

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**RESOLUTION NO. R07-001**

**APPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND  
ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR  
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION AT  
PETROLEUM HYDROCARBON FUEL, VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND AND/OR  
HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM IMPACTED SITES  
(FILE NO. 01-116)**

WHEREAS, THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LOS ANGELES REGION, FINDS:

1. The California Water Code (CWC) section 13260, subdivision (a)(1) requires that any person discharging wastes or proposing to discharge wastes, other than into a community waste water collection system, which could affect the quality of the waters of the State, shall file a Report of Waste Discharge with the Regional Board. The Regional Board shall then prescribe requirements for the discharge or proposed discharge of wastes.
2. Section 13263, subdivision (i), of the CWC provides that a Regional Board may prescribe general waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for discharges produced by similar operations, involving similar types of wastes, and requiring similar treatment standards.
3. The adoption of general WDRs for in-situ groundwater remediation/cleanup or the extraction of polluted groundwater with above ground treatment and the return of treated groundwater to the same aquifer zone would: a) simplify the application process for dischargers, b) allow more efficient use of Regional Board staff time, c) reduce Regional Board time by enabling the Executive Officer to notify the discharger of the applicability of the general WDRs, d) enhance the protection of surface water quality by eliminating the discharge of wastewater to surface waters, and e) provide a level of protection comparable to individual, site-specific WDRs.
4. Petroleum hydrocarbon fuel, volatile organic compound and hexavalent chromium contaminate the groundwater at various sites throughout the Los Angeles Region and cause or threatens to cause adverse impacts to existing and potential beneficial uses of the region's groundwater resources. Remediation/cleanup of groundwater at these sites includes the use and application of chemical, biological, and physical treatment processes, such as oxygen enhanced process, chemical oxidation, nutrient or chemical addition for enhanced biodegradation, or groundwater pump and treat technology with the return of treated groundwater to the same aquifer zone in some cases.
5. The application of any material to groundwater may result in unintended adverse impacts to groundwater quality. Any potential adverse water quality impacts that may result will be localized, of short-term duration, and will not impact any existing or prospective uses of groundwater. Groundwater quality will be monitored before addition of any materials, during treatment, and after treatment is completed to verify no long-term adverse impact to water quality.
6. The implementation of in-situ cleanup may require a small-scale pilot testing program or demonstration study prior to the design and implementation of a full-scale remediation project. The

discharges from the pilot test programs or demonstration study are also covered under the general WDRs.

7. The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Los Angeles Region on June 13, 1994. The Basin Plan contains water quality objectives and lists the beneficial uses of groundwater in the Los Angeles Region. Beneficial uses of groundwater in the Los Angeles Region include, among others: municipal and domestic supply, industrial service and process supply, agricultural supply and groundwater recharge. Beneficial uses for individual Hydrologic Sub-areas are specified in the Basin Plan.
8. The general WDRs are applicable to groundwater remediation at petroleum hydrocarbon fuel, volatile organic compound and hexavalent chromium impacted sites in the Los Angeles Region. Depending on the Report of Waste Discharge submitted by a discharger seeking coverage under the general WDRs, the Executive Officer determined the annual fee based on the threat to water quality and complexity of the discharge. The general WDRs to regulate groundwater discharges that have a threat to water quality of Category 3 and Complexity rating of A for a combined rating of 3-A.
9. Discharges with a rating of 3-A contain pollutants that could degrade water quality or cause a minor impairment of designated beneficial uses within the application area of the receiving groundwater. The discharges covered by these requirements will have a groundwater monitoring program to comply with requirements prescribed in the general WDRs.
10. The release of petroleum hydrocarbon fuel, volatile organic compound and hexavalent chromium at sites within the Los Angeles Region affects shallow perched groundwater resources. Many of the shallow perched groundwater zones contain general mineral content (total dissolved solids, chloride and sulfate, etc.), which are considered to be naturally occurring and not the result of pollution, that exceed Basin Plan Objectives for these constituents. The re-injection or infiltration of treated groundwater that exhibits general mineral content that is naturally occurring and exceeds Basin Plan Objectives may be returned to the same groundwater formations from which it is withdrawn, with concentrations not exceeding the original background concentrations for the site.
11. Treated groundwater that exhibits general mineral content that is naturally occurring and exceeds Surface Water Basin Plan Objectives must be treated prior to discharge into surface waters under a separate National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.
12. The requirements contained in this Order were established by considering, and are consistent with, all the water quality control policies, plans, and regulations mentioned above and, if they are met, will protect and maintain the existing beneficial uses of the receiving groundwater.
13. The permitted discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provisions of State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16 (Anti-degradation Policy). The impact on existing water quality will not be significant in comparison to individual WDRs, and the general WDRs will improve the quality of the affected groundwater.


14. These general WDRs are not intended to alter or supersede any existing restrictions or working arrangements relating to cleanup cases with local governmental agencies.
15. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order requiring any proposed activity be reviewed to determine whether such activity will cause additional energy usage, this Regional Board has determined that implementation of these general WDRs will not result in a change in energy usage exceeding what would be used if site specific WDRs were issued for cleanup at these sites.
16. The Regional Board has notified the applicant and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe general WDRs for the discharges covered under these general WDRs and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge(s) and to the tentative requirements.
17. This Regional Board has assumed lead agency role for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act and has conducted an Initial Study (in the format of an expanded Environmental Checklist) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15063, entitled Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act. Based on the Initial Study, the Regional Board prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
18. Copies of the Environmental Checklist and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration were transmitted to all agencies and persons known to be interested in the matter.
19. All comments received have been addressed by Regional Board staff. The Regional Board considered all testimony and evidence at a public hearing held on March 1, 2007, at the Metropolitan Water District Headquarters Office located at 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California and good cause was found to approve the Environmental Checklist and adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Regional Board hereby approves the Environmental Checklist and adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Groundwater Remediation at Petroleum Hydrocarbon Fuel, Volatile Organic Compound and Hexavalent Chromium Impacted Sites.
2. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the State Water Resources Control Board.
3. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to all interested parties.
4. The application of chemical, biological and physical treatment processes, such as oxygen enhanced process, chemical oxidation, chemical reduction, nutrient or chemical addition for enhanced biodegradation or groundwater pump and treat discharges shall conform with all the requirements, conditions, provisions and limitations set forth in the Order No. R4-2007-0019.

CERTIFICATION

I, Jonathan S. Bishop, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on March 1, 2007.



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Jonathan S. Bishop  
Executive Officer