

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

BOARD ORDER NO. 6-95-23A1
WDID 6A186000500

AMENDED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON-LASSEN COUNTY
AND
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL CENTER AT SUSANVILLE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Lassen County_____

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Regional Board) finds:

1. Discharger

The California Department of Corrections submitted a complete report of waste discharge for the California Correctional Center at Susanville and the California State Prison-Lassen County Wastewater Treatment Facility on February 7, 1994. After the adoption of Board Order No. 6-95-23, the California State Prison-Lassen County was renamed to the High Desert State Prison. The California Department of Corrections is referred to as the "Discharger" as defined in Board Order.

2. Facility

The "Facility" is defined in the Board Order No. 6-95-23 as the California Correctional Center at Susanville/High Desert State Prison Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Facility includes mechanical aeration and oxidation ponds, and storage ponds. Chlorination disinfects the effluent prior to spray irrigation for disposal on fodder crop fields. The disinfected effluent is not sampled for bacteria, and therefore the irrigation water is considered undisinfected secondary recycled water as defined by California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 60301.902.

3. Reason for Action

The influent flow rates into the Facility increased in 2004 due to an increased inmate population. By February 2005 the Facility had no available storage capacity and the Discharger began disposing of excess water on the fodder crops fields to prevent an uncontrolled overflow from the storage ponds. In response to a March 23, 2005, Notice of Violation from the Regional Board addressing these matters, the Discharger has requested to increase the existing 250-acre disposal area by an additional 70 acres. The Discharger seeks the additional land area for disposal to reduce the loading of water and nitrogen on a per-acre basis and filed a report of waste discharge for the proposal on June 10, 2005. The total acreage that will be irrigated is 320 acres. The map in "Attachment D" illustrates the location of the existing and additional areas.

4. Notification of Interested Parties

The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested parties of the proposed amendments to Board Order No. 6-95-23.

5. Consideration of Public Comments

The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order No. 6-95-23 shall be amended as follows:

1. The name of the California State Prison-Lassen County was changed after Board Order No. 6-95-23 was adopted. Henceforth, the California State Prison-Lassen County shall be known as High Desert State Prison for the purposes of the Board Order.
2. Board Order Finding No. 7 shall read as follows:

Disposal Area

Treated wastewater from the storage ponds is disinfected with chlorine and disposed of by spray-irrigating adjacent State land vegetated with fodder, fiber or seed crops. Application rates vary with season and crop needs. Chlorinated effluent from the Facility is pumped to irrigate two fields. The first field will be expanded from 130 acres to approximately 160 acres in 2005 and is located north of the Facility storage ponds. The second field will be expanded from 120 acres to approximately 160 acres and is located northeast of the Facility storage ponds, approximately 2400 feet due east of the first field. These 320 acres are the only authorized areas to dispose of treated wastewater from the Facility. Attachment D is a map showing field locations.

The authorized disposal areas have appropriate setbacks for the disposal of effluent. Adjacent residential property to the south not owned by the State of shall be bounded by a 500-foot set back buffer. Other minimum setbacks from the irrigation fields are the following: 1) 200 feet from all natural drainage courses, 2) 150 feet from private drinking wells or municipal supply wells and 3) a minimum of 100 feet from all property lines if not bound by the other setback requirements.

The setbacks will also help prevent spray drift from leaving property owned or controlled by the Discharger. Strong winds occur frequently in the area, and winds will be monitored and irrigation will be discontinued if spray drifts from the disposal areas.

Any surface flows of storm water runoff or wastewater leaving the spray fields will be conveyed by perimeter ditches to tailwater collection basins (one for each field). Storm water runoff from areas upgradient of the spray field application areas will be prevented from contacting wastewater by routing storm water around the application areas (fields) to existing drainages.

3. Replace Discharge Specifications item I.C.2 to read as follows:
Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 60304 (d)(4), secondary undisinfectated recycled water may be used to irrigate fodder and fiber crops for pasture animals not producing milk for human consumption.
4. Add the following items I.C.8 and I.C.9 to the Discharge Specifications.
 - I. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS
 - C. Reclamation Requirements
 8. Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 60310(d), irrigation with undisinfectated secondary recycled water within 150 feet of a domestic water supply well is prohibited.
 9. Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 60310(f), irrigation with of undisinfectated secondary recycled water within 100 feet of a residence is prohibited.
5. All other Findings, Discharge Specifications, and Provisions of Board Order No. 6-95-23 remain in effect.

I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on July 13, 2005.

HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER