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. 6	SOMACH, SIMMONS & DUNN A Professional Corporation
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9	Sacramento, CA 95814-2403 Telephone: (916) 446-7979 Facsimile: (916) 446-8199
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11	Attorneys for Petitioner CITY OF VACAVILLE
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13	BEFORE THE
14	CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
15	en de la companya de La companya de la companya de la com
15 16	In the Matter of City of Vacaville's Petition for SWRCB/OCC File
	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control CITY OF VACAVILLE'S PETITION FOR
16	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of CITY OF VACAVILLE'S PETITION FOR REVIEW; PRELIMINARY MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
16 17	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES CITY OF VACAVILLE'S PETITION FOR REVIEW; PRELIMINARY MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF PETITION; AND REQUEST FOR STAY (Wat. Code. § 13320)
16 17 18	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant,
16 17 18 19	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0079049), and Time Schedule Order
16 17 18 19 20	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0079049), and Time Schedule Order
16 17 18 19 20 21	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0079049), and Time Schedule Order No. R5-2008-0056.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0079049), and Time Schedule Order No. R5-2008-0056. The City of Vacaville (City or Petitioner), in accordance with section 13320 of the Water
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0079049), and Time Schedule Order No. R5-2008-0056. The City of Vacaville (City or Petitioner), in accordance with section 13320 of the Water Code, hereby petitions for review, and requests a stay, of certain provisions of Order
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0079049), and Time Schedule Order No. R5-2008-0056. The City of Vacaville (City or Petitioner), in accordance with section 13320 of the Water Code, hereby petitions for review, and requests a stay, of certain provisions of Order Nos. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0081434) and R5-2008-0056 of the California Regional
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Review of Action and Failure to Act by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, in Adopting Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, Order No. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0079049), and Time Schedule Order No. R5-2008-0056. The City of Vacaville (City or Petitioner), in accordance with section 13320 of the Water Code, hereby petitions for review, and requests a stay, of certain provisions of Order Nos. R5-2008-0055 (NPDES No. CA0081434) and R5-2008-0056 of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) and other action or

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until such time as subsequently requested. Petitioner reserves the right to file a more detailed statement of points and authorities in support of its Petition and a supplemental memorandum in support of the request for stay when the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) considers the issues presented herein.¹

The City owns and operates the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant (EWWTP) located at 6040 Vaca Station Road, Elmira, Solano County, California. The EWWTP provides secondary level treatment of wastewater from the City of Vacaville and the unincorporated community of Elmira. The EWWTP has an average dry weather flow of about 15 million gallons per day (mgd) and a peak wet weather design flow of 55 mgd.

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PETITIONER:

City of Vacaville 6040 Vaca Station Road Elmira, CA 95625

Attn: Mr. David Tompkins, Assistant Public Works Director

Telephone: (707) 469-6400

Email: dtompkins@cityofvacaville.org

In addition, all materials in connection with this Petition should be provided to the City's special counsel at the following address:

Somach Simmons & Dunn A Professional Corporation Paul S. Simmons, Esquire Theresa A. Dunham, Esquire 813 Sixth Street, Third Floor Sacramento, CA 95814-2403 Telephone: (916) 446-7979 Facsimile: (916) 446-8199

Email: psimmons@somachlaw.com
Email: tdunham@somachlaw.com

¹ The State Water Board's regulations require submission of a statement of points and authorities in support of a petition (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 2050(a)(7)), and this document is intended to serve as a preliminary memorandum. Similarly, the State Water Board's regulations require a request for stay to include proof of substantial harm and proof of substantial questions of fact or law. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 2053(a).) However, there is litigation currently pending between Petitioner and the State and Regional Water Boards, the adjudication of which will bear significantly on several issues raised in this Petition. (City of Vacaville v. State Water Resources Control Board (Contra Costa County Superior Court Case No. CIV MSN 03-0956).) The City intends to request that the Petition be put into abeyance and that the request for stay not be considered at this time. Depending on the developments in the pending litigation, the City may find it necessary to reactivate this Petition for review and/or request the stay of certain permit provisions by the State Water Board. At that time, it may be necessary to further prepare, or augment the statement of points and authorities and memorandum in support of the request for stay contained herein.

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2. THE SPECIFIC ACTION OR INACTION OF THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD WHICH THE STATE WATER BOARD IS REQUESTED TO REVIEW:

The City petitions the State Water Board to review the Regional Water Board's adoption of Order No. R5-2008-0055, Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant (Permit), and Order No. R5-2008-0056, Time Schedule Order Requiring the City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant to Comply with Requirements Prescribed in Order No. R5-2008-0055 (TSO), and action or inaction related thereto, as more fully described herein. The City also requests a stay of certain provisions of Order No. R5-2008-0055 and of Order No. R5-2008-0056 in its entirety. A copy of the Permit (Order No. R5-2008-0055) is attached as Exhibit A. A copy of the TSO (Order No. R5-2008-0056) is attached as Exhibit B.

The specific determinations, designations and requirements of the Permit and TSO that the City requests the State Water Board to review are:

- The determination or finding of beneficial uses in New Alamo Creek through the Α. tributary provisions in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan), which are based on beneficial uses in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta as contained in the Basin Plan:
- The determination or finding of the municipal (MUN) beneficial use to New Alamo Creek and all groundwater through the State Water Board's Resolution No. 88-63, as incorporated into the Basin Plan;
- C. The adoption of water quality-based effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, total trihalomethanes, and nitrate (as N) based on the improper determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan;
- The adoption of receiving water limitations for pesticides to be present in D. concentrations that exceed maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 54, Chapter 15, thiobencarb to be present in excess of 1.0 ug/L, and radionuclides to be present in excess of the

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MCLs specified in Table 4 (MCL Radioactivity) of section 64443 of Title 22 of
the California Code of Regulations in surface water based on the improper
determination that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin
Plan;

- The adoption of receiving water limits for coliform, nitrate+nitrite (sum as N) and E. ammonia in groundwater based on the improper determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use for all groundwater under the Basin Plan;
- The adoption of interim effluent limitations and compliance schedule provisions F. for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane, which are necessitated by the improper determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan;
- G. The finding of reasonable potential and adoption of water quality based effluent limitations for nitrate based on an MCL, which is an unlawful water quality objective based on incorporation by reference or otherwise not adopted in accordance with state law;
- Η. The adoption of a receiving water limit for ammonia in groundwater through the interpretation of the taste and odor objective with an odor threshold developed for worker safety;
- The adoption of receiving water limits for total dissolved solids (TDS) and pH in groundwater through the interpretation of the narrative chemical objective using agricultural water quality goals developed by the United Nations without consideration of site-specific factors or compliance with the Water Code;
- J. The adoption of a receiving water limit for nitrate+nitrite (sum as N) in groundwater based a MCL for nitrate+nitrite (sum as N), which is an unlawful water quality objective based on incorporation by reference; and,
- K. The adoption of a TSO to meet the final water quality-based effluent limits for nitrate (as N), which are based on the determination that MUN is a beneficial use

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in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan, and also based on unlawful water quality objectives.

3. THE DATE ON WHICH THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD ACTED OR REFUSED TO ACT:

The Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R5-2008-0055, and Order No. R5-2008-0056 on April 25, 2008. Unless otherwise provided, the City contends that all actions and inactions of the Regional Water Board challenged herein are not supported by adequate findings or evidence in the record and/or are inconsistent with applicable law.

4. STATEMENT OF REASONS WHY THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD'S ACTION WAS INAPPROPRIATE OR IMPROPER:

A. The Permit Improperly Identifies Beneficial Uses Of New Alamo Creek To Be The Same Uses That Are Identified In The Basin Plan For The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Just Because New Alamo Creek Is Tributary To The Delta.

The Permit improperly identifies beneficial uses for New Alamo Creek to be the same as those listed in the Basin Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) because New Alamo Creek is tributary to the Delta. (Permit at pp. 3-4, F-13 - F-14; see also Table 5 at p. 4.) The Basin Plan states that the beneficial uses of a water body specifically identified in the Basin Plan generally apply to its tributary streams. (Basin Plan at p. II-2.00.) The Basin Plan also states however that "[i]n some cases a beneficial use may not be applicable to the entire body of water. In these cases the Regional Water Board's judgment will be applied." (Id.) The beneficial uses for the Delta do not necessarily apply to all of the tributaries to the Delta. MUN is not a beneficial use of New Alamo Creek. The Regional Water Board is required to conduct a case-by-case evaluation and use its judgment to determine what beneficial uses appropriately apply to the tributary stream. There is no evidence in the Permit record that the Regional Water Board has properly evaluated New Alamo Creek and exercised its judgment to determine what beneficial uses appropriately apply to New Alamo Creek. (See Permit at pp. 3-4, F-13 - F-14.)

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В. The Regional Water Board Improperly Designates The MUN Beneficial Use To New Alamo Creek And All Groundwater Through The Implementation Of State Water Board Resolution 88-63, As Incorporated Into The Basin Plan.

The Regional Water Board designates New Alamo Creek and all groundwater having MUN based on the State Water Board's "Sources of Drinking Water Policy" (Resolution 88-63) and the implementation of the Policy through the Basin Plan. (Permit at pp. 3, F-14; Basin Plan at p. II-2.00.) The automatic designation of MUN through the Basin Plan's incorporation of Resolution 88-63 is unlawful as it fails to consider the exceptions contained in Resolution 88-63 as they may apply to New Alamo Creek, and it fails to comply with state and federal provisions that govern the designation of beneficial uses. Furthermore, Resolution 88-63 is an invalid policy and it, and its incorporation into the Basin Plan, is arbitrary and lacking evidentiary support.

The Permit Improperly Includes Effluent Limitations Based On The Inappropriate Determination That MUN Is A Beneficial Use Of New Alamo Creek.

The Permit contains water quality based effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, total trihalomethanes, and nitrate (as N) based on the determination that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek. (Permit at pp. 9, 11, F-20, F-21 - F-22, F-23 -F-24, F-31 - F-32.) There is no evidence in the Permit record to suggest that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek. Furthermore, the automatic designation of MUN to New Alamo Creek through the tributary provisions in the Basin Plan, and/or Resolution 88-63 as included in the Basin Plan, is unlawful. Because the MUN designation of New Alamo Creek is unlawful, the water quality-based effluent limitations based on this designation are also unlawful.

The Permit Improperly Includes Receiving Water Limitations For Surface Water D. Based On The Inappropriate Determination That MUN Is A Beneficial Use Of New Alamo Creek.

The Permit contains the following receiving water limitations for surface water based specifically on the inappropriate determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use of New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan: pesticides to be present in concentrations that exceed MCLs set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 54, Chapter 15; thiobencarb to be present in excess of 1.0 ug/L; and, radionuclides to be present in excess of the MCLs specified in Table 4 (MCL Radioactivity) of section 64443 of Title 22 of the California Code of

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Regulations. (Permit at pp. 13-14, F-46 - F-47.) There is no evidence in the Permit record to suggest that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek. Furthermore, the automatic designation of MUN to New Alamo Creek through the tributary provisions in the Basin Plan, and/or Resolution 88-63 as included in the Basin Plan, is unlawful. Accordingly, the receiving water limitations for surface water based on this designation are also unlawful.

The Permit Improperly Includes Receiving Water Limitations For Groundwater E. Based On The Inappropriate Determination That MUN Is A Beneficial Use For All Groundwater.

The Permit contains receiving water limits for groundwater for coliform, nitrate+nitrite (sum as N) and ammonia based on the determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use for all groundwater. (Permit at pp. 16, F-49 - F-51.) There is no evidence in the Permit record to suggest that MUN is a beneficial use for all groundwater. Furthermore, the automatic designation of MUN to all groundwater through Resolution 88-63 as incorporated into the Basin Plan, is unlawful. Accordingly, groundwater receiving water limitations based on this designation are also unlawful.

The Permit Improperly Includes Interim Effluent Limitations And Compliance F. Schedule Provisions Necessitated By The Improper Determination or Finding That MUN Is A Beneficial Use In New Alamo Creek

The Permit contains interim effluent limitations and compliance schedule provisions for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane. (Permit at pp. 11-12, 33.) The interim effluent limitations and compliance schedule provisions are only necessary because the Permit improperly includes water quality-based effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane based on the determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan. (Permit at pp. 9, 11, F-20 - F-21.) To the extent that the Permit improperly includes water quality-based effluent limitations based on MUN, the Permit improperly includes interim effluent limitations and compliance schedule provisions for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane.

G. The Permit Improperly Includes Effluent Limitations For Nitrate (as N) Based On An MCL, Which Is An Unlawful Water Quality Objective.

The Permit finds reasonable potential for the City's effluent from the EWWTP to cause or contribute to an exceedance of an MCL for nitrate (as N) set at 10 mg/L. (Permit at p. G-8.) California's drinking water regulations in the California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64431 contain a MCL for nitrate (as NO3) and a MCL for nitrate+nitrite (sum as N). (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, § 64431, Table A.) The Permit also refers to the U.S. EPA MCL for nitrate (as N) that is set at 10 mg/L that was effective on June 24, 1977. MCLs are not properly adopted water quality objectives. Thus, the Permit improperly finds reasonable potential (see Permit at pp. G-8, F-23 - F-24) and includes effluent limitations for nitrate (as N) based on an unlawful water quality objective.

H. The Permit Improperly Includes A Receiving Limit For Ammonia In Groundwater Based On An Odor Threshold That Was Developed For Other Purposes.

The Permit includes a receiving water limit for ammonia in groundwater through the interpretation of the narrative taste and odor objective. (Permit at pp. 16, F-50 - F-51.) The ammonia criterion as applied to groundwater in this instance is not consistent with the intent and purpose for which the ammonia criterion relied upon by the Regional Water Board was established. The ammonia criterion was developed to provide quantitative data on odor thresholds for industrial health and safety purposes. There is no evidence in the record to suggest that ammonia at such concentrations in groundwater will impair municipal or domestic uses of groundwater due to adverse odors. Thus, the groundwater limitation for ammonia is an improper interpretation of the narrative taste and odor objective.

I. The Permit Improperly Includes Receiving Water Limits For TDS And pH In Groundwater Based On The Interpretation Of The Narrative Chemical Objective With Agricultural Water Quality Goals Developed By The United Nations.

The Permit includes receiving water limits for TDS and pH in groundwater that are derived from the agricultural water quality goals contained in the Water Quality for Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Irrigation and Drainage Paper No. 29, Rev. I (1985) (UN Report). (Permit at pp. 16, F-49 - F-50.) However, the Permit fails to

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apply the agricultural water quality goals as intended in the UN Report and as required by the State Water Board. (See In the Matter of the Own Motion Review of City of Woodland, Order WQO 2004-0010 (June 7, 2004) at p. 7.) Before using the agricultural water quality goals to interpret the narrative chemical water quality objective, the Regional Water Board is required to consider site-specific factors such as rainfall, soil quality, soil type, and other factors before applying the goals contained therein. (Id. at pp. 7-9.) There is no evidence in the record to suggest that the Regional Water Board considered the relevant site-specific factors associated with application of agricultural water quality goals. Thus, the receiving water limits for TDS and pH in groundwater are improper and unsupportable, and improper interpretations of the narrative chemical objective.

The Permit Improperly Includes A Receiving Limit For Nitrate+Nitrite (sum as N) In Groundwater Based On A MCL Which Is An Unlawful Water Quality Objective.

The Permit includes a receiving water limit for nitrate+nitrate (sum as N) in groundwater based on the state MCL for nitrate+nitrate (sum as N) that has been incorporated by reference into the Basin Plan. (Permit at pp. 16, F-50.) The state MCL for nitrate+nitrite (as N) is not a properly adopted water quality objective because it is based on incorporation by reference, and otherwise has not been adopted pursuant to state law. Thus, the Permit improperly includes a receiving water limitation for nitrate+nitrite (sum as N) in groundwater based on an unlawful water quality objective.

The TSO Improperly Requires The City To Meet A Final Water Quality Based Effluent For Nitrate (as N) That Is Based On A Determination Or Finding That MUN Is A Beneficial Use In New Alamo Creek Under The Basin Plan And Is Also Based On Unlawful Water Quality Objectives For Nitrate (as N).

The TSO requires the City to meet final effluent limitations for nitrate by May 1, 2013, and includes a schedule of compliance. (TSO at p. 4.) Because the provisions of the TSO are based on the determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan, and because they are based on unlawful water quality objectives, the TSO is unlawful.

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THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PETITIONER IS AGGRIEVED: 5.

The City is aggrieved by Permit conditions and limitations, which are more stringent or onerous than required by or provided for under current law. The City will be required to expend its limited public assets to comply with inappropriate or unlawful Permit conditions for chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, total trihalomethanes, and nitrate (as N), as well as spending funds for monitoring and special studies to determine compliance with inappropriate and unlawful receiving water limits in surface water and groundwater. Given that the City's resources are limited, it is aggrieved when it is forced to use resources to comply with requirements that are arbitrary, unnecessary, unlawful and not required by law. This harm is exacerbated by the fact that these additional efforts are being required to protect nonexistent beneficial uses, or are not likely to provide for measurable betterment to the water quality of the receiving water. The City is further aggrieved by the inclusion of each of the unlawful and excessive Permit conditions with which it cannot now, or in the immediate future, comply, because it may be subject to penalties and citizen suits in accordance with the CWA and the California Water Code.

THE SPECIFIC ACTION BY THE STATE OR REGIONAL WATER BOARDS 6. REQUESTED:

Based on the foregoing, the City requests that the State Water Board modify, or order the Regional Water Board to modify, Order Nos. R5-2008-0055 and R5-2008-0056 with direction for revisions, as follows:

- Delete the determination or findings of beneficial uses for New Alamo Creek that are based on the tributary provisions of the Basin Plan and the beneficial uses for the Delta as contained in the Basin Plan, which are found in Findings II.H;
- Delete the determination or findings of the MUN beneficial use for New Alamo В. Creek and all groundwater that is based on the State Water Board's Resolution No. 88-63, as incorporated into the Basin Plan, which is found in Findings II.H;
- Delete the water quality-based effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane, C. dichlorobromomethane, total trihalomethanes, and nitrate (as N), which are based

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on the finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin
Plan, which are found in Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications IV.A.
and IV.A.2;

- D. Delete the following receiving water limitations for surface water: pesticides to be present in concentrations that exceed MCLs set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 54, Chapter 15; thiobencarb to be present in excess of 1.0 ug/L; and, radionuclides to be present in excess of the MCLs specified in Table 4 (MCL Radioactivity) of section 64443 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, which are based on the determination or finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan, which are found in Receiving Water Limitations V.A.9 and V.A.10.b;
- E. Delete the finding of reasonable potential and water quality-based effluent limitations for nitrate (as N) at Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications IV.A.1 and IV.A.2 that are based on an unlawful water quality objective, which are found in the Fact Sheet at IV.C.3.m and incorporated into the Findings by Findings II.D;
- F. Delete the interim effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane necessitated by the inclusion of water quality-based effluent limitations based on the finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan, which are found in Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications IV.A.3;
- G. Delete the compliance schedule provisions for final effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane necessitated by the inclusion of water quality-based effluent limitations based on the finding that MUN is a beneficial use in New Alamo Creek under the Basin Plan, which are found in Provisions VI.C.7.b;
- H. Delete the groundwater receiving water limitations for coliform, ammonia, TDS, pH, and nitrate+nitrite (sum as N), which are based on the finding that MUN is a

REQUEST FOR STAY **10.**

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The City hereby requests a stay of the following provisions of Order No. R5-2008-0055:

- Final water quality-based effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, and nitrate (as N), found in Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications IV.A.1 and IV.A.2;
- Interim effluent limitations for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane, found in Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications IV.A.3; and
- Compliance schedule provisions for chlorodibromomethane and dichlorobromomethane, found in VI.C.7.b.
- Surface water limitations in the receiving water for chemical constituents and D. toxicity to the extent that such narrative limitations require compliance with receiving water limitations for chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane and nitrate based on the interpretation of the narrative limitation, found in Receiving Water Limitations V.A.3 and V.A.16.

The City also hereby requests a stay of Order No. R5-2008-0056 in its entirety.

The City requests that any such stay be made effective as of the effective date of the Permit and TSO pending the disposition of this Petition. The effect of the stay should be to commence the schedule for the compliance periods, and the periods for interim steps toward compliance until the date the State Water Board issues a dispositive order on the Petition. The total period for compliance, and the periods for interim steps toward compliance, should equal the period or periods provided in the applicable provision, unless ultimately enlarged by the State Water Board.

A stay of these provisions will prevent substantial harm to the City and will not result in harm to the public or interested persons.

There are substantial questions of law or fact related to these provisions.

A stay is warranted because these provisions will place the City in the position of risking unnecessary violation of its permit, and require the expenditure of substantial funds by the City, which funds are not recoverable if these provisions of the Permit are modified or determined

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Dated: May 23, 2008

unlawful in accordance with the State Water Board's review of the Petition, the City's claims in City of Vacaville v. State Water Resources Control Board, supra, or otherwise.

The City will submit a preliminary memorandum in support of this request for stay, including preliminary declarations and evidence to support that the stay will prevent substantial harm to the City and will not result in harm to the public or interested persons. The preliminary memorandum and evidence will be supplemented as necessary at such time that the City requests the State Water Board to actively consider the stay request.

SOMACH, SIMMONS & DUNN A Professional Corporation

Attorneys for Petitioner CITY OF VACAVILLE

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

ORDER NO. R5-2008-0055 NPDES NO. CA0077691

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR CITY OF VACAVILLE EASTERLY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SOLANO COUNTY

The following Discharger is subject to waste discharge requirements as set forth in this Order:

Table 1. Discharger Information

Discharger	City of Vacaville		
Name of Facility Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant			
	6040 Vaca Station Road		
Facility Address	Elmira, CA 95625		
	Solano County		

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have classified this discharge as a **major** discharge.

The discharge by the City of Vacaville Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant from the discharge points identified below is subject to waste discharge requirements as set forth in this Order:

Table 2. Discharge Location

Discharge	Effluent	Discharge Point	Discharge Point	Receiving Water
Point	Description	Latitude	Longitude	
001	Municipal Wastewater	38° 20' 48" N	121° 54' 06" W	Old Alamo Creek

Table 3. Administrative Information

This Order was adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board on:	25 April 2008
This Order shall become effective on:	14 June 2008
This Order shall expire on:	1 April 2013
The Discharger shall file a Report of Waste Discharge in accordance with title 23, California Code of Regulations, as application for issuance of new waste discharge requirements no later than:	

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 25 April 2008

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

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I. FACILITY INFORMATION

The following Discharger is subject to waste discharge requirements as set forth in this Order:

Table 4. Facility Information

Discharger	City of Vacaville	
Name of Facility	Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant	
•	6040 Vaca Station Road	
Facility Address	Elmira, CA 95625	
	Solano County	
Facility Contact, Title, and Phone Mr. David Tompkins, Assistant Public Works Director, (707) 469		
Mailing Address SAME		
Type of Facility	Public Owned Treatment Works (POTW)	
	Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF) = 15 million gallons per day (mgd)	
Facility Design Flow	Average Wet Weather Flow (AWWF) = 39 mgd	
	Peak Wet Weather Flow (PWWF) = 55 mgd	

II. FINDINGS

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds:

A. Background. The City of Vacaville (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging pursuant to Order No. 5-01-044 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0077691. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated 1 September 2005 and applied for a NPDES permit renewal to discharge up to 15 mgd (ADWF) of treated municipal wastewater from the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, hereinafter Facility. The application was deemed complete on 1 October 2005.

For the purposes of this Order, references to the "discharger" or "permittee" in applicable federal and state laws, regulations, plans, or policy are held to be equivalent to references to the Discharger herein.

B. Facility Description. The Discharger owns and operates the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, which consists of two parallel plants, the existing North Plant and the newly constructed South Plant. The treatment system consists of headworks, primary sedimentation basins, aeration basins, secondary circular clarifiers, chlorination and dechlorination facilities, emergency ponds, dissolved aeration floatation thickener, anaerobic digesters, biosolids storage ponds, biosolids belt filter press and biosolids drying beds. Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 (see table on cover page) to Old Alamo Creek, tributary to New Alamo Creek, tributary to Ulatis Creek, and tributary to Cache Slough, all waters of the United States within Vaca Mountains

Watershed. Attachment B provides a map of the area around the Facility. Attachment C provides a flow schematic of the Facility.

- C. Legal Authorities. This Order is issued pursuant to section 402 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and implementing regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and chapter 5.5, Division 7 of the Clean Water Code (CWC), commencing with section 13370. It shall serve as a NPDES permit for point source discharges from this facility to surface waters. This Order also serves as Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) pursuant to article 4, Chapter 4, Division 7 of the CWC (commencing with section 13260).
- D. Background and Rationale for Requirements. The Regional Water Board developed the requirements in this Order based on information submitted as part of the application, through monitoring and reporting programs, and other available information. The Fact Sheet (Attachment F), which contains background information and rationale for Order requirements, is hereby incorporated into this Order and constitutes part of the Findings for this Order. Attachments A through I are also incorporated into this Order.
- E. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under Water Code section 13389, this action to adopt an NPDES permit is exempt from the provisions of CEQA, Public Resources Code sections 21100-21177.
- F. Technology-based Effluent Limitations. Section 301(b) of the CWA and implementing USEPA permit regulations at section 122.44, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)¹ require that permits include conditions meeting applicable technology-based requirements at a minimum, and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to meet applicable water quality standards. The discharge authorized by this Order must meet minimum federal technology-based requirements based on Secondary Treatment Standards at Part 133 and Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) in accordance with Part 125, section 125.3. A detailed discussion of the technology-based effluent limitations development is included in the Fact Sheet (Attachment F).
- G. Water Quality-based Effluent Limitations. Section 301(b) of the CWA and section 122.44(d) require that permits include limitations more stringent than applicable federal technology-based requirements where necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards. This Order contains requirements, expressed as a technology equivalence requirement, more stringent than secondary treatment requirements that are necessary to meet applicable water quality standards. The Regional Water Board has considered the factors listed in CWC Section 13241 in establishing these requirements. The rationale for these requirements, which consist of tertiary treatment or equivalent requirements, is discussed in the Fact Sheet.

Section 122.44(d)(1)(i) mandates that permits include effluent limitations for all pollutants that are or may be discharged at levels that have the reasonable potential to

¹ All further statutory references are to title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations unless otherwise indicated.

cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality standard, including numeric and narrative objectives within a standard. Where reasonable potential has been established for a pollutant, but there is no numeric criterion or objective for the pollutant, water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) must be established using: (1) EPA criteria guidance under CWA section 304(a), supplemented where necessary by other relevant information; (2) an indicator parameter for the pollutant of concern; or (3) a calculated numeric water quality criterion, such as a proposed State criterion or policy interpreting the State's narrative criterion, supplemented with other relevant information, as provided in 40 CFR section 122.44(d)(1)(vi).

H. Water Quality Control Plans. The Regional Water Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan, Fourth Edition (Revised August 2006), for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (hereinafter Basin Plan) that designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the plan.

The Basin Plan does not specifically identify beneficial uses for Old Alamo Creek and New Alamo Creek, but does identify present and potential uses for the Sacramento San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) to which Old Alamo Creek, via New Alamo Creek, is tributary. These beneficial uses are as follows: municipal and domestic supply (MUN), irrigation and stock watering agricultural supply (AGR), industrial process (PRO) and service supply (IND), contact (REC-1) and non-contact (REC-2) water recreation, freshwater habitat for both warm (WARM) and cold (COLD) species, migration (MIGR) waters for both warm (striped bass, sturgeon, and shad) and cold water freshwater species (salmon and steelhead), spawning (SPWN) for warm water species (striped bass, sturgeon, and shad), wildlife habitat (WILD), and navigation (NAV). The Basin Plan at page II-2.00 further states that the "...beneficial uses of any specifically identified water body generally apply to its tributary streams except as provided below:

• MUN, COLD, MIGR and SPWN do not apply to Old Alamo Creek (Solano County) from its headwaters to the confluence with New Alamo Creek."

In addition, the Basin Plan implements State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution No. 88-63, which established state policy that all waters, with certain exceptions, should be considered suitable or potentially suitable for municipal or domestic supply. Thus, as discussed in detail in the Fact Sheet, beneficial uses applicable to Old Alamo Creek and New Alamo Creek are as follows:

Table 5. Basin Plan Beneficial Uses

Discharge Point	Receiving Water Name	Beneficial Use(s)
001	Old Alamo Creek	Existing:
		Irrigation and stock watering agricultural supply (AGR), industrial process (PRO) and service supply (IND), contact (REC-1) and non-contact (REC-2) water recreation, warm freshwater habitat (WARM), wildlife habitat (WILD) and navigation (NAV).
3.2 miles	New Alamo Creek	Existing:
downstream of 001		Municipal and domestic supply (MUN), irrigation and stock watering agricultural supply (AGR), industrial process (PRO) and service supply (IND), contact and non-contact water recreation (REC-1 and REC-2), freshwater habitat for both warm (WARM) and cold (COLD) species, migration (MIGR) waters for both warm (striped bass, sturgeon, and shad) and cold water freshwater species (salmon and steelhead), spawning
		(SPWN) for warm water species (striped bass, sturgeon, and shad), wildlife habitat (WILD) and navigation (NAV).
Groundwater	Groundwater	Existing:
		Municipal and domestic supply (MUN), irrigation and stock watering agricultural supply (AGR), industrial process (PRO) and service supply (IND).

The Basin Plan includes a list of Water Quality Limited Segments (WQLSs), which are defined as "...those sections of lakes, streams, rivers or other fresh water bodies where water quality does not meet (or is not expected to meet) water quality standards even after the application of appropriate limitations for point sources (40 CFR 130, et seq.)." The Basin Plan also states, "Additional treatment beyond minimum federal standards will be imposed on dischargers to WQLSs. Dischargers will be assigned or allocated a maximum allowable load of critical pollutants so that water quality objectives can be met in the segment." The listing for the northwestern portion of the Delta, which includes the section of Ulatis Creek to which Old and New Alamo Creeks are tributary, is listed as a WQLS for Chloropyrifos, DDT, Diazinon, Electrical Conductivity, Exotic Species, Mercury, Group A pesticides, and Unknown Toxicity in the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. Since Old Alamo Creek and New Alamo Creek are immediate tributaries to the Delta and provide very little to no dilution, effluent limitations for these constituents are included in this Order except for Diazinon, Chloropyrifos, DDT, and Group A pesticides, since these constituents have consistently shown non-detect results in the effluent discharged. However monitoring for these constituents are included in the Effluent Constituent Study, Attachement H Requirements of this Order implement the Basin Plan.

I. National Toxics Rule (NTR) and California Toxics Rule (CTR). USEPA adopted the NTR on December 22, 1992, and later amended it on May 4, 1995 and November 9, 1999. About forty criteria in the NTR applied in California. On May 18, 2000, USEPA adopted the CTR. The CTR promulgated new toxics criteria for California and, in

addition, incorporated the previously adopted NTR criteria that were applicable in the state. The CTR was amended on February 13, 2001. These rules contain water quality criteria for priority pollutants.

- J. State Implementation Policy. On March 2, 2000, the State Water Board adopted the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (State Implementation Policy or SIP). The SIP became effective on April 28, 2000 with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated for California by the USEPA through the NTR and to the priority pollutant objectives established by the Regional Water Board in the Basin Plan. The SIP became effective on May 18, 2000 with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated by the USEPA through the CTR. The State Water Board adopted amendments to the SIP on February 24, 2005 that became effective on July 13, 2005. The SIP establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria and objectives and provisions for chronic toxicity control. Requirements of this Order implement the SIP.
- K. Compliance Schedules and Interim Requirements. In general, an NPDES permit must include final effluent limitations that are consistent with Clean Water Act section 301 and with 40 CFR 122.44(d). There are exceptions to this general rule. The State Water Board has concluded that where the Regional Water Board's Basin Plan allows for schedules of compliance and the Regional Water Board is newly interpreting a narrative standard, it may include schedules of compliance in the permit to meet effluent limits that implement a narrative standard. See In the Matter of Waste Discharge Requirements for Avon Refinery (State Board Order WQ 2001-06 at pp. 53-55). See also Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board, 34 Cal. Rptr.3d 396, 410 (2005). The Basin Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers includes a provision that authorizes the use of compliance schedules in NPDES permits for water quality objectives that are adopted after the date of adoption of the Basin Plan, which was September 25, 1995 (See Basin Plan at page IV-16). Consistent with the State Water Board's Order in the CBE matter, the Regional Water Board has the discretion to include compliance schedules in NPDES permits when it is including an effluent limitation that is a "new interpretation" of a narrative water quality objective. This conclusion is also consistent with the United States Environmental Protection Agency policies and administrative decisions. See, e.g., Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Control Policy. The Regional Water Board, however, is not required to include a schedule of compliance, but may issue a Time Schedule Order pursuant to Water Code section 13300 or a Cease and Desist Order pursuant to Water Code section 13301 where it finds that the discharger is violating or threatening to violate the permit. The Regional Water Board will consider the merits of each case in determining whether it is appropriate to include a compliance schedule in a permit, and, consistent with the Basin Plan, should consider feasibility of achieving compliance, and must impose a schedule that is as short as practicable to achieve compliance with the objectives, criteria, or effluent limit based on the objective or criteria.

For CTR constituents, Section 2.1 of the SIP provides that, based on a Discharger's request and demonstration that it is infeasible for an existing Discharger to achieve immediate compliance with an effluent limitation derived from a CTR criterion.

compliance schedules may be allowed in an NPDES permit. Unless an exception has been granted under section 5.3 of the SIP, a compliance schedule may not exceed 5 years from the date that the permit is issued or reissued, nor may it extend beyond 10 years from the effective date of the SIP (or 18 May 2010) to establish and comply with CTR criterion-based effluent limitations. Where a compliance schedule for a final effluent limitation that exceeds 1 year, the Order must include interim numeric limitations for that constituent or parameter. Where allowed by the Basin Plan, compliance schedules and interim effluent limitations or discharge specifications may also be granted to allow time to implement a new or revised water quality objective. This Order includes compliance schedules and interim effluent limitations and/or discharge specifications for cyanide, chlorodibromomethane, and dichlorobromomethane. In addition for compliance with the effluent limitation for nitrate, a compliance schedule is established in an accompanying Time Schedule Order (TSO). A detailed discussion of the basis for the compliance schedule(s) and interim effluent limitation(s) and/or discharge specifications is included in the Fact Sheet.

- L. Alaska Rule. On 30 March 2000, USEPA revised its regulation that specifies when new and revised state and tribal water quality standards (WQS) become effective for CWA purposes. (40 C.F.R. § 131.21; 65 Fed. Reg. 24641 (April 27, 2000).) Under the revised regulation (also known as the Alaska rule), new and revised standards submitted to USEPA after May 30, 2000, must be approved by USEPA before being used for CWA purposes. The final rule also provides that standards already in effect and submitted to USEPA by May 30, 2000 may be used for CWA purposes, whether or not approved by USEPA.
- M. Stringency of Requirements for Individual Pollutants. This Order contains both technology-based and water quality-based effluent limitations for individual pollutants. The technology-based effluent limitations consist of restrictions on BOD₅ and TSS. The water quality-based effluent limitations consist of restrictions on turbidity and pathogens. This Order's technology-based pollutant restrictions implement the minimum, applicable federal technology-based requirements. In addition, this Order contains effluent limitations more stringent than the minimum, federal technology-based requirements that are necessary to meet water quality standards. Specifically, this Order includes effluent limitations for BOD, TSS, turbidity and pathogens that are more stringent than applicable federal standards, but that are nonetheless necessary to meet numeric objectives or protect beneficial uses. The rationale for including these limitations is explained in the Fact Sheet. In addition, the Regional Water Board has considered the factors in Water Code section 13241 in establishing these requirements.

Water quality-based effluent limitations have been scientifically derived to implement water quality objectives that protect beneficial uses. Both the beneficial uses and the water quality objectives have been approved pursuant to federal law and are the applicable federal water quality standards. To the extent that toxic pollutant water quality-based effluent limitations were derived from the CTR, the CTR is the applicable standard pursuant to 40 CFR section 131.38. The scientific procedures for calculating the individual water quality-based effluent limitations are based on the CTR-SIP, which was approved by USEPA on May 1, 2001. All beneficial uses and water quality

objectives contained in the Basin Plan were approved under state law and submitted to and approved by USEPA prior to May 30, 2000. Any water quality objectives and beneficial uses submitted to USEPA prior to May 30, 2000, but not approved by USEPA before that date, are nonetheless "applicable water quality standards for purposes of the [Clean Water] Act" pursuant to 40 CFR section 131.21(c)(1). Collectively, this Order's restrictions on individual pollutants are no more stringent than required to implement the technology-based requirements of the CWA and the applicable water quality standards for purposes of the CWA.

- N. Antidegradation Policy. Section 131.12 requires that the state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 is consistent with the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing quality of waters (surface and groundwaters) be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Regional Water Board's Basin Plan implements, and incorporates by reference, both the state and federal antidegradation policies. As discussed in detail in the Fact Sheet the permitted discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provision of section 131.12 and State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16.
- O. Anti-Backsliding Requirements. Sections 402(o)(2) and 303(d)(4) of the CWA and federal regulations at title 40, Code of Federal Regulations section 122.44(I) prohibit backsliding in NPDES permits. These anti-backsliding provisions require effluent limitations in a reissued permit to be as stringent as those in the previous permit, with some exceptions where limitations may be relaxed. Based on new information and the dedesignation of MUN and COLD beneficial uses from Old Alamo Creek (per Basin Plan amendment, Resolution R5-2005-0053 adopted on 25 April 2005), some effluent limitations have been removed and others have been relaxed. Additionally, the Discharger conducted a dilution study that found a minimum dilution of 1.1:1 at the confluence of Old Alamo and New Alamo Creeks. The rationale for the removal and relaxation of these effluent limitations is explained in the Fact Sheet. All other effluent limitations in this Order not related to new information or the beneficial use changes are at least as stringent as the effluent limitations in the previous Order.
- P. Endangered Species Act. This Order does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a threatened or endangered species or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code sections 2050 to 2097) or the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.A. sections 1531 to 1544). This Order requires compliance with effluent limits, receiving water limits, and other requirements to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state. The discharger is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable Endangered Species Act.
- Q. Monitoring and Reporting. Section 122.48 requires that all NPDES permits specify requirements for recording and reporting monitoring results. Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 authorizes the Regional Water Board to require technical and

monitoring reports. The Monitoring and Reporting Program establishes monitoring and reporting requirements to implement federal and State requirements. This Monitoring and Reporting Program is provided in Attachment E.

- R. Standard and Special Provisions. Standard Provisions, which apply to all NPDES permits in accordance with section 122.41, and additional conditions applicable to specified categories of permits in accordance with section 122.42, are provided in Attachment D. The discharger must comply with all standard provisions and with those additional conditions that are applicable under section 122.42. The Regional Water Board has also included in this Order special provisions applicable to the Discharger. A rationale for the special provisions contained in this Order is provided in the attached Fact Sheet.
- S. Provisions and Requirements Implementing State Law. The provisions/requirements in subsections V.B, and VI.C.1, 2, 6, and 7 of this Order are included to implement state law only. These provisions/requirements are not required or authorized under the federal CWA; consequently, violations of these provisions/requirements are not subject to the enforcement remedies that are available for NPDES violations.
- T. Notification of Interested Parties. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations. Details of notification are provided in the Fact Sheet of this Order.
- U. Consideration of Public Comment. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge. Details of the Public Hearing are provided in the Fact Sheet of this Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Order No. 5-01-044 is rescinded upon the effective date of this Order except for enforcement purposes, and, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code (CWC) commencing with section 13000 and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, the Discharger shall comply with the requirements in this Order.

III. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

- A. Discharge of wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Findings is prohibited.
- B. The by-pass or overflow of wastes to surface waters is prohibited, except as noted in Special Provision VI.C.4.d. and as allowed by Federal Standard Provisions I.G. and I.H. (Attachment D).
- C. Neither the discharge nor its treatment shall create a nuisance as defined in Section 13050 of the California Water Code.