

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. 96-137

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SUTTER COUNTY
ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
SUTTER COUNTY

1. Sutter County (hereafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge, dated 27 February 1995, and additional information dated 29 March 1995, 10 October 1995 and 19 December 1995 for its wastewater treatment and disposal facility. The property (Assessor's Parcel No. 29-070-03) is owned by the Discharger.
2. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 92-224, adopted by the Board on 4 December 1992, prescribes requirements for a discharge from its plant to evaporation ponds.
3. Order No. 92-224, is neither adequate nor consistent with current plans and policies of the Board.
4. The wastewater treatment facility is proposed to replace failing on-site septic tank/leachfield systems, and unregulated domestic waste discharges to agricultural drainage ditches.
5. The Discharger proposes to discharge a design flow of 29,300 gallons per day of domestic sewage using a STEP (Septic Tank-Effluent Pumping) system. Each home collects its wastewater in a septic tank. The effluent from each tank is pumped to a collection line and flows to the treatment facility.
6. The treatment facility consists of four recirculating sand filters and a 10,000 gallon dosing tank. Disposal is to three evaporation ponds.
7. The rural community of Robbins is an agricultural service community with 280 residents, 65 single-family residences, a multiple-family housing development with 9 units, a small mobile home park, a post office, an elementary school, a fire station and 13 other farm supply and equipment facilities, and facilities for processing rice and grain products.
8. The community is on reclaimed marsh land between the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, about 20 miles southwest of Yuba City. Low elevations, low soil permeability, and seepage from rice fields and farm water ditches contribute to very high ground water. Ground water levels in Robbins are seldom greater than six feet below the surface, and ground water is near the surface during winter months.

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
SUTTER COUNTY

-2-

9. The wastewater treatment/disposal facility is in Section 24, T12N, R2E, MDB&M, with surface water drainage to Sacramento Slough to the Sacramento River, as shown in Attachment A, which is attached hereto and part of the Order by reference.
10. The Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan, Third Edition, for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (hereafter Basin Plan), which contains water quality objectives for all waters of the Basin. These requirements implement the Basin Plan.
11. The beneficial uses of Sacramento Slough and the Sacramento River are municipal, and agricultural supply; recreation; esthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources.
12. The beneficial uses of underlying ground water are domestic, industrial, and agricultural supply.
13. Sutter County has certified a Negative Declaration, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines. The project as approved will not have a significant effect on water quality.
14. The Board has reviewed the EIR and concurs there are no significant impacts on water quality.
15. This discharge is exempt from the requirements of Title 23, California Code of Regulations (CCR) , Section 2510, et seq., (hereafter Chapter 15). The exemption, pursuant to Section 2511(b), is based on the following:
 - a. The Board is issuing waste discharge requirements, and
 - b. The discharge complies with the Basin Plan, and
 - c. The wastewater does not need to be managed according to 22 CCR, Division 4.5 Chapter 11, as a hazardous waste.
16. The Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
17. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 92-224 is rescinded and Sutter County, its agents, successors, and assigns, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
 ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
 SUTTER COUNTY

A. Discharge Prohibitions:

1. Discharge of wastes to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.
3. Discharge of waste classified as 'hazardous' or 'designated', as defined in Sections 2521(a) and 2522(a) of Chapter 15, is prohibited.

B. Discharge Specifications:

1. The monthly average dry weather discharge flow shall not exceed 30,000 gallons/day.
2. Objectionable odors originating at this facility shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the wastewater treatment and disposal areas.
3. As a means of discerning compliance with Discharge Specification No. 2, the dissolved oxygen content in the upper zone (1 foot) of wastewater in ponds shall not be less than 1.0 mg/l.
4. The treatment facilities shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.
5. The effluent from the treatment facility shall not exceed the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>
BOD ₅ ¹	mg/l	40	80
Settleable Solids	ml/l	0.2	0.5

¹ Five-day, 20° Celsius biochemical oxygen demand.

6. Ponds shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitos. In particular,
 - a. An erosion control program should assure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface.
 - b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
SUTTER COUNTY

-4-

- c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
7. Public contact with wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives.
8. Ponds shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow and design seasonal precipitation and ancillary inflow and infiltration during the nonirrigation season. Design seasonal precipitation shall be based on total annual precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns. Freeboard shall never be less than two feet (measured vertically to the lowest point of overflow).
9. On or about 1 October of each year, available pond storage capacity shall at least equal the volume necessary to comply with Discharge Specification 8.

C. Sludge Disposal:

1. Collected screenings, sludges, and other solids removed from liquid wastes shall be disposed of in a manner that is consistent with Chapter 15, Division 3, Title 23, CCR, and approved by the Executive Officer.
2. Any proposed change in sludge use or disposal practice from a previously approved practice shall be reported to the Executive Officer and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator at least 90 days in advance of the change.
3. Use and disposal of sludge shall comply with existing Federal and State laws and regulations, including permitting requirements and technical standards included in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 503.

If the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards are given the authority to implement regulations contained in 40 CFR 503, this Order may be reopened to incorporate appropriate time schedules and technical standards. The Discharger must comply with the standards and time schedules contained in 40 CFR 503 whether or not they have been incorporated into this Order.

4. The Discharger is encouraged to comply with the State Guidance Manual issued by the Department of Health Services titled *Manual of Good Practice for Landspreading of Sewage Sludge*.
5. By 31 October 1996, the Discharger shall submit a sludge disposal plan describing the annual volume of sludge generated by the plant and specifying the disposal practices.

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
SUTTER COUNTY

-5-

D. Ground Water Limitations:

The discharge shall not cause underlying ground water to:

1. Contain waste constituents in concentrations statistically greater than receiving water limits, where specified below, or background water quality where not specified. (For purposes of comparison, background water quality shall be determined when background monitoring provides sufficient data. Water quality determined in this manner establishes "water quality protection standards.")
2. Contain chemicals, heavy metals, or trace elements in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses or exceed maximum contaminant levels specified in 22 CCR, Division 4, Chapter 15.
3. Exceed a most probable number of total coliform organisms of 2.2/100 ml over any seven-day period.
4. Exceed concentrations of radionuclides specified in 22 CCR, Division 4, Chapter 15.
5. Contain taste or odor-producing substances in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.
6. Contain concentrations of chemical constituents in amounts that adversely affect agricultural use.

E. Provisions:

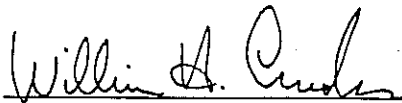
1. The Discharger shall comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 96-137, which is part of this Order, and any revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer.
2. The Discharger shall comply with the "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements", dated 1 March 1991, which are attached hereto and by reference a part of this Order. This attachment and its individual paragraphs are commonly referenced as "Standard Provision(s)."
3. The wastewater treatment plant shall be supervised and operated by persons processing certificates of appropriate grade, according to CCR, Title 23, Division 4, Chapter 14.

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
SUTTER COUNTY

-6-

4. In the event of any change in control or ownership of land or waste discharge facilities described herein, the Discharger shall notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to this office.
5. At least **90 days** prior to termination or expiration of any lease, contract, or agreement involving disposal or reclamation areas or off-site reuse of effluent, used to justify the capacity authorized herein and assure compliance with this Order, the Discharger shall notify the Board in writing of the situation and of what measures have been taken or are being taken to assure full compliance with this Order.
6. The Discharger shall use the best practicable cost-effective control technique currently available to limit mineralization to no more than a reasonable increment.
7. The Discharger must comply with all conditions of this Order, including timely submittal of technical and monitoring reports as directed by the Executive Officer. Violations may result in enforcement action, including Regional Board or court orders requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in revision or rescission of this Order.
8. Sutter County, as owner of the real property at which the discharge will occur, is responsible for ensuring compliance with these requirements.
9. A copy of this Order shall be kept at the discharge facility for reference by operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with its contents.
10. The Board will review this Order periodically and will revise requirements when necessary.

I, WILLIAM H. CROOKS, 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 3 May 1996.



WILLIAM H. CROOKS, Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 96-137

FOR
SUTTER COUNTY
ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
SUTTER COUNTY

Specific sample station locations shall be established under direction of the Board's staff and a description of the stations shall be attached to this Order.

Prior to construction, plans and specifications for ground water monitoring wells shall be submitted to Board staff for review and approval.

EFFLUENT MONITORING

Effluent samples shall be collected just prior to discharge to the disposal facility. Effluent samples should be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge. Samples collected from the outlet structure of ponds will be considered adequately composited. Time of collection of a grab sample shall be recorded. Effluent monitoring shall include at least the following:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
20°C BOD ₅	mg/l	Grab	Monthly
Settleable Matter	ml/l	Grab	Monthly
pH	pH Units	Grab	Monthly
Flow	mgd	Cumulative	Daily
Electrical Conductivity @25°C	μmhos/cm	Grab	Quarterly

POND MONITORING

Ponds shall be monitored for freeboard as scheduled below.

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Freeboard	Feet	Monthly

WATER SUPPLY MONITORING

A sampling station shall be established where a representative sample of the municipal water supply can be obtained. Water supply monitoring shall include at least the following:

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C	μmhos/cm	Quarterly

GROUND WATER MONITORING

Prior to construction, plans and specifications for ground water monitoring wells shall be submitted to Board staff for review and approval.

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Nitrates (as NO ₃)	mg/l	Quarterly
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C	μmhos/cm	Quarterly
Water Table Elevation	Feet (MSL) and Hundreths	Quarterly
Total Coliform Organisms	MPN/100 ml	Quarterly

REPORTING

In reporting the monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, the constituents, and the concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner to illustrate clearly the compliance with waste discharge requirements.

Monthly monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board by the **20th day** of the following month.

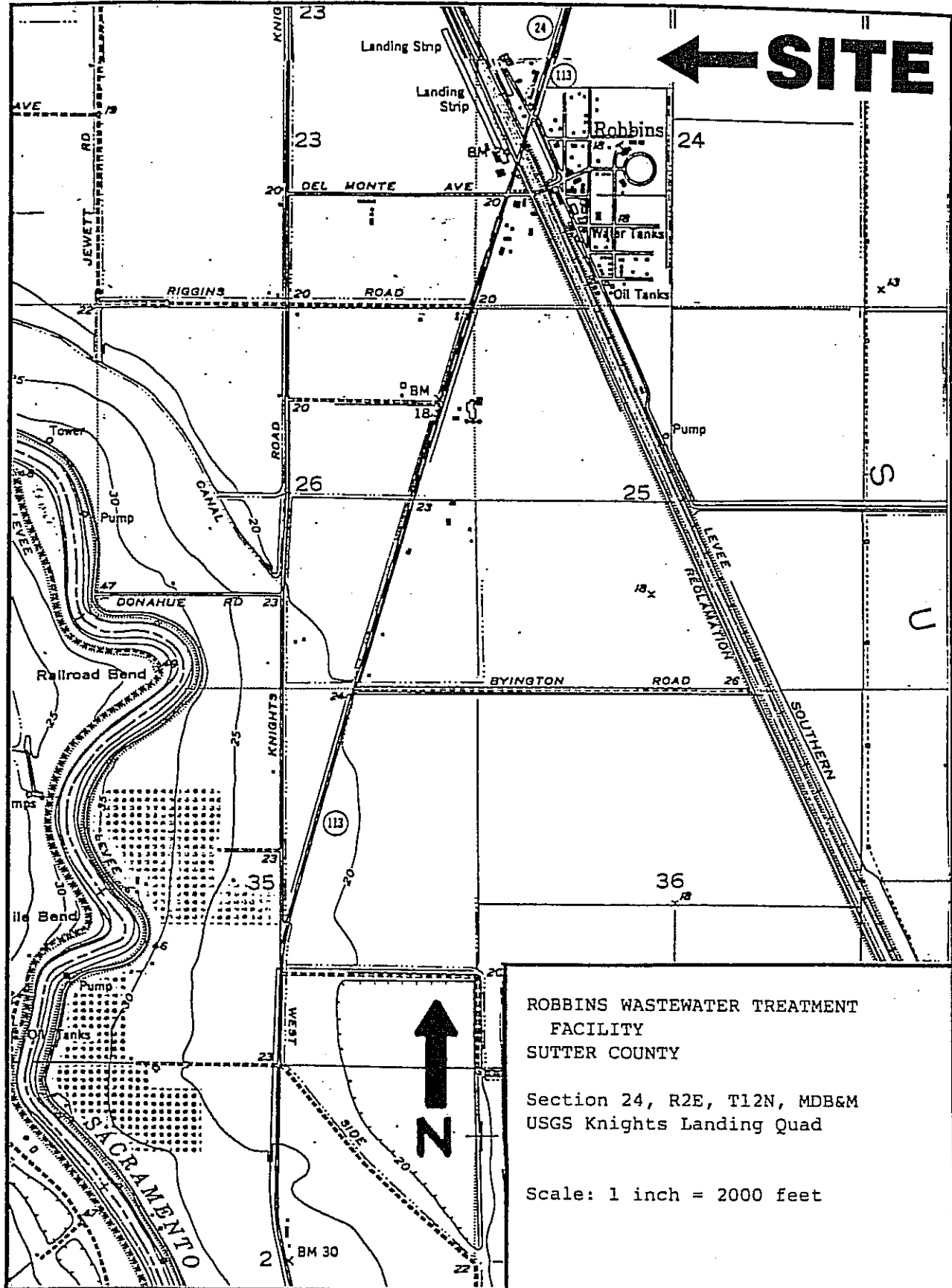
The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the locations specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported to the Board.

Upon written request of the Board, the Discharger shall submit a report to the Board by **30 January** of each year. The report shall contain both tabular and graphical summaries of the monitoring data obtained during the previous year. In addition, the Discharger shall discuss the compliance record and the corrective actions taken or planned which may be needed to bring the discharge into full compliance with the waste discharge requirements.

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program as of the date of this Order.

Ordered By: William H. Crooks
WILLIAM H. CROOKS, Executive Officer

3 May 1996
(Date)



INFORMATION SHEET

SUTTER COUNTY ROBBINS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY SUTTER COUNTY

The community of Robbins is an unincorporated area of roughly 126 acres and is approximately 20 miles southwest of Yuba City in Sutter County. The community of Robbins is built on reclaimed marsh between the Feather and Sacramento Rivers. Low elevation, low soil permeability, and seepage from rice fields and farm water ditches contribute to very high ground water elevations. Ground water levels in Robbins are seldom greater than six feet below the surface and ground water is very near the surface during the winter months.

During the installation of new water mains in Robbins, it was discovered that numerous pipes convey sewage directly to irrigation canals in the community. The Sutter County Health Department conducted a pollution study to assess the problem and provide recommendations for correction. A series of dye tests by the health department confirmed the disposal of sewage into irrigation canals. A building moratorium was placed on the town on 19 January 1990.

Additional findings of the health department report were that on-site sewage disposal systems (septic tank/leachfield systems) are often failing, that soil and ground water conditions make the area unsuitable for on-site systems, and that many lots are of insufficient size for on-site treatment of wastewater.

Sutter County proposes to build and operate a wastewater treatment and disposal system in the community. Collection will consist of a STEP (Septic Tank -Effluent Pumping) system. Each home will collect its wastewater in a septic tank. The effluent from each tank is pumped to a collection line and flows to the treatment facility. The treatment facility consists of four recirculating sand filters, and a 10,000 gallon dosing tank. Disposal is to three evaporation ponds.

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