

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2014
BARSTOW**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR TWO HISTORICAL LAND TREATMENT UNITS,
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, SAN
BERNARDINO COUNTY**

CHRONOLOGY:	July 17, 1997	Board Order No. 6-97-81, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for two land treatment units adopted.
	March 12, 2014	Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023, WDRs for Agricultural Treatment Units adopted.

ISSUE: Should the Water Board rescind waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for land treatment units that have not received waste discharges since 2001?

DISCUSSION: In 1997, The Water Board adopted Board Order No. 6-97-81 regulating discharges of extracted groundwater containing waste hexavalent chromium to two land treatment units near the PG&E Hinkley natural gas compressor station. The two land treatment units (LTUs) were agricultural fields located between Highway 58 and Santa Fe Road (the "Ranch LTU") and at the northwest corner of Summerset Road and Community Boulevard (the "East LTU"). The fields have not received waste discharges since 2001, when the extraction and irrigation systems were shut off.

In March 2014, the Water Board adopted Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023 to regulate waste discharges on up to 500 acres of agricultural treatment units (ATUs, formerly called LTUs) in the Hinkley area. The footprints of the former East and Ranch LTUs are within the area now proposed for new ATUs. The new ATU WDRs contain, in part, stringent monitoring, reporting and mitigation measure implementation requirements outlined in the 2013 Environmental Impact Report adopted by the Water Board for the comprehensive cleanup of chromium in groundwater. When Board Order No.

R6V-2014-0023 was considered, staff failed to include a finding to rescind WDRs 6-97-81. Therefore, this Board Order is proposed to correct that administrative oversight. It is in the public interest to rescind Board Order No. 6-97-81, since ATU discharges will be appropriately regulated under Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023.

No comments regarding the Proposed Rescission Order were received during the 30-day comment period.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Adopt the Rescission Order as proposed.

ENCLOSURE	ITEM	BATES NUMBER
1	Proposed Rescission Order	1-5

ENCLOSURE 1

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**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2014-PROP

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR**

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
TWO HISTORICAL LAND TREATMENT UNITS
BOARD ORDER NO. 6-97-81
WDID 6B369107001**

San Bernardino County

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

1. Discharger and Facility Description

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and operates a natural gas compressor station located southeast of the town of Hinkley in San Bernardino county. For the purpose of this Order, PG&E is referred to as the Discharger. On April 30, 1997 the Discharger submitted a complete revised Report of Waste Discharge for two land treatment units.

Land treatment units (LTUs) are agricultural fields that receive and treat extracted groundwater containing hexavalent chromium from historical waste discharges from PG&E's natural gas compressor station. The soluble, toxic hexavalent form of chromium is converted to the insoluble, less toxic trivalent form during application of extracted groundwater for alfalfa irrigation at the LTUs. The LTU located between Highway 58 and Santa Fe Road is referred to as the "Ranch LTU". The LTU located at the northwest corner of Summerset Road and Community Boulevard is referred to as the "East LTU." For the purpose of this Order, both LTUs are referred to as the "Facility."

2. Permit History

The Water Board previously adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the East LTU under Board Order No. 6-91-917, which was adopted on September 12, 1991. An amendment to Board Order No. 6-91-917 was adopted for the East LTU on August 12, 1993. WDRs 6-97-81 were adopted on July 17, 1997 to include requirements for both the Ranch and East LTUs, and rescinding the previous WDRs regulating the only East LTU.

PG&E discontinued the discharges (i.e., shut off the extraction and irrigation systems) regulated by Board Order No. 6-97-81 at the Facility in June 2001 but continued the monitoring and reporting program. Agricultural treatment of hexavalent chromium in groundwater ceased until August 2004 following the Water Board adoption of Board Order No. R6V-2004-0034, WDRs for land treatment units at the Desert View Dairy, located north of the Facility.

3. Reason for Action

On March 12, 2014, the Water Board adopted Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023, establishing new WDRs for all existing and new discharges related to land treatment of waste hexavalent chromium in groundwater. Establishing new WDRs allowed the Water Board to impose the stringent monitoring, reporting and mitigation measure implementation requirements outlined in the 2013 Environmental Impact Report adopted by the Water Board for the comprehensive cleanup of chromium in groundwater.

In its Report of Waste Discharge and addenda submitted during April through July 2014 for coverage under the new WDRs, the Discharger has proposed to construct or expand agricultural treatment units (ATUs, formerly called LTUs) at the locations of the former Ranch and East LTUs. Such discharges will now be subject to the requirements of Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023.

Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023 formally rescinded WDRs R6V-2004-0034 (and its amendments), since the Desert View Dairy LTU will also be regulated under the new WDRs, but neglected to rescind Board Order No. 6-97-81. Therefore, this Board Order is proposed to rectify that administrative oversight.

4. Conclusion

It is in the public interest to rescind Board Order No. 6-97-81, since ATU discharges will continue to be appropriately regulated under Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023.

5. California Environmental Quality Act

Rescission of the WDRs is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with section 15321, title 14, California Code of Regulations.

6. Notification of Interested Parties

The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested parties of its intent to rescind Board Order No. 6-97-81. Opportunity to comment was provided starting in July 2014 using U.S. mail, e-mail, and internet posting.

7. Public Meeting

The Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the rescission of Board Order No. 6-97-81.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT pursuant to Water Code sections 13260 and 13263, Board Order No. 6-97-81 is hereby rescinded.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, 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, Lahontan Region, on September 10, 2014.

PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER