

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 5, 2015

Mr. John F. Babbitt
President
California Sulphur Company
P.O. Box 176
Wilmington, CA 90748

Dear Mr. Babbitt

TENTATIVE TERMINATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs) AND NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR CALIFORNIA SULPHUR COMPANY, WILMINGTON, CA. (NPDES NO. CA0059064, CI NO. 6546)

California Sulphur Company (hereinafter CSC or Discharger) is the owner and operator of a sulfur pelletizing and exporting plant located at 2250 East Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington, California. CSC discharges up to 0.2304 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated wastewater and storm water runoff to the Dominguez Channel Estuary, a water of the United States. The wastewater consists of process water from pelletizing, water drained from the pellets, and washdown water from the storage areas. The discharge is currently regulated under waste discharge requirements contained in Order R4-2014-0059, adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board) on May 8, 2014. Order R4-2014-0059 also serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program.

The CSC facility was constructed and became operational in 1983. In 1993 a water conservation and recycle system was constructed and implemented which collects all waste process water and storm water for treatment and storage for reuse in the facility's manufacturing process. The Discharger reconstructed and upgraded the treatment system in 2013 which increased the capacity of the wastewater treatment clarifiers/filters (from 900-gallon tanks to 1,500-gallon tanks) and replaced the pH treatment unit. CSC has not discharged to surface water since 1994.

On June 27, 2014, Regional Water Board staff received a letter from CSC requesting to terminate the NPDES permit because CSC has not discharged since 1994, the storm water retention system is rated to hold a 100-year storm event, and the discharge is storm water only. On August 26, 2014, CSC filed an NOI to the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to be covered under the General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (General Permit No. CAS000001) for discharges of storm water only. On September 12, 2014, the State Water Board approved the NOI. CSC provided the Regional Water Board copies of the submittal and approval of the NOI.

On February 17, 2015, Regional Water Board staff conducted a site inspection and verified that this Facility no longer discharges any wastewater to surface waters. Therefore, the NPDES permit (Order No. R4-2014-0059) regulating the discharge is no longer needed.

In accordance with administrative procedures, this Regional Water Board at a public hearing to be held on May 14, 2015, at 9:00 A.M., at Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board Room, 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California, will consider the enclosed tentative Order, which will terminate the requirements in Order No. R4-2014-0059. The Board members will hear any testimony pertinent to this matter. It is expected that the Board will take action at the hearing; however, as testimony indicates, the Board, at its discretion, may order further investigation.

Written submissions pertaining to this tentative Order must be submitted to the Regional Water Board staff at losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy submitted to Rosario Aston at Rosario.Aston@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 6, 2015, in order to be evaluated by Staff and included in the Board's agenda folder. Timely submittal of written comments is encouraged to ensure that Regional Water Board staff is able to provide timely review, and that Regional Water Board members have sufficient time to give full consideration to the comments and issues raised. The Regional Water Board chair may exclude from the record written materials received after this date. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648.4.)

Should any future activities at the subject Facility result in discharges of any wastewater to surface waters, you are required to file a Report of Waste Discharge with this Regional Water Board prior to discharge.

If you have any questions, please contact Rosario Aston at (213) 576-6653.

Sincerely,



Cassandra D. Owens, Chief
Industrial Permitting Unit (NPDES)

Enclosures

cc: See Mailing List

Mailing List (Via Email Only)

Ms. Robyn Stuber, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Permits Branch (WTR-5)
Mr. Kenneth Wong, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Bryant Chesney, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Jeff Phillips, Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. William Paznokas, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5
Ms. Leah Walker, State Water Resources Control Board, Drinking Water Division
Ms. Teresa, Henry, California Coastal Commission, South Coast Region
Mr. Theodore Johnson, Water Replenishment District of Southern California
Mr. Tim Smith, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Works, Waste Management
Division
Mr. Angelo Bellomo, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health
City of Wilmington
Mr. Peter Shellenbarger, Heal the Bay
Ms. Liz Crosson, Los Angeles WaterKeeper
Ms. Anna Kheyfets, Natural Resources Defense Council
Ms. Kristy Allen, Tetra Tech
Mr. Ralph Appy, Environmental Consultant for California Sulphur Company