

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. R5-2005-0136

SPECIAL ORDER
MODIFYING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2002-0052
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0080853
FOR
CHEVRON U.S.A., INC.
KERN RIVER OIL FIELD
KERN COUNTY

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

1. Chevron U.S.A., Inc., (hereafter Discharger) a Pennsylvania corporation, owns and operates an oil recovery and wastewater treatment and disposal system (hereafter Facility) that separates produced water from crude oil in the Kern River oil field. The Kern River oil field is in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, in Kern County near the City of Bakersfield. The Facility treats produced water (wastewater) prior to discharge to remove oil, grease, and inorganic sediments. Treatment consists of mechanical separation, sedimentation, and air floatation. The Facility is located in Sections 5 and 9, T29S, R28E, MDB&M.
2. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-2002-0052 (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0080853), adopted by the Regional Board on 26 April 2002, prescribes requirements for a maximum discharge of 50.2 million gallons per day (mgd) to the Beardsley Canal, a water of the United States. In instances when the Beardsley Canal is shut down and not available for discharge, Order No. R5-2002-0052 permits discharge of up to 15.2 mgd to the Carrier Canal, a water of the United States.
3. The Beardsley Canal is owned by the North Kern Water Storage District and operated by the City of Bakersfield. The Discharger received notice from the City of Bakersfield of its intent to terminate Agreement No. 05-006 "Agreement For Discharge of Oilfield Wastewater into the Beardsley-Lerdo Canal System" (Agreement). The Agreement is dated 12 January 2005. Upon termination of the Agreement, the Discharger will no longer be authorized by the City of Bakersfield to discharge wastewater to the Beardsley Canal.
4. The Discharger also maintains WDRs Order No. 95-031 (NPDES No. CA0082295) to discharge wastewater to the Cawelo Water District's Reservoir B. Discharge to Reservoir B has been the primary means of disposal, with discharge to the Beardsley Canal serving as a backup disposal option. Wastewater discharged to Reservoir B is conveyed from the Facility through a 30-inch diameter pipeline, 8.5 miles in length. The Discharger has reported that the pipeline has maintenance problems and cannot be relied upon as the sole means of disposal of the Discharger's wastewater.

5. Based on self-monitoring reports submitted by the Discharger, average daily flows (mgd) each month in the Beardsley Canal from January 2002 to December 2004 were as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>3-year average</u>
January	59.2	25.2	74.0	52.8
February	41.1	98.0	91.0	76.7
March	96.5	60.8	98.5	85.3
April	74.3	81.7	252.0	136.0
May	124.7	178.7	245.0	182.8
June	143.3	547.0	193.0	294.4
July	169.8	380.0	185.0	244.9
August	91.9	281.0	159.0	177.3
September	29.0	182.0	97.8	102.9
October	38.5	161.0	89.0	96.2
November	39.9	53.0	108.1	67.0
December	58.9	40.9	61.1	53.6

Total Flow per year in **millions of gallons**:

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>3-year average</u>
29,570	63,610	50,425	47,868

6. Based on data submitted by the Discharger, average daily flows (mgd) each month in the Carrier Canal from January 2002 to December 2004 were as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>3-year average</u>
January	94.1	129.7	59.3	94.4
February	179.9	108.2	91.7	126.6
March	173.7	192.2	232.9	199.6
April	221.5	184.1	225.9	210.5
May	197.0	227.0	204.7	209.6
June	352.9	311.5	347.3	337.3
July	300.4	324.3	281.9	302.2
August	284.4	270.9	227.8	261.0
September	138.2	199.9	173.6	170.6
October	106.6	122.4	51.6	93.5
November	53.2	61.0	29.5	47.9
December	97.0	92.6	94.0	94.5

Total Flow per year in **millions of gallons**:

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>3-year average</u>
66,861	67,856	61,672	65,463

7. Based on self-monitoring reports submitted by the Discharger, the average daily volume of wastewater discharged to Cawelo Reservoir B under Order No. 95-031 from January 2002 to December 2004 was as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average daily volume (mgd)</u>
2002	17.7
2003	16.0
2004	18.0

8. In instances when discharge to Cawelo Reservoir B was not possible, the Discharger has historically discharged its wastewater to the Beardsley Canal. As described in Finding 3, the City of Bakersfield will no longer allow discharge of wastewater to the Beardsley Canal. The Discharger proposes instead to discharge its wastewater to the Carrier Canal when discharge to Cawelo Reservoir B is not possible. Discharges to the Carrier Canal are currently limited to instances when the Beardsley Canal is shut down and limited to volumes not exceeding 15.2 mgd.
9. The Carrier Canal is jointly owned by the City of Bakersfield (51%) and the Kern Delta Water District (49%). The Carrier Canal is operated by the City of Bakersfield. On 16 June 2005, the Discharger submitted a draft agreement with the City of Bakersfield to allow the discharge of wastewater to the Carrier Canal. Order No. R5-2002-0052 prohibits discharge of wastewater to the Carrier Canal when the canal is being used as a water supply source for municipal use. The agreement between the Discharger and the City of Bakersfield will require that discharges to the Carrier Canal be coordinated such that wastewater does not commingle with water being used as a raw water supply source for municipal use.
10. In accordance with Provision E.4 of Order No. R5-2002-0052, the Discharger submitted an updated Management Plan (MP) to insure that discharges to the Beardsley and Carrier Canals do not exceed the assimilative capacities of the receiving waters or cause violations of receiving water limits. The MP was originally executed in December 1992 by the Discharger, Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. (Texaco), and ARCO Western Energy (ARCO) who all discharged produced water into the Beardsley Canal. Texaco discharged to the Beardsley Canal under WDRs Order No. R5-2002-0053 (NPDES No. CA0078352). The Discharger and Texaco completed a corporate merger in 2001 and combined corporate assets in 2003. The produced water treatment facilities and discharge points described in WDRs Order Nos. R5-2002-0052 and R5-2002-0053 are now both controlled by the same company, Chevron U.S.A. Inc. ARCO, which was authorized to discharge under WDRs Order No. 97-120 (NPDES No. CA0078280), ceased discharging to the Beardsley Canal in 1999. WDRs Order No. 97-120 was rescinded in September 2000. The MP no longer requires coordination between multiple corporate entities to ensure that assimilative capacity of the receiving water is not exceeded. Chevron U.S.A., Inc., is now the only corporate entity discharging produced water into the Beardsley or Carrier Canals.

11. The Carrier Canal has the assimilative capacity to receive the Discharger's wastewater without exceeding receiving water limitations and it is reasonable and appropriate to amend WDRs Order No. R5-2002-0052 conditionally to allow a discharge of up to 18 mgd to the Carrier Canal.
12. The action to modify WDRs Order No. R5-2002-0052 to increase the permitted daily maximum discharge to the Carrier Canal to 18 mgd is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 15301 (existing facility).
13. On 15 September 2005, after due notice to Chevron U.S.A., Inc., and all other affected persons, a public hearing was conducted and all evidence concerning modification of WDRs Order No. R5-2002-0052 was considered.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13263 and 13377, the requirements of WDRs Order No. R5-2002-0052 (NPDES Permit No. CA0080853) are superceded and supplemented as follows:

Prohibitions

1. Discharge Prohibition A.4 is void.
2. Discharge to Carrier Canal is prohibited when the canal is being used as a water supply source for municipal use.

Effluent Limitations

3. Effluent Limitation B.1 is void and discharge to the Beardsley Canal (Discharge 001) is prohibited.
4. Effluent Limitation B.2 is superceded with, "The maximum daily discharge to the Carrier Canal shall not exceed 18 mgd or the assimilative capacity of receiving water, whichever is less."

Receiving Water Limitations

5. Discharge to the Carrier Canal shall not cause any violations of receiving water limitations C.1 through C.13.

Monitoring and Reporting Program

6. Sampling Stations R-1, R-2, R-1', and R-2' associated with Discharge 001 into the Beardsley Canal and described in the "Receiving Water Monitoring" section of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) are void.

7. The sentence in the “Receiving Water Monitoring” section of the MRP which states, “In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions at Stations R-1 and R-2 and 250 feet upstream and downstream of the discharge point” is superceded with, “In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions at Stations R-3 and R-4 and 250 feet upstream and downstream of the discharge point.”

I, THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 16 September 2005.

THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer