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

320 West 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 • Fax (213) 576-6640
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R4-2026-0151

REQUIRING THE CITY OF SIMI VALLEY (SIMI VALLEY WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT) TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN ORDER NO. R4-2026-0150 (NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0055221)

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

1. The City of Simi Valley (Discharger or Permittee) owns and operates the Simi Valley Water Quality Control Plant (Simi Valley WQCP), a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) located at 600 West Los Angeles Avenue, Simi Valley, California, within the Calleguas Creek Watershed.
2. The Simi Valley WQCP discharges tertiary-treated wastewater under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2019-0135, adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board on November 14, 2019. Order No. R4-2019-0135 serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES No. CA0055221) and regulates the discharge of treated wastewater to Arroyo Simi, a water of the United States and the State of California, within the Calleguas Creek Watershed. Order No. R4-2019-0135 expired on December 31, 2024, but was administratively extended.
3. On May 28, 2026, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted Order No. R4-2026-0150, which renewed the WDRs and NPDES Permit for Simi Valley WQCP. Order No. R4-2026-0150, expires on July 31, 2031.
4. Order No. R4-2026-0150 implements the *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL.*
5. The *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL* was adopted on October 4, 2007, and became effective on December 2, 2008.
6. The *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL* established wasteload allocations (WLAs) for dischargers in the Calleguas Creek Watershed for chloride, sulfate, boron, and total dissolved solids (TDS) and includes an implementation plan that identifies the required actions for dischargers to achieve the final WLAs. This implementation plan provided 15 years from the effective date of the TMDL (December 8, 2023) for dischargers to complete all actions and comply with the final WLAs. During implementation, the *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL* also included interim WLAs for all POTWs subject to the TMDL.
7. The WLAs in the *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL* for TDS, sulfate, chloride, and boron were translated into dry-weather effluent limitations in previous orders (Order Nos. R4-2014-0066, R4-2014-0066-A01, and R4-2019-0135) by multiplying the Basin Plan water quality objectives for TDS, sulfate, chloride, and boron and the Simi Valley WQCP design

capacity of 12.5 million gallons per day and a conversion factor. The Discharger was able to meet the dry-weather effluent limitations for these aforementioned parameters, so Order No. R4-2019-0135 did not include interim WLAs or a time schedule for salts.

8. NPDES Order No. R4-2026-0150 revised the dry-weather mass-based effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, chloride, and boron consistent with the *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL*, as presented in the table below.

Table 1. Dry-Weather Final Effluent Limitations for Salts in Order No. R4-2026-0150

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations			Notes
		Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	
TDS (dry-weather)	lbs/day	(850 × Q) - AF	--	--	a, b, c
Sulfate (dry-weather)	lbs/day	(250 × Q) - AF	--	--	a, b, c
Chloride (dry-weather)	lbs/day	(150 × Q) - AF	--	--	a, b, c
Boron (dry-weather)	lbs/day	(1.0 × Q) - AF	--	--	a, b, c

Footnotes for Table 1

a. Chapter 7-22 of the Basin Plan (*Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL*) includes Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) for the Simi Valley WQCP that apply during dry-weather. Dry weather is defined as the condition when the flows in the receiving water at the Ventura County Watershed Protection Agency's Station 805 are below the 86th percentile flow (<27 cubic feet per second) and there has been no measurable precipitation (<0.5 inches of rain) in the previous 24 hours. Wet weather is defined as the condition when the flows in the receiving water are above the 86th percentile flow (≥27 cubic feet per second) or there has been measurable precipitation (≥0.5 inches of rain) in the previous 24 hours.

b. *Q* represents the POTW average daily flow on the day the water quality sample is collected and a conversion factor to lbs/day based on the units of measure for flow.

c. AF represents the adjustment factor for the waste load allocations in the *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL*, which may increase, decrease, or have no effect on the dry-weather effluent limitation.

End of Footnotes for Table 1

9. These dry-weather effluent limitations are calculated by multiplying the Basin Plan water quality objective and the average daily flow from the Simi Valley WQCP on the day the water quality sample was collected and a conversion factor. These effluent limits are based on a new interpretation of the WLAs in the *Calleguas Creek Watershed Salts TMDL* and are more stringent than the final WLAs in the previous order because they are calculated using actual flow rather than the design flow of the POTW.

10. On June 17, 2025, Los Angeles Water Board staff met with the Discharger to discuss the proposed dry-weather effluent limitations and potential compliance issues.

11. On August 25, 2025, the Discharger submitted a request for an in-permit compliance schedule to come into compliance with TDS, chloride, and sulfate since the Simi Valley WQCP is unable to meet the proposed dry-weather effluent limitations for these pollutants. Boron was not included in the Discharger's request because the effluent data shows the Simi Valley WQCP can meet the dry-weather effluent limitations for boron. Along with the request for a time schedule, the Discharger submitted a list of actions along with milestones they intend to complete to meet the final dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride.

