

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

ORDER NO. R4-2002-0030

GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION AT PETROLEUM HYDROCARBON FUEL AND/OR  
VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND IMPACTED SITES  
(FILE NO. 01-116)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) 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 and/or volatile organic compounds contaminate 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 these 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. See Attachment A Table 3-10 water quality objectives for selected constituents in regional groundwaters.
8. The release of petroleum hydrocarbon fuel and/or volatile organic compounds at many sites within the Los Angeles Region affects only shallow perched groundwater sources. Many of the shallow perched groundwater zones contain general mineral content (total dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate, etc.) in concentrations, which are considered to be naturally occurring and not the result of pollution, that may exceed Basin Plan Objectives for these constituents. The re-injection or infiltration of treated groundwater that exhibits general mineral content that are 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.
9. Treated groundwater that exhibits general mineral content that is naturally occurring and exceeds Surface Water Basin Plan Objectives must be treated if discharged into surface waters under a separate National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.
10. The general WDRs are applicable to groundwater remediation at petroleum hydrocarbon fuel and/or volatile organic compound impacted sites. Depending on the Report of Waste Discharge, the Executive Officer determined the annual fee based on the threat to water

quality and complexity of the discharge. The general WDRs are 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.

11. 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 this Order.
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 prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the issuance of these general WDRs in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
17. The Regional Board has notified interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe general WDR's for the discharges covered under these general WDRs, and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations for the requirements.

18. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the tentative general WDRs.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** dischargers authorized under this Order in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code, and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. A discharger may seek coverage under this Order for:
  - a. existing and future discharges to groundwater of remediation compounds from the cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbon fuel and/or volatile organic compound impacted sites and similar discharges.
  - b. re-injection, percolation or infiltration of treated groundwater from a pump and treat remediation system(s).
2. To be covered under this Order, a discharge must meet the following criteria:
  - a. The Executive Officer must find, based on the Report of Waste Discharge submitted pursuant to Provision C, that the groundwater discharges for which coverage under this Order are sought have a threat to water quality of Category 3 and Complexity rating of A for a combined rating of 3-A, using the rating criteria (Attachment B).
  - b. The discharger must have an approved Remediation Action Plan (RAP). The discharger shall submit a copy of the approved RAP including any conditions of implementation with the Report of Waste Discharge for application of the general WDRs. At a minimum, the RAP shall include the following site-specific information:
    - The background water quality of the aquifer of the groundwater remediation site(s) including contaminant types, total dissolved solids, sulfates, chlorides, nitrogen (NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>), chemical oxygen demand, biological oxygen demand, phosphorus, pH, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, dissolved carbon dioxide, methane,

- temperature, iron, oxygen reduction potential, and hydraulic conductivity;
- Information on any potential adverse impacts to groundwater quality, and whether the impacts will be localized and short-term;
  - The results of any pilot testing performed for the treatment technology to be used;
  - Site-specific geology (lithology and physical parameters) and hydrogeologic parameters, hydrologic report;
  - Infiltration rate;
  - Characterization and extent of petroleum hydrocarbon fuel and/or volatile organic compound plume(s);
  - Description of the treatment system(s);
  - Adequate groundwater monitoring network with historic groundwater monitoring report.
  - Description of the areal extent of the application area and identification of monitoring wells to be used to determine water quality upgradient, within the application area, downgradient from the application area and identify the compliance point;
  - MSDS information and other product technical information for any materials to be used for cleanup;
  - Application rate(s), material type(s) and applied concentrations; and
  - Evaluate loading rates for nitrogen compounds, total dissolved solids, sulfate, and chloride compounds.
- c. The General Waste Discharge Requirements would allow the following materials to be used for in-situ remediation purposes:
1. **Oxidation/Aerobic Degradation Enhancement Compounds:**
    - Fenton's reagent (hydrogen peroxide, ferrous iron catalyst, and pH buffer)
    - Hydrogen peroxide
    - Potassium or sodium permanganate
    - Oxygen release compound (ORC) magnesium peroxide
  2. **Reducing/Reductive Degradation Enhancement Compounds:**
    - Polysulfide
    - Hydrogen release compound (HRC) polyacetate ester

- Zero-valent iron

**3. Inorganics/Nutrients:**

- Nitrate, ammonia, phosphate, vitamins

**4. Carbon Sources/Electron Donors**

- Acetate, lactate, propionate, benzoate, oleate, ethanol, propanol, methanol, glucose, complex sugars such as molasses or corn syrup, other food process byproducts such as milk whey or yeast extract, other complex organic material such as wood chips

3. For the purpose of renewal of existing individual requirements with these general WDRs, provided that all the conditions of these general WDRs are met, renewal is effective upon issuance of a notification by the Executive Officer and issuance of a new monitoring and reporting program.
4. When the individual WDRs with more specific requirements are issued to a discharger, the applicability of this Order to that discharger is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual WDRs.

**B. AUTHORIZATION**

To be authorized to discharge under this Order, the discharger must submit a Report of Waste Discharge in accordance with the requirements of Part C of this Order. Upon receipt of the application, the Executive Officer shall determine the applicability of this Order to such a discharge and the completeness of the application package. If the discharge is eligible, the Executive Officer shall notify the discharger that the discharge is authorized under the terms and conditions of this Order and prescribe an appropriate monitoring and reporting program. For new discharges, the discharge shall not commence until receipt of the Executive Officer's written determination and the discharger receives general WDRs to include a site specific monitoring and reporting program.

**C. REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE**

1. Deadline for Submission
  - a. Renewal of permits of existing dischargers covered under individual WDRs that meet the eligibility criteria in Part A and have submitted Reports of

Waste Discharge will consist of a letter of determination from the Executive Officer of coverage under this Order.

- b. New dischargers shall file a complete application to include all information identified in Items A1, A2 and as above at least 60 days before planned commencement of any discharge.

2. Forms for Report of Waste Discharge

- a. Dischargers shall use the appropriate Forms (Standard Form 200) or equivalent forms approved by the State Water Resources Control Board or the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Regional Board.
- b. The discharger, upon request, shall submit any additional information that the Executive Officer deems necessary to determine whether the discharge meets the criteria for coverage under this Order, and/or in prescribing an appropriate monitoring and reporting program.
- c. The Report of Waste Discharge shall be accompanied by the first annual fee (if appropriate) in accordance with the *Annual Fee Schedule* for a discharge. The check or money order shall be made payable to the "State Water Resources Control Board."

D. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. The discharge of wastes other than those which meet eligibility requirements in Part A of this Order is prohibited unless the discharger obtains coverage under another general permit or an individual site specific permit that regulates the discharge of such wastes.
2. The discharge of any radiological, chemical, or biological warfare agent or high level radiological waste is prohibited.
3. Creation of a pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Section 13050 of the California Water Code (CWC), is prohibited.
4. The surfacing as overflow of wastes from the treatment system at any time and at any location is prohibited.

5. The disposal of wastes in geologically unstable areas or so as to cause earth movement is prohibited.

E. DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS

1. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the pH of the receiving groundwater at the compliance point, downgradient outside the application area, beyond the range of 6.5 and 8.5.
2. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the mineral constituents of the receiving groundwater at the compliance point, downgradient outside the application area, in excess of applicable limits given in Attachment A. In the letter of determination, the Executive Officer shall indicate the groundwater limitations in Attachment A applicable to the particular discharge, and identify the compliance point(s) for the site.
3. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the concentrations of chemical constituents and radionuclides of the receiving groundwater designated for use as domestic or municipal supply at the compliance point, downgradient outside the application area, in excess of the Maximum Contaminate Levels (MCLs) specified in the following provisions of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations which are incorporated by reference into the Basin Plan: Table 64431-A of section 64431 (inorganic chemicals), Table 64431-B of section 64431 (fluoride), Table 64444-A of section 64444 (organic chemicals), and Table 4 of Section 64443 (radioactivity). This incorporation by reference is prospective including future changes to the incorporated provisions as the changes take effect.
4. Waste discharged shall not cause the concentration of coliform organisms over any seven days period greater than 1.1/100ml.
5. Waste discharged shall not contain salts, heavy metals, or organic pollutants at levels that would cause receiving groundwater at the compliance point, downgradient outside the application area, to exceed the water quality objectives for groundwater or groundwater that may be in hydraulic connection with surface waters designated for marine aquatic life or body contact recreation.

6. Waste discharged shall not cause the groundwater to contain concentrations of chemical substances or its by-products in amounts that adversely affect any designated beneficial use, outside the application area or treatment zone at the compliance point(s).
7. Waste discharged shall not cause the groundwater to contain residual taste or odor in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses, outside the application area or treatment zone at the compliance point(s).
8. Waste discharged shall not cause the groundwater to contain in amounts that cause nitrogen as nitrate-nitrogen plus nitrite-nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N} + \text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ ), 45 mg/L as Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ), 10 mg/L as nitrate-nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ), or 1 mg/L as nitrite-nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$ ), outside the application area or treatment zone at the compliance point(s).

F. PROVISIONS

1. The Executive Officer may require any discharger authorized under this Order to apply for and obtain individual WDRs with specific requirements. The Executive Officer may require any discharger authorized to discharge under this permit to apply for individual WDRs only if the discharger has been notified in writing that a permit application is required. This notice shall include a brief statement of the reasons for this decision, an application form, a statement setting a deadline for the discharger to file the application, and a statement that on the effective date of the individual requirements, the authority to discharge under this General WDRs are no longer applicable.
2. This Order includes the attached "Standard Provisions Applicable to Waste Discharge Requirements." (Attachment C) If there is any conflict between provisions stated herein before and the attached "Standard Provisions," those provisions stated herein shall prevail.
3. Adequate facility shall be provided to divert surface and storm water away from the application area and/or treatment system and areas where any pollutants are stored.
4. The application of materials or the re-injection of treated groundwater shall only be at a site owned or controlled by the discharger.

5. All work must be performed by or under the direction of a registered civil engineer, registered geologist, or certified engineering geologist. A statement is required in all technical reports that the registered professional in direct responsible charge actually supervised or personally conducted all the work associated with the project.
6. The discharge of wastes to or infiltration to a surface water system must be covered by separate WDRs under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
7. This Order does not alleviate the responsibility of discharger to obtain other necessary local, state, and federal permits to construct facilities necessary for compliance with this Order; nor does this Order prevent imposition of additional standards, requirements, or conditions by any other regulatory agency.
8. The Discharger shall notify Regional Board staff by telephone within 24 hours, followed by written notification within one week; in the event it is unable to comply with any of the conditions of this Order due to:
  - a) Breakdown of waste treatment equipment,
  - b) Accident caused by human error or negligence,
  - c) Other causes such as acts of nature, or
  - d) Site construction or development operations.
9. Any discharge authorized under this Order may request to be excluded from coverage of this Order by applying for an individual permit.
10. In accordance with Section 13263(e) of the California Water Code, these requirements are subject to periodic review and revision by the Regional Board within a five (5) year cycle.
11. In accordance with Water Code Section 13263(g), these requirements shall not create a vested right to continue to discharge. All discharges of waste into waters of the state are privileges, not rights, and are subject to rescission or modification.
12. A contingency plan shall be developed and kept on site by the discharger. The contingency plan shall detail an appropriate actions to be taken in order to protect

human health and environment in case of any spill or failure related to the operation of the treatment system.

G. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. The Executive Officer is hereby authorized to prescribe a Monitoring and Reporting Program for each authorized discharger. This program may include participation of the discharger in a regional monitoring program.
2. The discharger shall file with the Regional Board technical reports on self-monitoring work conducted according to the Monitoring and Reporting Program specified by the Executive Officer and submit other reports as requested by the Regional Board.
3. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information and data used to complete the Report of Waste Discharge and application for coverage under this Order for at least five years from the date of permit issuance. The retention period shall be extended during any unresolved litigation regarding the discharge or when requested by the Executive Officer.
4. The discharger shall maintain all sampling, measurement and analytical results, including the date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement; individual(s) who did the sampling or measurement; the date(s) analyses were done; analysts' names; and analytical techniques or methods used.
5. All sampling, sample preservation, and analyses must be conducted according to test procedures under title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, section 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this Order or by the Executive Officer.
6. All chemical, bacteriological, and bioassay analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the California Department of Health Services Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (SDHS-ELAP) or other state agency authorized to undertake such certification.
7. The discharger shall calibrate and maintain all monitoring instruments and equipment to insure accuracy of measurements, or shall insure that both activities will be conducted.

8. In reporting the monitoring data, the discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, constituents, and concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized to demonstrate compliance with waste discharge requirements. Laboratory analytical data from any soil testing and/or groundwater monitoring shall be reported in Electronic Deliverable Format in accordance with State AB 2886 requirements, if applicable.
9. For every item where the requirements are not met, the discharger shall submit a statement of the actions undertaken or proposed that will bring the discharge into full compliance with requirements at the earliest time and submit a timetable for correction.
10. The discharger shall file a report of any material change or proposed change in the character, location or volume of the discharge.
11. The discharger shall notify this Regional Board within 24 hours by telephone of any adverse condition resulting from the discharge, such notification shall be affirmed in writing within five working days.
12. Whenever wastes, associated with the discharge under this Order, are transported to a different disposal site, the following shall be reported in the monitoring report: type and quantity of wastes; name and address of the hauler (or method of transport if other than by hauling); and location of the final point(s) of disposal.
13. Each monitoring report must contain an affirmation in writing that:

"All analyses were conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by \_\_\_\_\_ and in accordance with current USEPA procedures or as specified in this Monitoring and Reporting Program."
14. Each report shall contain the following completed declaration:

"I declare 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 managed the system or those 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



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