124). The regulations require that specific categories of facilities, which discharge storm water associated with industrial activity, obtain a NPDES Permit and implement Best Conventional Pollutant Technology (BCPT) to reduce or eliminate industrial storm water pollution.

39. The SWRCB adopted Order No. 97-03-DWQ (General Permit No. CAS000001), specifying WDRs for discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities, excluding construction activities, and requiring submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI) by industries to be covered under the Permit.
40. The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update WDRs for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
41. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 97-008 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal at this WMF shall not cause a condition of pollution as defined in Section 13050, Division 7, California Water Code.
2. Waste materials shall be confined to the existing footprint of the WMF, as defined in Finding No. 24, and as shown on Attachment D.
3. Waste materials shall not be discharged on any ground surface that is less than five (5) feet above the highest anticipated ground water level.
4. The Discharger shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
5. Surface drainage from tributary areas, and internal site drainage from surface or subsurface sources, shall not contact or percolate through the wastes discharged at the WMF.
6. The exterior surfaces of the disposal area, including the intermediate and final Landfill covers, shall be graded and maintained to promote lateral runoff of precipitation and to prevent ponding.
7. The WMF shall be operated and maintained to prevent inundation, washout, or erosion of wastes or covering material, which could occur as a result of floods having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.
8. There shall be no discharge of liquid waste at this site, unless approved by the Executive Officer.
9. The Discharger shall implement the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105 in order to detect, at the earliest opportunity, any unauthorized discharge of waste constituents from the WMF, or any unreasonable impairment of beneficial uses associated with (caused by) discharges of waste to the WMF.
10. The Discharger shall use the constituents, listed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105, Part III Summary of Self-Monitoring and Reporting Programs C.1., as "Monitoring Parameters" and revisions thereto. These Monitoring Parameters are subject to the most appropriate statistical or non-statistical test under Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105, Part III, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
11. The discharge shall not cause the concentration of any Constituent of Concern or Monitoring Parameter to exceed its respective background value in any monitored medium at any Monitoring

Point assigned to Detection Monitoring pursuant to Part II.B.4. of attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105.

12. The discharge shall not cause the release of pollutants, or waste constituents in a manner that could cause a condition of contamination, or pollution to occur, as indicated by the most appropriate statistical (or non-statistical) data analysis method and retest method listed in Part III of attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105.
13. The Discharger shall remove and relocate any wastes that are discharged at this site in violation of these requirements.
14. The Discharger shall maintain a hazardous waste load-checking program at the WMF. The Discharger shall report the results pursuant to Monitoring and Reporting No. R7-2002-0105, and revisions thereto.
15. Water used for site maintenance shall be limited to the amount necessary for dust control.
16. The Discharger shall comply with the Water Quality Protection Standards (WQPS) for Detection Monitoring established by the Regional Board in this Board Order pursuant to Section 20390, Title 27. The following are five (5) parts of the WQPS as established by the Regional Board (the terms of art used in this Board Order regarding monitoring are defined in Part I.B. of attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105, and revisions thereto, which is hereby incorporated by reference:
  - a. Constituents of Concern (Section 20395, Title 27). The Constituents of Concern shall be those constituents listed in Part III. Summary of Self-Monitoring and Reporting Programs C.2. of Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105, and revisions thereto.
  - b. Concentration Limit (Section 20400, Title 27). For each Monitoring Point assigned to a Detection Monitoring Program (as described in Monitoring and Reporting Program Part II.B.4.), the concentration limit for each Constituent of Concern (or Monitoring Parameter) shall be its background value as obtained during that Reporting Period (defined in Monitoring and Reporting Program, Part I.B.9.), as follows:
    - 1) If 10 percent or more of the samples taken during a given Reporting Period from the Background Monitoring Points for a monitored medium exceed their respective Facility-Specific Method Detection Limit (MDL) – see Monitoring and Reporting Program Part I.B.7. – for a given constituent, then the Constituent Limit for that medium and constituents shall consist of the mean (or median, as appropriate) and the standard deviation (or other measures of central tendency, as appropriate) of all the background data obtained for that constituent from the medium during that Reporting Period; otherwise
    - 2) The Concentration Limit for that medium and constituent shall be its MDL.
  - c. Monitoring Points and Background Monitoring Points for Detection Monitoring (Section 20415, Title 27) shall be those listed in Part II.B.4. of attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Monitoring Points and Background Monitoring Points are shown on Attachment No. C, which is made a part of this Order by reference.
  - d. Points of Compliance (Section 20405, Title 27) shall be those Monitoring Points listed in Part II.B.4, as shown of Attachment C, and extend down through the zone of saturation.
  - e. Compliance Period (Section 20410, Title 27). The estimated duration of the compliance period for this WMF is 30 years. Each time the Standard is not met (i.e. a release is discovered), the WMF begins a Compliance Period on the date the Regional Board directs

the Discharger to begin an Evaluation and Monitoring Program (EMP). If the Discharger's Corrective Action Program (CAP) has not achieved compliance with the standard by the scheduled end of the Compliance Period, the Compliance Period is automatically extended until the WMF has been in continuous compliance for at least three (3) consecutive years.