12. The actions the Discharger plans to complete to come into compliance with the dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride, include:

    (1) preparation of a Pollution Prevention Plan;

    (2) collection system monitoring;

    (3) source evaluation and an investigation into options to remove salts from the watershed;

    (4) coordination with other stakeholders;

    (5) implementation of source control actions; and

    (6) upgrades to Simi Valley WQCP and/or its collection system.

13. California Water Code (CWC) section 13300 states that "[w]henever 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 … the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as [the board] may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements."

14. Based on effluent monthly monitoring data collected between November 2018 and September 2025, the Discharger cannot consistently achieve compliance with the final dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride in Order No. R4-2026-0150 (see Table 2 below). Accordingly, pursuant to CWC section 13300, a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates requirements prescribed by the Los Angeles Water Board.

Table 2. Comparison of Effluent Data and Dry-Weather Final Effluent Limitations for Salts in Order No.R4-2026-0150

Pollutant	Reported Dry-Weather Mass Range (lbs/day)	Calculated Dry-Weather Mass Limits Range (lbs/day)	% of Time Effluent Would Have Exceeded Dry-Weather Limit
TDS (dry-weather)	32,800 – 74,200	38,800 – 56,000	23.08% (18/78)
Sulfate (dry-weather)	7,400 – 29,200	8,600 – 16,500	33.33 % (26/78)
Chloride (dry-weather)	6,100 – 11,600	7,800 – 9,900	16.22% (12/74)

15. 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 subdivision (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, *if all of the [specified] requirements are met*." (emphasis added) A TSO issued under Water Code section 13385(j)(3), must establish "a time schedule for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitation that is as short as possible, taking into account the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect design, development and implementation of the control measures that are necessary to comply with the effluent limitation," (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(C)(i).) The TSO may not exceed five years in length unless an extension is granted in accordance with Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(C). If the time schedule exceeds one year from the effective date of the order, the schedule must include interim requirements and the dates for their achievement. The interim requirements shall include both …. (I) Effluent limitations for the pollutant or pollutants of concern. (II) Actions and milestones leading to compliance with the effluent limitation. (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(C)(iii).) The discharger must "[have] prepared and [be] implementing in a timely and proper manner, or [be] required by the regional board to prepare and implement, a pollution prevention plan pursuant to section 13263.3." (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(D).)

16. In accordance with CWC section 13385(j)(3)(B)(i), the Los Angeles Water Board finds that "[t]he effluent limitation is a new, more stringent, or modified regulatory requirement that has become applicable to the waste discharge after the effective date of the waste discharge requirements and after July 1, 2000, new or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the effluent limitation, and the new or modified control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days." The dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride in Order No. R4-2026-0150 is a more stringent regulatory requirement that becomes applicable to the discharge upon the effective date of Order No. R4-2026-0150. New control measures at the Simi Valley WQCP are necessary to comply with the TDS, sulfate, and chloride dry-weather effluent limitations and the control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days.

17. This time schedule to bring the waste discharge into compliance with the dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride 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. This TSO does not exceed five years.

18. Since the time schedule for completion of the actions necessary to bring the waste discharge into compliance with the TDS, sulfate, and chloride dry-weather effluent limitations exceeds one year, this TSO includes interim requirements and the compliance dates for the interim requirements. The interim requirements include both interim effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride and actions and milestones leading to compliance with the dry-weather final effluent limitation for TDS, sulfate, and chloride.

19. The interim dry-weather effluent limitations in this TSO are based on the maximum monthly effluent mass emissions for TDS, sulfate, and chloride samples collected between November 2018 and September 2025 at Discharge Points 001 and 002 during dry weather (see Table 1 above for definitions of dry and wet weather) and are calculated as follows: Flow (MGD) x Concentration (mg/L) x 8.34 (conversion factor) = lbs/day, where the flow is defined as "the Simi Valley WQCP's average daily flow on the day the water quality sample

collected when the flows in the receiving water at the Ventura County Watershed Protection Agency's Station 805 are below 27 cubic feet per second and there has been no measurable precipitation (<0.5 inches of rain) in the previous 24 hours."

20. CWC section 13385(j)(3)(D) requires the Permittee to prepare and implement a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) pursuant to CWC section 13263.3; therefore, a PPP is necessary for TDS, chloride, and sulfate.

21. Pursuant to CWC section 13385(j)(3), full compliance with the requirements of this TSO exempts the Permittee from mandatory minimum penalties only for violations of the dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride in Order No. R4-2026-0150 that occur after the effective date of this TSO.

22. This TSO concerns an existing facility (Simi Valley WQCP) and does not significantly alter the status with respect to the facility. This TSO is also being taken for the protection of the environment. Therefore, issuance of this TSO is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et. seq.) in accordance with sections 15301 and 15321(a)(2) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Issuance of this TSO is an action to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement and protection of the environment and a natural resource and is also an enforcement order issued by the Los Angeles Water Board.

23. 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, in a public hearing, heard and considered all testimony pertinent to this matter.

24. 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 CWC 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 or will be provided upon request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to the CWC section 13300 and 13385(j)(3), the City of Simi Valley, as owner and operator of the Simi Valley WQCP, shall comply with the requirements listed below to ensure its discharges comply with the dry-weather final effluent limitations for TDS, chloride, and sulfate contained in Order No. R4-2026-0150:

1. From August 1, 2026, to July 31, 2031, the Discharger shall comply with the following interim dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride:

Table 3. Interim Dry-Weather Effluent Limitations at Discharge Points 001 and 002

Parameters	Dry-Weather Mass-Based Monthly Average Effluent Limitations
TDS	74,200 lbs/day
Sulfate	29,200 lbs/day
Chloride	11,600 lbs/day

If the analytical result of a single sample, monitored monthly, exceeds the monthly average interim effluent limitation, the Discharger may collect up to four additional samples, at approximately equal intervals during that calendar month, to determine compliance with the monthly average interim effluent limitation.

2. The Discharger shall complete the following actions and milestones:

Table 4. Tasks and Milestone Schedules for Salts

Task	Completion Date
Submit a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) for Executive Officer approval, pursuant to CWC section 13263.3. The PPP will include a summary of what has already been done to address TDS, chloride, and sulfate, the potential actions that the Discharger could implement to reduce in-house sources of TDS, chloride, and sulfate, and an implementation plan including additional monitoring that may be needed to evaluate the sources of TDS, chloride, and sulfate in the effluent (see California Water Code section 13263.3(d)(3)).	December 1, 2026
Initiate monitoring as proposed in the PPP.	March 1, 2027
Complete collection system monitoring based on the PPP monitoring plan and submit a report summarizing the monitoring results.	July 31, 2028
Submit a Report evaluating sources, feasibility, and comparative benefits of best options to reduce TDS, sulfate, and chloride (salts) in the effluent discharge. Options to be evaluated must include water softener removal, commercial/industrial source control, increased recycled water uses, treatment plant modifications, and treatment of well water from dewatering activities. This report will include an estimate of how much salt is being contributed from all sources, including within the plant (chlorine addition, etc.) and within the sewerage collection system. The report will also include the estimated costs (economic evaluation) of implementing the various control strategies and the amount of salts that could be removed with each option, and which options are being selected to bring the discharge into compliance with the final effluent limits.	January 31, 2029
Conduct design for the identified and funded sewer relining projects having the greatest impact for reducing salts that include the following steps:	July 31, 2029

Task	Completion Date
a. Preliminary design b. CEQA and Environmental Review c. Final design d. Construction Scheduled	
Based on the results of the source evaluation, implement identified source control strategies for reducing TDS, sulfate, and chloride in the effluent discharge, including preparation of outreach materials and programs for residential sources and regulatory programs for commercial and industrial sources that may be identified.	January 31, 2030
Issue Notice to Proceed for Project Work for sewer relining.	July 31, 2030
Submit a report describing the source control actions implemented and present results to the Los Angeles Water Board.	January 31, 2031
Present 90% completion progress reports to Los Angeles Water Board on construction of sewer main relining projects.	April 30, 2031
Complete sewer relining projects.	July 31, 2031
Achieve compliance with the TDS, sulfate, and chloride dry-weather effluent limits.	July 31, 2031

3. The Discharger shall achieve full compliance with the final dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride as soon as possible, but no later than July 31, 2031. If the Discharger is unable to comply with the dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and chloride by the expiration date of this TSO, the Discharger may request additional time with supporting documentation pursuant to Water Code section 13385(j)(3)(C)(ii)(II), if warranted, to complete the additional described tasks.
4. The Discharger shall submit quarterly progress reports of actions taken towards achieving compliance with the final dry-weather effluent limitations for TDS, sulfate, and 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 the Simi Valley WQCP was in compliance with the interim effluent limitation for TDS, sulfate, and chloride during the reporting period. Each quarterly report shall be submitted to the Los Angeles Water Board by the 15th day of the first month following the reporting period (January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15). The first progress report shall be submitted to the Los Angeles Water Board by October 15, 2026, and will cover the months of August 2026 through September 2026.
5. All technical and monitoring reports required under this TSO are required pursuant to CWC section13383. The Los Angeles Water Board needs the required information to determine compliance with this TSO and Order No. R4-2026-0150.
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 Discharger 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, CWC 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 NPDES Order No. R4-2026-0150 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 Discharger, 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 on August 1, 2026. This TSO expires on July 31, 2031.

I, Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on May 28, 2026.

Jenny Newman

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Date: 2026.06.25 11:35:33 -07'00'

Water Boards

For Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer