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Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-08-41
NPDES Permit No. CA0104281
October 17, 2008

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R7-2008-0067

IN THE MATTER OF
MCCABE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

FOR DISCHARGES OF EFFLUENT
EXCEEDING THE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS
FOR COPPER, ZINC AND NICKEL
IN VIOLATION OF BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2007-0035
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0104281

McCabe Union School District owns the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system that provides sewerage service to an elementary school located at 701 West McCabe Road, El Centro, California. The District's wastewater treatment plant has a treatment capacity of 0.015 million gallons-per-day (MGD). The Facility consists of two packaged treatment systems that operate in series. The first system includes flow equalization, an aeration tank, and secondary clarification. The second package system was installed during the term of the previous permit and includes dual media filtration and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection. Solids are returned and wasted as required to maintain process operations. Bio-solids are dried in drying beds prior to disposal.

The McCabe Union School District wastewater treatment plant currently operates under Order No. R7-2007-0035 (NPDES No. CA0104281), which allows discharge of effluent into Wildcat Drain which flows approximately three (3) miles to Rice Drain No. 3 and then seven (7) miles before entering the New River, which is a tributary to the Salton Sea. The Wildcat Drain, New River, and Salton Sea are waters of the United States. Prior to discharge, treated effluent is disinfected via a UV disinfection system.

The treated wastewater does not meet effluent discharge limits specified in the WDRs for copper, zinc and nickel. As a result, the Discharger has been in chronic violation of effluent discharge limitations for copper, zinc and nickel resulting in the accumulation of mandatory minimum penalties for violations of these effluent limitations.

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13301, Draft Cease and Desist Order No. R7-2008-0067 is proposed to be issued by the Regional Board to set forth actions that the Discharger shall take to correct or prevent discharges of waste that are in violation of Board Order No. R7-2007-0035 with respect to the effluent discharge limitations for copper, zinc and nickel.

A public hearing on this matter will be held as follows:

Date: November 19, 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Indio City Council Chambers

During the hearing, the public and any other person interested in this matter can provide the Regional Board with comments on the Draft Order.

Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the Draft Cease and Desist Order are requested to do so within 30 days of the date of this Notice so that the Regional Board may consider the comments.

Comments must be mailed to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

A copy of the Draft Cease and Desist Order may be obtained from the Regional Board Office. Please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 346-6585 for any questions regarding this matter. Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you think would be interested in this matter.

For any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this Regional Board hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 346-7491 no later than 10 days before the scheduled hearing date.