

**State of California  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R4-2019-0055-A03**

**REQUIRING SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT  
(VALENCIA WATER RECLAMATION PLANT)  
TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN  
ORDER NO. R4-2022-0174  
(NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0054216)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (hereafter Los Angeles Water Board) finds:

1. Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (hereafter SCVSD or Permittee) owns and operates the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (hereafter Valencia WRP), a tertiary wastewater treatment plant located at 28185 The Old Road, Valencia, California.
2. The Valencia WRP discharges tertiary-treated wastewater under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2022-0174, which was adopted by this Los Angeles Water Board on May 12, 2022. Order No. R4-2022-0174 is a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES Permit No. CA0054216) and regulates the discharge of treated wastewater to Reach 5 of the Santa Clara River, as designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). The Santa Clara River is a water of the United States and of the State of California, within the Santa Clara River Watershed.
3. The prior NPDES permit, Order No. R4-2015-0071, contained both interim and final effluent limitations for chloride that tracked deadlines imposed by the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). On May 9, 2019, four years after Order No. R4-2015-0071 was adopted, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted Time Schedule Order (TSO) No. R4-2019-0055 for the Valencia WRP, because SCVSD would not be able to meet the formula-based chloride effluent limitation contained in the Order until the ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, microfiltration, and reverse osmosis (MF/RO) capital improvement projects at the Valencia WRP are constructed and operational.
4. SCVSD also owns the Saugus Water Reclamation Plant (hereafter the Saugus WRP), which is located upstream of the Valencia WRP. In 2019, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted TSO No. R4-2019-0056 for the Saugus WRP because SCVSD would not be able to meet the chloride final effluent limitations contained in Saugus WRP's NPDES permit, Order No. R4-2015-0072, until it completed its construction of the companion UV disinfection project at the Saugus WRP and completed its construction of the UV disinfection and MF/RO capital improvement projects at the Valencia WRP. To explain, the Saugus WRP chloride limits are critically dependent on the Valencia WRP's

progress and completion of the MF/RO project because the Valencia WRP will be removing a flow weighted portion of chloride originating from the Saugus WRP. If the Valencia MF/RO upgrade is not completed per the schedule in the Order No. R4-2015-0071, Attachment J, the Saugus WRP chloride limit will be the 100 mg/L end-of-pipe monthly average limitation as set forth in Order No. R4-2015-0072. Thus, it is important that SCVSD completes both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs plant upgrades such that the chloride water quality objective can be met downstream of the Valencia WRP's discharge point.

5. On November 3, 2020, the Los Angeles Water Board received a request for an eight-month extension of one of the milestones in TSO No. R4-2019-0055 for the Valencia WRP. Details concerning the reasons for the extension request, together with relevant background and history explaining the need for the original TSO and the connection between the Saugus and Valencia WRPs' chloride discharges, are set forth below in the Background/History section.
6. On November 25, 2020, the Los Angeles Water Board transmitted a tentative amended Time Schedule Order for the Valencia WRP and circulated it for public comment. On December 31, 2020, the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Water Board considered all factors in the case and, pursuant to her delegated authority from the Los Angeles Water Board, authorized by California Water Code (CWC) Section 13300, administratively issued the amended TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A01.
7. On February 10, 2021, the Los Angeles Water Board received a letter from SCVSD describing the unforeseen and unprecedented factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, that had delayed completion of the Advanced Water Treatment Facilities (AWTF). SCVSD also requested an eleven-month extension of the final compliance date. On July 8, 2021, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted the amended TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A02.
8. On September 30, 2022, the Los Angeles Water Board received a request for a ten-month extension of the final milestone date in TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A02.

## **BACKGROUND/ HISTORY**

9. According to California's 2014-2016 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 305(b) water quality assessment and section 303(d) list (303(d) List) of impaired waters, Reaches 6 and 5 of the Santa Clara River, to which SCVSD discharges from both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs, respectively, are impaired for chloride. Elevated levels of chloride primarily impact two beneficial uses of this waterway: agricultural supply (AGR) and ground water recharge (GWR). Other beneficial uses of Reach 5 are: warm freshwater habitat (WARM), wildlife habitat (WILD), rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE), industrial service supply (IND), industrial process supply (PROC), water contact recreation (REC-1), and non-contact recreation (REC-2).
10. On October 9, 2014, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted an Amendment to the Basin Plan for the Los Angeles Region to Incorporate an Averaging Period for Chloride Water

Quality Objectives in Reaches 4B, 5 and 6; Incorporate New Site Specific Objectives for Chloride in Reaches 5 and 6; and Revise the Total Maximum Daily Load for Chloride in the Upper Santa Clara River (Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL) (Resolution No. R14-010). On December 16, 2014, the State Water Board approved the Basin Plan amendments adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board (Resolution No. 2014-0069). On March 18, 2015, and April 28, 2015, respectively, the State Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and USEPA approved the Basin Plan amendments and they became effective on April 28, 2015.

11. The NPDES permit for the Valencia WRP (Order No. R4-2022-0174), which was issued by this Los Angeles Water Board on May 12, 2022, prescribed the following final effluent limitation for chloride, consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the Waste Load Allocation (WLA) specified in the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL:

**Table 1. Final Effluent Limitations**

Constituent	Units	3-Month Rolling Average (Notes a and b)	Daily Maximum (Note c)
Chloride	mg/L	$C_{VAL, 3mo.av.}$	230

Notes for Table 1

- a. The following three-month rolling average effluent limitation is derived from the WLA for chloride.

$$C_{VAL,3mo.av} = \frac{1}{3} * \sum_{mi=1}^3 \left[ \frac{Q_{SAU,mi}(100 - C_{SAU,mi})}{Q_{VAL,mi}} + 100 \right]$$

where:

mi = monthly

$Q_{SAU,mi}$  = Saugus WRP monthly effluent flow in million gallons per day (MGD);

$Q_{VAL,mi}$  = Valencia WRP monthly effluent flow in MGD;

$C_{SAU,mi}$  = Saugus WRP monthly effluent chloride level in mg/L;

$C_{VAL,mi}$  = Valencia WRP monthly effluent chloride level in mg/L;

$Q_{SAU,mi}$  and  $Q_{VAL,mi}$  shall not exceed the design flow during dry-weather periods

- b. This is a three-month rolling average effluent limitation, not the typical monthly average effluent limitation.
  - c. The 230 mg/L daily maximum effluent limitation is derived from the WLAs for chloride as set forth in the Basin Plan as amended by Resolution No. R14-010.
12. The prior NPDES permit, Order No. R4-2015-0071, had prescribed the following interim effluent limitations for chloride:

**Table 2. Interim Effluent Limitations**

<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>12-Month Rolling Average</b>	<b>Daily Maximum</b>
Chloride	mg/L	Note a	230

Note for Table 2 above

- a. The chloride interim effluent limitation is equal to the sum of the State Water Project treated potable water supply chloride concentration plus 97 mg/L, expressed as a 12-month rolling average, not to exceed a daily maximum of 230 mg/L, where 97 mg/L is the maximum difference in the chloride concentration of the potable water supply (State Water Project treated water) and the Valencia WRP treated effluent for the period of January 2005 to June 2014.
13. The interim effluent limitations in the NPDES permit for chloride were consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the interim WLAs in the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL. However, since the interim effluent limitations expired on July 1, 2019, this TSO is needed to provide an extension and allow SCVSD to complete the capital improvement projects needed to attain the final effluent limitations.
  14. SCVSD provided status reports on a semi-annual basis, as required by the Upper Santa Clara River TMDL, notifying the Los Angeles Water Board of progress made in completing the various milestone tasks associated with the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL. In addition, SCVSD has been providing progress reports on a quarterly basis, as required by TSO Nos. R4-2019-0055, R4-2019-0055-A01, and R4-2019-0055-A02.
  15. SCVSD has spent more than ten years seeking the least costly solution to achieve the chloride effluent limitation necessary to support attainment of water quality standards and protection of beneficial uses in the Santa Clara River. The SCVSD's two wastewater treatment plants (Saugus and Valencia WRPs) are not designed to remove chloride. To meet the TMDL-based chloride final effluent limitation, additional treatment equipment should have been designed, constructed and fully operational by the TMDL-established deadline of July 2019. However, due to a series of delays related to the approval of its Environmental Impact Report (EIR), prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and resultant litigation, SCVSD was unable to meet the deadline. The history of the prior delays from the CEQA process and resulting litigation is summarized in TSO No. R4-2019-0055.
  16. The first set of delays stems from the difficulties SCVSD encountered in obtaining approval for its Environmental Impact Report (EIR), prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The second set of delays are closely related to the first, and involves litigation and construction delays, as summarized below. Additional details of the litigation are set forth in TSO No. R4-2019-0055.
  17. As an initial matter, SCVSD's first EIR, titled, "Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report," (Facilities Plan and EIR) recommended adding the

Advanced Water Treatment Facility (AWTF), consisting of microfiltration and reverse osmosis (MF/RO) treatment with deep well injection brine disposal, at the Valencia WRP and replacing the existing chlorine-based disinfection process with ultraviolet (UV) disinfection at both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs. Complete reuse by the community; complete reuse by groundwater recharge; and trucking the unconcentrated brine to a wastewater facility with an ocean outfall were among the alternatives that were considered in the 2013 EIR but none of these were selected. Instead, on October 28, 2013, after extensive public input, meetings, hearings, and environmental review, the SCVSD Board of Directors approved the AWTF MF/RO alternative with MF/RO treatment at Valencia, UV disinfection at both Saugus and Valencia and deep well injection brine disposal, which was the highest-ranked feasible alternative from the Facilities Plan and EIR, and certified that the associated EIR was completed in accordance with CEQA.

18. The 2013 EIR was challenged by the Affordable Clean Water Alliance (ACWA). In February 2016, the Los Angeles County Superior Court set aside the 2013 EIR until SCVSD addressed certain issues in the 2013 EIR.
19. On March 23, 2016, the SCVSD Board of Directors decertified the 2013 EIR and recertified the 2013 EIR as augmented by the final Supplemental EIR that included concentrated-brine trucking as a brine disposal method (2016 Concentrated Brine Trucking SEIR). Concentrating the brine prior to trucking it to a wastewater facility for ocean discharge, as a brine disposal method, was not included in the 2013 EIR, but it became the preferred method of brine disposal, replacing deep well injection, in the certified 2016 Concentrated Brine Trucking SEIR. ACWA challenged the 2016 Concentrated Brine Trucking SEIR.
20. Subsequent to the certification of the 2016 Concentrated Brine Trucking SEIR, SCVSD began the design of the capital improvement projects. However, on June 2, 2016, pursuant to an order from the Los Angeles County Superior Court in *Affordable Clean Water Alliance v. Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County* (Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BS 145869), SCVSD had to cease work. The court granted the petitioner ACWA's motion for an order maintaining the writ of mandate and ordered SCVSD to reconsider its return to the writ and file an additional return when it had certified an EIR for the Project in a manner that complies with CEQA.
21. In response to the Court ruling, SCVSD prepared the Recirculated EIR (State Clearing House No. 2012011010) which was made available for public review and comment in May 2017. On August 30, 2017, the Sanitation District decertified the 2013 EIR and the 2016 Concentrated Brine Trucking SEIR, and certified the Recirculated EIR. In September 2017, ACWA challenged the Recirculated EIR.
22. Following a hearing on September 25, 2017, the court dismissed the lawsuit over the 2016 Concentrated Brine Trucking SEIR because its decertification rendered the action moot. On October 24, 2017, the Court partially discharged the writ over the 2013 EIR and ruled that the Sanitation District could move forward with the Chloride Compliance Project. On November 16, 2017, SCVSD resumed work on the chloride compliance

project in accordance with the recirculated EIR. In May 2019, the Court discharged the remaining portion of the writ on the 2013 EIR, after the Sanitation District's Board adopted a resolution that ceased planning efforts on the Recycled Water Project. In November 2019, the court entered judgment denying ACWA's challenge to the Recirculated EIR in its entirety; ACWA appealed this judgement and filed a petition against the Sanitation District's resolution to cease efforts on the Recycled Water Project. ACWA's appeal to the judgment is still undergoing the appeal process. However, the Sanitation District can continue work on the chloride compliance project throughout these processes.

23. As the foregoing history demonstrates, the mandated work stoppage resulted in many design and construction delays. These delays caused SCVSD to fail to meet various TMDL-established deadlines that had been incorporated into both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs' NPDES Permits.
24. Despite all of the delays it encountered prior to July 2019, SCVSD is moving forward with its brine removal and construction projects. On August 9, 2018, the SCVSD Board of Directors unanimously approved recommendations to hire contractors to begin installing the UV equipment at the Saugus and Valencia WRPs. The UV technology is designed to disinfect the treated effluent, but will also lower the amounts of disinfection byproducts produced, as well as reduce chloride concentrations up to 7 mg/L. The design plans for the advanced water treatment facility and brine management facilities have also been completed.

#### **REQUEST FOR FIRST TIME SCHEDULE ORDER, 2019**

25. Given the delays briefly described above, SCVSD staff met with Los Angeles Water Board staff on January 3, 2019 to request a Time Schedule Order (TSO), with interim effluent limitations for chloride included in both the Valencia and Saugus WRPs' NPDES Permits. The interim effluent limitations in the NPDES permits expired on July 1, 2019 and coincided with the TMDL requirement.
26. Based on an evaluation of Valencia WRP effluent chloride data, Saugus WRP effluent chloride data, and State Water Project chloride concentration data for the period of March 2011 to November 2018, the Los Angeles Water Board found that SCVSD could not consistently meet the final effluent limitation for chloride listed in Table 1, Finding 11, above. This is because influent coming into the Valencia WRP contains chloride concentrations that vary in part because the potable water supply served to the residents in the service area has varying chloride concentrations ranging from 50.9 to 93.4 mg/L for the State Water Project water; 45 to 100.7 mg/L for the Newhall County Water District water; and, 61.2 to 125 mg/L for the alluvial aquifer groundwater. As potable water is consumed, the wastewater that is generated from homes and businesses is sent to the Valencia WRP through the sewer system infrastructure. While the Valencia WRP has the capability of removing certain pollutants, the existing treatment system is not designed to remove chloride, and in fact contributes to chloride levels as a result of the chlorine-based disinfection process. Therefore, and as set forth

above, new treatment systems for chloride are necessary; and coordination with the Saugus WRP’s UV construction is critical.

27. In addition to the delays in 2019 and 2020 due to litigation and the injunction on SCVSD’s construction of its treatment systems, there was also the additional delay of waiting for approval of State Revolving Fund (SRF) funds in order to be able to begin construction. The State Water Board approved the SRF funds and executed the agreement on June 24, 2020, for the SCVSD UV and MF/RO upgrades.
28. On February 8, 2019, SCVSD notified the Los Angeles Water Board that on January 31, 2019, the SCVSD Board of Directors awarded a \$87 million contract to Obrascon Huarte Lain, U.S.A., Inc. (OHL) to construct the advanced water treatment facility (AWTF) at the Valencia WRP.
29. SCVSD submitted a table of proposed milestone tasks and completion dates for the UV and MF/RO facility upgrades to the Los Angeles Water Board, and has completed the following milestones required by the NPDES permit (Order No. R4-2015-0071) and the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Complete design of UV facilities	May 25, 2018
Award contract for UV facilities	August 9, 2018
Complete design of Advanced Water Treatment Facilities (AWTF)	August 9, 2018
Complete design of brine concentration treatment facilities	August 9, 2018
Complete design of brine management facility	August 9, 2018
Start onsite construction of UV facilities	November 6, 2018
Award contract for AWTF at Valencia WRP	January 31, 2019

30. On May 9, 2019, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted TSO No. R4-2019-0055 for the Valencia WRP. The TSO was intended to provide SCVSD with time needed to complete the UV disinfection and MF/RO upgrades at the Valencia WRP.
31. SCVSD has made diligent progress towards achieving compliance with the chloride effluent limitation in the Valencia WRP NPDES permit, submitted quarterly progress reports, and has completed the following milestones required in TSO No. R4-2019-0055:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Submit a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) to the Los Angeles Water Board	July 15, 2019

Task	Completion Date
Start construction of flow diversion structure for UV disinfection	July 31, 2019
Finish concrete construction phase of flow diversion structure for UV disinfection	December 31, 2019
Start installation of UV disinfection system	July 31, 2020

**REQUEST FOR SECOND TIME SCHEDULE ORDER**

32. On November 3, 2020, SCVSD submitted a letter requesting an eight-month extension of the December 31, 2020 TSO milestone deadline, included in TSO No. R4-2019-0055, requiring the startup of the UV disinfection system at the Valencia WRP. SCVSD will be unable to complete the milestone in time due to delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfire issues. The delivery of major equipment and parts was delayed because manufacturers experienced reduced production due to supply chain issues, loss of employees, COVID-19 outbreaks among employees, and reduced efficiency due to social distancing and the implementation of other COVID-19 prevention measures. Construction inefficiencies were experienced at the Valencia WRP because construction workers are implementing social distancing at the jobsite. Illness and quarantine also resulted in absences and loss of productive work time. The record-breaking wildfires of 2020 generated significant levels of smoke in the Santa Clarita Valley, created conditions in which the Air Quality Index exceeded 151, and caused a delay in construction activities. To provide relief from the smoke and heat, workers took 15-minute breaks at 2-hour intervals. To prevent the spread of wildfires, public utilities instituted Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), which caused power outages in two local cement factories, resulting in a shortage of cement supply and an additional delay in the construction schedule. This eight-month extension was approved with the adoption of TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A01 on December 31, 2020.

**REQUEST FOR THIRD TIME SCHEDULE ORDER**

33. On February 10, 2021, the Los Angeles Water Board received a letter requesting an eleven-month extension of two of the milestones associated with the AWTF capital improvement project at the Valencia WRP: the milestone requiring the commissioning of the AWTF by July 31, 2021 and the milestone requiring the startup of the AWTF by January 31, 2022. SCVSD explained the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfire related issues, described in Finding 32 as the cause for the delay in the completion of the UV disinfection system, are also causing a delay in the completion of the AWTF. SCVSD elaborated on the unforeseen and unprecedented factors as follows:

- a. Slowed equipment manufacturing and communications. The delivery of major equipment and parts was delayed because manufacturers experienced reduced production due to supply chain issues, late or suspended material shipments, domestic/international travel restrictions, employee absences, COVID-19



outbreaks among employees, and reduced efficiency due to social distancing and the implementation of other COVID-19 prevention measures. Correspondence from the various manufacturers and contractors was provided as attachments to the February 10, 2021 letter documenting the delays associated with equipment, travel restrictions, and work force conditions.

- b. Quality control issues. The quality of major equipment for capital projects has traditionally been ensured through visits to the manufacturer to witness factory acceptance testing, which allows inspection before shipping. Any observed deficiencies can be quickly and properly addressed at the manufacturer's facility, and the equipment retested to confirm conformance to project requirements. However, required witness factory acceptance testing was waived for some systems (e.g., reverse osmosis, ion exchange, large pumps, electrical switchgears/VFCs/panels/controls/transformers) due to domestic and international quarantine requirements for traveling and travel restrictions implemented under COVID policies for the SCVSD staff, consultants, and equipment vendors.
- c. Labor inefficiencies. Construction inefficiencies were experienced at the Valencia WRP because construction workers are implementing social distancing at the jobsite; tools require disinfection before transfers between workers or between shifts; workers adjust face masks (often stop work to pull down their mask to breathe freely at a safe distance, then pull the mask back up to resume work); workers take time to wash hands more often; subcontractors provide reduced responsiveness and suppliers are less reliable due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and workers were absent due to illness and/or quarantine, resulting in loss of productive work time.
- d. Wildfire-related inefficiencies. The record-breaking wildfires of 2020, mentioned in Finding 32 as affecting the UV installation schedule, also affected the AWTF construction and implementation schedule. Namely, instituted 15-minute breaks for workers at 2-hour intervals to provide relief from smoke and fire; and instituted power outages by the public utilities which resulted in a shortage of cement from the concrete manufacturers, and a delay in completing construction activities. This eleven-month extension was approved with the adoption of TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A02 on July 8, 2021. On August 30, 2021, SCVSD started up the UV disinfection system at the Valencia WRP.

#### **REQUEST FOR FOURTH TIME SCHEDULE ORDER AND CURRENT STATUS**

34. On September 30, 2022, the Los Angeles Water Board received a request for a ten-month extension of the final compliance deadline that requires the startup of the AWTF by December 31, 2022. SCVSD's request includes a change of the final compliance deadline to October 31, 2023 and the establishment of additional milestones. SCVSD also included the following unforeseen factors to justify their request:
  - a. Supply chain disruptions – SCVSD experienced delays due to late or suspended material shipments, domestic/international restrictions, and other economic factors.

Supplies and materials such as stainless-steel pipe, carbon-steel, duplex, super duplex, and alloy 20 pipe fittings have been and continue to be difficult to procure. Other equipment has been delivered late, such as the reverse osmosis membranes and skids, polishing weak acid cation (WAC) units, ion exchange systems, decarbonator, chemical systems, pumps, and variable frequency drives. The late delivery of stainless-steel pipe alone has delayed the project by at least five months. Other equipment has yet to be received. Delivery of the microfiltration (MF) blowers is already two years behind schedule.

- b. Quality Assurance/ Quality Control – The quality of major equipment for capital improvement projects has been ensured through visits to the manufacturer to witness factory acceptance testing. This allows inspection before shipping and if any deficiencies are identified, they can be quickly and properly addressed at the manufacturer’s facility. This testing was waived for 71 items and conducted virtually for 44 items due to domestic and international quarantine requirements for traveling and travel restrictions implemented under COVID-19 policies for the Discharger, consultants, and equipment vendors. Since less than 10% of the major equipment has been tested or inspected onsite, there is potential for equipment deficiencies to be identified during the QA/QC process.
  - c. Southern California Edison (SCE) public safety power shutoffs – SCE preemptively shuts down power in response to high-risk conditions such as high wind and high temperatures, which caused power outages to cement factories and resulted in a regional shortage of concrete. The cement shortages delayed 49 concrete and 34 slurry pours, but only about 41% of pours delayed the critical path. This caused an estimated 25 working days of delay.
  - d. Commissioning challenges – The contractor’s project manager oversees the commissioning process, which consists of the following: preparing checklists and developing test plans for each component of the facility; executing the testing plan; troubleshooting the equipment as required; starting-up each individual treatment process to ensure it is operating correctly before introducing the feed water to the entire facility; and running a 30-day operational test on each system. However, in June 2022, the project manager suddenly quit. The contractor has appointed a less experienced person in the interim and is in the process of recruiting and hiring a suitable replacement. This has resulted in a four-month delay.
35. On October 7, 2022, SCVSD staff met with the Los Angeles Water Board to discuss the request for a TSO extension. SCVSD explained that various grants received to fund the project require that SVCSO observe and comply with “any applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules or regulations affecting any such work, specifically those including, but not limited to, environmental review, procurement, and safety laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances.” At the conclusion of the meeting, SCVSD emailed copies of the grant agreements to Los Angeles Water Board staff.
36. As a result of the unforeseen challenges described above, the commissioning tasks are expected to take an additional 10 months to complete. The established time schedule

is as short as possible considering the technological and operational factors that affect the implementation of the control measures necessary to comply with the final effluent limitations for chloride.

## REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

37. Section 13300 of the California Water Code states:

“Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, or the state board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements.”

38. Based on monitoring data, the Permittee cannot consistently achieve compliance with the final effluent limitations for chloride in Order No. R4-2022-0174. Accordingly, pursuant to California Water Code section 13300, a discharge of waste is taking place and/or threatens to take place that violates requirements prescribed by the Los Angeles Water Board.

39. Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i), require the Los Angeles Water Board to impose mandatory minimum penalties upon dischargers that violate certain effluent limitations. Section 13385(j)(3) exempts violations of an effluent limitation from mandatory minimum penalties “where the waste discharge is in compliance with either a cease and desist order issued pursuant to Section 13301 or a time schedule order issued pursuant to Section 13300 ...”

40. In accordance with California Water Code section 13385(j)(3)(B)(i), the Los Angeles Water Board finds the following: the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL imposed a new, more stringent requirement with which compliance must be achieved after the effective date of the NPDES permit; new or modified control measures to control chloride are necessary; due to prior litigation and now, due to the COVID-19 emergency, wildfires, the rainy season, and delays resulting from these events, the TMDL deadline cannot be met; neither can the new or modified control measures be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 days.

41. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13385 (j)(3)(C)(i), a regional board may establish a time schedule, not exceeding five years in length. The time schedule for compliance with the chloride effluent limitation as provided in this Order does not exceed five years from the compliance date of July 1, 2019 in Order No. R4-2015-0071. The Los Angeles Water Board finds that additional time to achieve compliance with the chloride final effluent limitation is justified because SCVSD has demonstrated that additional time is necessary to construct capital improvement projects to comply with this effluent limitation as noted in Findings 5 through 36. This brings the total number of years for which a TSO has been granted to SCVSD for the Valencia WRP, to achieve

permit requirements implementing the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL, to 4 years and 5 months.

42. Since the time schedule for completion of the actions necessary to bring the waste discharge into compliance exceeds one year from the effective date of this TSO (and the prior TSO which addressed the same effluent limitations), this TSO includes interim requirements and dates for their achievement. The interim requirements include both interim effluent limitations for chloride and actions and milestones leading to compliance with the final effluent limitation for this pollutant. The length of this TSO (whether standing alone or considered together with time granted in the previous TSOs) does not exceed five years.
43. This TSO establishes interim effluent limitations for chloride and requires the Permittee to undertake specific actions to achieve compliance with the final effluent limitations for chloride in Order No. R4-2022-0174. The established time schedule is as short as possible, taking into account the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect the design, development, and implementation of the control measures that are necessary to comply with the final effluent limitations for chloride. SCVSD will upgrade the Valencia WRP by installing UV disinfection and an AWTF, consisting of microfiltration and reverse osmosis treatment. SCVSD will dispose of the brine by trucking it to the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson, California, which has an ocean outfall.
44. The 12-month rolling average interim effluent limitation for chloride prescribed in this TSO is a performance-based value set equal to the maximum difference in the chloride concentration of the potable water supply (State Water Project treated water) and the Valencia WRP treated effluent, consistent with how the interim WLA was established in the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL.
45. California Water Code section 13385(j)(3)(D) requires the Permittee to prepare and implement a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) pursuant to California Water Code section 13263.3. Therefore, the current PPP will be updated to include chloride.
46. A TSO is appropriate in these circumstances to allow time for the Permittee to complete capital improvement projects that will bring the Valencia WRP into compliance with the final effluent limitation for chloride. Prescribing interim effluent limitations for chloride is in the public interest given the significant environmental benefits associated with the removal of chloride that will be provided by the capital improvement project as the means to achieving compliance with the final effluent limitations for chloride.
47. It is the policy of the State of California that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This Order promotes that policy by requiring discharges into waterbodies with a GWR beneficial use designation, which incidentally recharge underlying groundwater basins, to meet the chloride secondary maximum contaminant level (MCL).

48. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13385(j)(3), full compliance with the requirements of this TSO exempts the Permittee from mandatory minimum penalties only for violations of the final effluent limitations for chloride in Order No. R4-2015-0071 that occur after May 9, 2019.
49. The action to adopt this TSO, which provides additional time to comply with Order No. R4-2022-0174 and continues the effluent limitations contained in the previous Order, is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 of CEQA (commencing with section 21100 of Division 13) of the Public Resources Code. The adoption of this TSO is also exempt from the provisions of CEQA (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et seq.) in accordance with section 15301 of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) because the facility is an existing facility and the TSO involves no expansion of existing use.
50. The Los Angeles Water Board has notified the Permittee and interested agencies and persons of its intent to issue this TSO concerning compliance with waste discharge requirements. The Los Angeles Water Board considered all comments pertinent to this matter.
51. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Los Angeles Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and CCR, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must *receive* the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the Los Angeles Water Board action, except that if the thirtieth day following the action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, pursuant to California Water Code section 13300, SCVSD, as owner and operator of the Valencia WRP, shall comply with the requirements listed below to ensure compliance with the final effluent limitations for chloride contained in Order No. R4-2022-0174:

1. Comply immediately with the following interim effluent limitations, which will apply all year round, and which shall be deemed effective from May 9, 2019 to October 31, 2023:

Constituent	Units	12-Month Rolling Average	Daily Maximum
Chloride	mg/L	Note a	230

Notes for the Table above:

- a. The chloride interim effluent limitation is equal to the sum of the State Water Project treated potable water supply chloride concentration plus 77 mg/L, expressed as a 12-month rolling average, not to exceed a daily maximum of 230 mg/L, where 77

mg/L is the maximum difference in chloride concentration between the potable water supply (State Water Project treated water) and the Valencia WRP treated effluent, from March 2011 to November 2018.2.

2. If the analytical result of a single sample, monitored monthly, exceeds the 12-month rolling average interim effluent limitation for that constituent, SCVSD may collect up to four additional samples, at approximately equal intervals during that calendar month, and average all the results collected during a given calendar month, to determine compliance with the 12-month rolling average interim effluent limitation.
3. Complete the capital improvement projects according to the schedule proposed by SCVSD in their correspondence dated January 31, 2019, February 10, 2021, and September 30, 2022, with modifications, as follows:

Item	Completion Date	Note
Start up UV disinfection system	August 31, 2021	---
Start commissioning of AWTF	July 1, 2022	---
Start Functional Testing of the First AWTF System	January 9, 2023	a
Start Functional Testing of the Last AWTF System	May 5, 2023	a
Start Clean Water Test	July 5, 2023	---
Start up AWTF	October 31, 2023	---

Notes for the Table above:

- a. Each major system of the AWTF will be functionally tested, following the general flow path of the AWTF process. The following are the various AWTF systems: Waste Equalization; Product Water and Reverse Osmosis (RO) permeate pumps; Chemical System; Influent Pump Station (IPS) and microfiltration (MF) System; nanofiltration (NF); Clean-in-place (CIP) System for MF and NF; Ion Exchange (IX) System; Decarbonator; Enhanced Membrane System (EMS) RO System, the Ion-exchange and Brine Storage Tanks.
4. Achieve full compliance with the final effluent limitations for chloride as soon as possible, but no later than October 31, 2023.
5. Submit quarterly progress reports of efforts taken by the Permittee towards achieving compliance with the final effluent limitations for chloride. The reports shall summarize the progress to date, activities conducted during that quarter, and the activities planned for the upcoming quarters. The reports shall also state whether or not SCVSD was in compliance with the interim effluent limitations for chloride during the reporting period. Each quarterly report shall be received by the Los Angeles Water Board by the 15<sup>th</sup> day

of the first month following the reporting period (January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15).

6. Any person signing a document submitted under this TSO shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

7. If the Permittee fails to comply with any provision of this TSO, the Los Angeles Water Board may take any further action authorized by law. The Executive Officer, or his/her delegee, is authorized to take appropriate enforcement action pursuant, but not limited to, California Water Code sections 13350 and 13385. The Los Angeles Water Board may also refer any violations to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, including injunction and civil monetary remedies.
8. All other provisions of Order No. R4-2022-0174 not in conflict with this TSO are in full force and effect.
9. The Los Angeles Water Board may reopen this TSO at its discretion or at the request of the Permittee, if warranted. Lack of progress towards compliance with this TSO may be cause for the Los Angeles Water Board to modify the conditions of this TSO.
10. This TSO becomes effective immediately upon adoption by the Los Angeles Water Board. This TSO expires on October 31, 2023.

I, Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board on December 8, 2022.

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Renee Purdy  
Executive Officer