

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-10-26
NPDES Permit No. CA0104477
June 2, 2010

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R7-2010-0037

IN THE MATTER OF
VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
FOR
DISCHARGES OF EFFLUENT COPPER AND HEPTACHLOR
OF PROPOSED BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2010-0016
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0104493

Valley Sanitary District (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates a sewage collection and treatment system that provides services to the City of Indio. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has a total design capacity of 11 million gallons per day (MGD). The WWTP consists of three separate treatment trains: 1) an activated sludge treatment system, 2) a wetlands system, and 3) an oxidation pond system. Influent enters the main influent pumping station and is pumped to the screening facility. From the screening facility it flows through the aerated grit chamber and is then apportioned between the activated sludge plant primary clarifiers and the wetlands pumping station.

The Discharger's WWTP is a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) that discharges its effluent to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (Channel), which flows to the Salton Sea. The Channel and Salton Sea are waters of the United States.

Regional Board staff received a letter dated May 6, 2010 from the Discharger. The letter stated in part: "Subsequent to our being made aware that copper and heptachlor limits would be placed on our new permit, we have conducted additional effluent testing in an attempt to determine the probability that the facility will be in frequent violation of these new effluent limits ... Based on these results, we conclude that once the new permit goes into effect our facility discharge will likely experience repeated violations of the new heptachlor limits and that there is significant potential of repeated violations of the new copper limits. We are therefore requesting Valley Sanitary District be placed under a Cease and Desist Order, relative to the dischargers of copper and heptachlor, in order to allow sufficient time for VSD to determine and implement effective methods that will ensure the discharge from our facility will meet the new effluent limits for copper and heptachlor."

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13301, tentative Cease and Desist Order No. R7-2010-0037 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 Proposed Board Order No. R7-2010-0016 with respect to the effluent discharge limitations for copper and heptachlor.

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

Date: June 17, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: High Desert Water District
55439 29 Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

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

Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the tentative 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 tentative 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.