#### B. Prohibitions

1. The direct discharge of any waste to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. The discharge of waste to land not owned or controlled by Discharger is prohibited.
3. The discharge of hazardous waste as defined in Title 27 at this WMF is prohibited.
4. The Discharge or deposit of designated waste as defined in Title 27 at this WMF is prohibited unless approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
5. The discharge of liquid or semi-solid waste (i.e., containing less than 50 percent solids) to the WMF is prohibited unless approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
6. The co-disposal of incompatible wastes is prohibited.
7. The discharge shall neither cause nor contribute to any surface water contamination or pollution, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Floating, suspended, or deposited macroscopic particulate matter or foam;
  - b. Increases in bottom deposits or aquatic growth;
  - c. An adverse change in temperature, turbidity, or apparent color beyond natural background levels;
  - d. The creation or contribution of visible, floating, suspended or deposited oil or other products of petroleum origin; and
  - e. The introduction or increase in concentration of toxic or other pollutants/contaminants resulting in unreasonable impairment of beneficial uses of waters of the State.

#### C. Provisions

1. The Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2002-0105, and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. The Discharger shall immediately notify the Regional Board of any flooding, slope failure or other change in site conditions that could impair the integrity of waste containment facilities or of precipitation and drainage control structures.
3. The Discharger, within 48 hours of a significant earthquake event, shall inform the Regional Board's Executive Officer by telephone of any physical damages to the containment features and ground water monitoring facilities. Within 10 working days, the Discharger shall submit to the Regional Board a detailed post-earthquake report describing any physical damages to the containment features and/or ground water monitoring systems, and a corrective action plan to be implemented at the WMF.
4. Within 180 days of the adoption of this Board Order, the Discharger shall submit to the Regional Board, pursuant to Section 20380(b) of Title 27, assurances of financial responsibility acceptable

to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for initiating and completing corrective action for all known or reasonably foreseeable releases for the WMF.

5. One (1) year prior to the anticipated closure of the facility or any Unit (portion) thereto, the Discharger shall submit to the Regional Board, for review and approval by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, a final closure and post-closure maintenance plan, pursuant to Title 27. The final closure and post-closure maintenance plan shall include seismicity studies.
6. The Discharger shall submit to this Regional Board and to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, evidence of Financial Assurance for Closure and Post Closure, pursuant to Section 22212, Title 27. The post-closure period shall be at least 30 years. However, the post-closure maintenance period shall extend as long as the waste poses a threat to water quality.
7. The Discharger shall maintain legible records on the volume and type of each waste discharged at the WMF. These records shall be available for review by representatives of the Regional Board at any time during normal business hours. At the beginning of the post-closure maintenance period, copies of these records shall be sent to the Regional Board.
8. The Discharger shall maintain visible monuments identifying the boundary limits of the entire WMF.
9. The Discharger shall comply with the existing load-checking program.
10. The Discharger shall comply with all applicable provisions of Title 27 that are not specifically referred to in this Order.
11. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the WMF inoperable.
12. Annually, prior to the first day of November, any necessary erosion control measures shall be implemented, including any necessary construction, maintenance, or repairs of precipitation and drainage control facilities to prevent erosion and flooding of the WMF. The report thereon shall be submitted to the Regional Board by **November 15** of each year.
13. All containment structures and erosion and drainage control systems shall be designed and constructed under direct supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer, or Certified Engineering Geologist, and shall be certified by the individual as meeting prescriptive standards and performance goals of Title 27.
14. The Discharger shall maintain in good working order, and operate as efficiently as possible, any facility or control system installed by the Discharger to achieve compliance with these Waste Discharge Requirements.
15. All regulated disposal systems shall be readily accessible for sampling and inspection.
16. The Discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order;



- d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
17. The Discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
18. Prior to any modifications at this facility that would result in material change in the quality or quantity of waste discharged at the WMF, the Discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board and obtain revised Waste Discharge Requirements prior to any modifications being implemented.
19. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the Discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
20. The Discharger is the responsible party for the Waste Discharge Requirements and the Monitoring and Reporting Program for the WMF. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of the Waste Discharge Requirements. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in modification or revocation of these Waste Discharge Requirements by the Regional Board.
21. The Regional Board considers the property owner to have a continuing responsibility for correcting any problems that may arise in the future, as a result of this waste discharge.
22. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
23. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal right, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
24. The Discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports. Such monitoring reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
25. The Discharger may be required to submit technical reports as directed by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
26. Unless otherwise approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted pursuant to the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the USEPA.
27. The Discharger shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the SWRCB to be covered under the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order No. 97-03-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000001. The Discharger shall comply with all the discharge prohibitions, receiving water limitations, and provisions of the General Permit.
28. The Discharger shall submit a sampling and monitoring plan and monitoring plan for storm water discharges to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for review and approval no later than 90 days after the adoption of this Board Order. The plan shall meet the minimum requirements of Section B., Monitoring and Reporting Requirements of the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order No. 97-03-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000001.

29. This Board Order is subject to Regional Board review and updating, as necessary to comply with changing State or Federal laws, regulations, policies, or guidelines, or changes in the discharge characteristics.

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 June 26, 2002.

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Executive Officer