CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R7-2025-0006

ORDER INFORMATION

Order Type(s):	Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
Status:	ADOPTED
Program:	Non-15 Discharges to Land
Discharger(s):	Palm Springs Unified School District
Facility:	Rancho Mirage High School Cooling Towers
Address:	31001 Rattler Road, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
County:	Riverside County
APN(s):	670-220-001, 670-230-002
GeoTracker ID:	WDR100032544
WDID:	7A332238001
Prior Order(s):	WDRs Order R7-2012-0001

CERTIFICATION

I, Michael Placencia, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on March 4, 2025.

Original Signed By
MICHAEL PLACENCIA
Executive Officer

GeoTracker ID: WDR100032544
WDID: 7A332238001

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GLOSSARY

Antidegradation Policy .....Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California, State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16

Basin Plan.....Water Quality Control Plan for Colorado River Basin Region (inclusive of all amendments)

bgs.....Below Ground Surface

BOD5 .....Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand at 20°C

BPTC .....Best Practicable Treatment and Control

CEQA.....California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.)

CEQA Guidelines.....Regulations for Implementation of CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.)

DTSC .....California Department of Toxic Substances Control

DWR.....California Department of Water Resources

gpd.....Gallons per Day

MCL[s] .....Maximum Contaminant Level[s] for Drinking Water under Title 22

mg/L.....Milligrams per Liter

MGD.....Millions of Gallons per Day

MRP .....Monitoring and Reporting Program

NPDES.....National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

ROWD.....Report of Waste Discharge

Title 22.....California Code of Regulations, Title 22

GLOSSARY

Title 23.....California Code of Regulations, Title 23

Title 27.....California Code of Regulations, Title 27

USEPA.....United States Environmental Protection Agency

WDRs.....Waste Discharge Requirements

WQO[s].....Water Quality Objective[s]

(findings begin on next page)

FINDINGS

The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Basin Water Board) hereby finds as follows:

Introduction

1. This Order prescribes waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for the Palm Springs Unified School District (Discharger), which owns and operates the Rancho Mirage High School Cooling Towers (Facility or RMHS) in Riverside County.

2. On September 17, 2024, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for updated WDRs for the Facility.

3. The Facility is located in Rancho Mirage in Riverside County, Section 14, Township 4 South, Range 5 East, Mount San Bernardino Base and Meridian. RMHS is located on Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 670-220-001 and 670-230-002. The Facility's location is also depicted on the maps in **Attachment B**.

4. Regulatory coverage under this Order is strictly limited in scope to those waste discharges, activities and processes described and expressly authorized herein.

5. The Discharger is prohibited from initiating discharge of new wastes (i.e., other than those described herein), or making material changes to the character, volume and timing of waste discharges authorized herein, without filing a new ROWD per Water Code section 13260. (Wat. Code, § 13264, subd. (a).) Failure to file a new ROWD before initiating such material changes shall constitute an independent violation of this Order.

6. This Order is also strictly limited in applicability to those individuals and/or entities specifically designated above as "Discharger," subject only to the discretion to designate or substitute new parties in accordance with this Order.

Facility

7. Rancho Mirage High School consists of comprehensive high school facilities including an administration building, cafeteria, media center, gymnasium, auditorium, football stadium, academic buildings, baseball fields, soccer fields, and parking.

8. The cooling tower system consists of three evaporative cooling towers, each with a capacity of 1,949 gallons. The cooling towers provide cooling for eight buildings and is primarily used during the high temperature months. During peak season, the Facility may discharge up to 19,584 gallons per day (gpd) of cooling tower blowdown at a peak flow. Blowdown is discharged to two drywells, each having a holding capacity of 1,320 gallons (2,640 gallons combined). Percolation at the drywells is estimated to be 500 gpd. During high temperature months, cooling tower discharge above the infiltration and storage capacity of the dry wells is conveyed through the onsite stormwater collection system to a 100-foot long, five-foot diameter perforated pipe with a storage capacity of 14,726 gallons. The perforated pipe is located in an athletic field eight feet below ground surface. The location of the two drywells is shown in Figure 2 of **Attachment B**.

9. At the estimated rate of infiltration, the drywells and perforated pipe[1] have a disposal capacity of 17,870 gpd. In the event that the cooling tower discharge exceeds 17,870 gpd, the balance of 1,718 gallons of blowdown would discharge through the on-site stormwater collection system to an outfall onto an athletic field where the discharge infiltrates into the soil. The athletic field is designed to drain to an onsite stormwater retention basin keeping the discharge from flowing offsite.

10. Under normal operating conditions, on-site and off-site stormwater flows are conveyed to the onsite stormwater retention basin where it is stored and later discharged into an underground storm drain system to the 100-foot long, five-foot diameter perforated pipe. For purposes of this Order, the two drywells, the perforated pipe, and the athletic field are collectively referred to as the "**Designated Disposal Area**." Cooling tower blowdown has the potential to comingle with stormwater, but any discharges to either the perforated pipe or the outfall at the athletic field remain on-site.

11. A water supply analysis performed in December 2010 showed the conductivity to be 430 microsiemens per centimeter (µS/cm). Cooling tower water is circulated 2 ½ cycles until the conductivity reaches 1075 µS/cm, which then automatically triggers a blowdown (discharge).

[1] The Discharger's Report of Waste Discharge does not provide an infiltration rate for the five-foot diameter, 100-foot perforated pipe.

12. Two chemical additives, listed in the table below, are used in regular maintenance and operation of the cooling towers.

Table 1. Cooling Tower Chemical Additives.

Product Name	Active Ingredient	Intended Use	Concentration
3D TRASTAR 3DT265	2-phosphono-1,2,4-butanetricarboxylic acid, sodium salt	Corrosion/ Scale Inhibitor	100 ppm
STABREX ST70	Sodium Hypochlorite/ Sodium Bromide	Algaecide/ Microbicide	0.06 ppm

13. Between January 19, 2012, and November 2022, the Discharger consistently failed to submit timely monthly, quarterly, and annual monitoring reports. The Discharger and the Regional Water Board engaged in settlement negotiations. On October 31, 2024, the Regional Water Board issued Stipulated Order R7-2024-0026, which assesses a penalty of $78,777.87.

Proposed Changes at Facility

14. No changes or expansions to the Facility are anticipated.

15. Table 2 summarizes the Facility's effluent, as reported in the Discharger's SMRs from February 2023 through November 2024. The TDS concentrations and pH values reported have at times exceeded the effluent limitations prescribed in Order R7-2012-0001.

Table 2. Effluent Characterization.

Constituent	Units	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Flow	gpd	471	2,005	0.6
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	788	2,993	184

Constituent	Units	Average	Maximum	Minimum
pH	Std. Units	8.7	10	5.2

General Site Conditions

16. The Facility is situated within the Indio Subbasin (Whitewater River) of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. The site elevation is approximately 300 to 335 feet above sea level. The site slopes are relatively flat, sloping gently down to the east-northeast.

17. Stormwater on-site is intercepted and conveyed to appropriate retention areas to prevent flooding from occurring. Stormwater that originates off-site and flows across the project site is collected in the on-site drainage and retention system. The on-site and off-site stormwater conveyed to the retention basin are stored, and then discharged into an underground storm drain system.

18. Soil borings indicate that area soils are predominately comprised of sand.

19. The site is located in a seismically active desert region. The dominant structural feature in the region is the San Andreas transform system. The San Andreas Fault Zone is composed of a series of fault zones of which the Garnet Hill and south branch of the San Andreas are located in the immediate vicinity to the north of the site.

20. A geologic investigation was conducted and summarized in a report dated November 10, 2005, titled *Geologic Hazard Review, Palm Springs Unified School District, Proposed High School No. 4, APN's 670-220-001 and 670-230-002, Northeast of Ramon Road and Da Vall Drive, Rancho Mirage, California* (Geologic Report). The site is subject to strong ground shaking due to potential fault movements along the San Andreas, Burnt Mountain, and Eureka Peak faults.

21. Based on data from the nearest weather station (KCARANCH696), the Facility has an annual average precipitation of 5.6 inches, and a mean evapotranspiration of 71.4 inches per year.

22. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Precipitation Frequency Atlas 14, Vol. 6 (rev. 2014), the 100-year 24-hour rainfall event is estimated to result in 5.04 inches of precipitation.[2]

23. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (https://msc.fema.gov/portal), the Facility is located about ½ mile southwest of a 100-year floodplain.

24. Land uses in the vicinity include residential, industrial, and recreational uses.

25. Domestic water is supplied by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD). Water supply to the community has shown a TDS concentration ranging from 230 to 500 mg/L with an average of 350 mg/L.

26. There are no water supply wells in the vicinity of the disposal areas.

Groundwater and Subsurface Conditions

27. The Geologic Report includes data collected from 24 borings, drilled 21.5 to 51.5 feet below ground surface (bgs), and 30 test pits excavated with a backhoe. The report indicates the following:

    a. Site soils consist of dune sands over alluvium to the depths explored;

    b. Subsurface soils at the site consisted primarily of alternating layers of dry, loose to very dense poorly graded sands and silty sands; and

    c. No groundwater was encountered in the borings.

28. Results of the soils percolation testing indicate a percolation design criterion of 1.1 cm per hour.

29. CVWD's Water Resources Division reports a well in T4S, R5E, Section 14, Mount San Bernardino Base and Meridian, which covers the campus area, had a groundwater elevation of 230.7 feet bgs (113.7 feet above mean sea level) in 2005.

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[2] Source: NOAA Precipitation Frequency Data Server (https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds)

Regulatory Considerations

Waste Discharge Permitting Authority

30. This Order is issued pursuant to Water Code section 13263, subdivision (a), which provides that "[t]he regional board, after any necessary hearing, shall prescribe requirements as to the nature of any proposed discharge, existing discharge, or material change in an existing discharge…, with relation to the conditions existing in the disposal area or receiving waters upon, or into which, the discharge is made or proposed."

31. The statute further provides that WDRs "shall implement … water quality control plans, and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water quality objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance,[3] and the provisions of Section 13241." (Wat. Code, § 13263, subd. (a).)

32. The ability to discharge wastewater is a privilege, not a right. The adoption of this Order shall not be construed as establishing a vested right in the continuance of discharge activities. (Wat. Code, § 13263, subd. (g).)

33. For the purposes of determining waste discharge fees under California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2200, the Facility has a threat-complexity rating of **3-B**.

    a. Threat Category "3" reflects waste discharges that could either degrade water quality without violating water quality objectives, or cause beneficial use impairments that are minor relative to Categories 1 and 2.

    b. Complexity Category "B" reflects any discharger not included in Category A, with either (1) physical, chemical or biological treatment systems

[3] "Nuisance" is defined by statute as a condition that: "(1) Is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property[;] [¶] (2) Affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons…[;] [and] [¶] (3) Occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes." (Wat. Code, § 13050, subd. (m).)

(except for septic systems with subsurface disposal), or (2) any Class II or Class III WMUs.

Basin Plan Implementation

34. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses of groundwater and surface water within the region, establishes numeric and narrative water quality objectives (WQOs) protective of such uses, and incorporates applicable State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) plans and policies.

35. This Order prescribes WDRs for discharges to groundwater within the Coachella Valley Planning Area, Whitewater Hydrologic Unit, Coachella Subunit (719.40), Indio Subbasin, for which the designated beneficial uses of groundwater are as follows:

    a. Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN);

    b. Agricultural Supply (AGR); and

    c. Industrial Service Supply (IND).

36. The Basin Plan establishes the following WQOs for MUN-designated groundwater:

    a. Tastes and Odors (Narrative): Groundwater shall not contain taste or odor-producing substances that adversely affect beneficial uses as a result of human activity (Ch. 3, § IV.A);

    b. Coliform Bacteria (Numeric): Groundwater shall not contain coliform organisms in exceedance of the limits specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22), section 64426.1 (Ch. 3, § IV.B); and

    c. Chemical Constituents (Numeric): Groundwater shall not contain organic and inorganic chemical constituents in concentrations exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established for drinking water per Title 22, sections 64431, 64444 and 64678 (Ch. 3, § IV.C).

37. Although they are not universally incorporated into the Basin Plan as numeric WQOs for MUN-designated groundwater, the Secondary MCLs, established for drinking water per Title 22, section 64449, are appropriate in most cases for use

as site-specific numeric limits supporting the narrative WQO for groundwater tastes and odors.

38. With respect to the narrative WQO for chemical constituents, specifically the objective for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), the Title 22 Secondary MCL specifies a recommended limit of 500 mg/L, and an upper limit of 1,000 mg/L.[4] Generally, the numeric limit should be within this range, with a preference towards the lower recommended limit.

Antidegradation Policy

39. The Basin Plan incorporates the State Water Board's *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*, Resolution 68-16 (Antidegradation Policy), which prohibits the Colorado River Basin Water Board from authorizing discharges that will result in the degradation of "high quality waters," unless it is demonstrated that any such degradation in water quality:

    a. Will not unreasonably affect beneficial uses,[5] or otherwise result in water quality less than that prescribed in applicable plans and policies (e.g., violation of WQOs);

    b. Will be mitigated through best practicable treatment and control (BPTC);

    c. Is consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state of California.

40. Based on experiences with similar facilities, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff have identified the following constituents with the potential to degrade groundwater in the Facility's effluent, each of which is discussed below:

    a. TDS (Salinity), and

[4] Salinity may alternatively be expressed in terms of microsiemens per centimeter (µS/cm) of Electrical Conductivity (EC). As a Secondary MCL, Title 22 specifies a recommended limit of 900 µS/cm, and an upper limit of 1,600 µS/cm.

[5] The Water Code defines "Pollution" in relevant part as the "alteration of the quality of the waters of the state by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects … [¶] [t]he waters for beneficial uses." (Wat. Code, § 13050, subd. (l)(1)(A).)

b. Dissolved Metals

41. TDS (Salinity): This Order adopts a site-specific numeric limit of 650 mg/L in support of the narrative WQO for tastes and odors with respect to TDS. The Discharger's SMRs from February 2023 through October 2024 show TDS concentrations ranging from 184 mg/L to 2,993 mg/L, with an average of 788 mg/L. The Discharger reported TDS concentrations of the supply water ranged from 232 mg/L to 461 mg/L, with an average of 348 mg/L. This Order imposes an effluent limit of 650 mg/L as determined per a rolling 12-month average. This effluent limit was selected using a 300 mg/L increase in salinity (TDS) over the existing source water. The limit is also proximate to the blowdown trigger specified by the Discharger in a Quality Assurance Project Plan[6].

42. Dissolved Metals: The cooling tower system has the potential to concentrate dissolved metals through the evaporative process. Between February 2023 through October 2024, the Facility's effluent show minor concentrations of barium, copper, molybdenum, and vanadium. Primary MCLs for barium and copper are 1.0 mg/L. The effluent monitoring for barium and copper show a maximum concentration of 0.027 mg/L and 0.28 mg/L, respectively. There are no MCLs for molybdenum and vanadium. Negligible concentrations of molybdenum are present in drinking water and food. Effluent monitoring for molybdenum show a maximum concentration of 0.012 mg/L. In a SMR dated May 15, 2024, effluent monitoring revealed a concentration of 0.016 mg/L of vanadium. This Order requires continued monitoring of total metals to ensure that no degradation is occurring.

43. The Discharger's Quality Assurance Project Plan represents the best practicable treatment and control (BPTC) of the wastewater generated at the Facility. Moreover, the discharge has been and will continue to be confined to a reasonable area (drywells), and is not anticipated to result in a condition of pollution or nuisance.

44. Notwithstanding implementation of BPTC, a degree of groundwater quality degradation will occur as a result of the Facility's operation—specifically in terms of TDS. However, such degradation is consistent with the maximum benefit to

[6] In a Quality Assurance Project Plan dated February 9, 2012, the Discharger stated the cooling towers trigger a blowdown for conductivity values 1075 µS/cm and above. If a cycle results below the 1075 µS/cm, no blowdown is triggered and no water is discharged.

the people of the state of California. The Discharger provides education for the young people in the community. The community infrastructure, educational facility, is of maximum benefit to the people of the state and provides sufficient justification for allowing the limited groundwater degradation that may occur as a result of the permitted discharges.

45. Based on the foregoing considerations, the wastewater discharges authorized under this Order are consistent with the Antidegradation Policy.

Stormwater

46. On July 1, 2015, the State Water Board adopted Water Quality Order 2014-0057-DWQ (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CAS000001), *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities* (Industrial General Permit). The Facility is not identified in Order 2014-0057-DWQ as an industrial category requiring enrollment in the Industrial General Permit. Therefore, the discharge is not subject to the federal CWA's stormwater program requirements.

Additional Water Quality Considerations

47. This Order, which prescribes WDRs in accordance with the Basin Plan, for wastewater that does not need to be managed as "hazardous waste," is exempt from the prescriptive requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27), section 20005 et seq. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 20090.)

48. Water Code section 106.3, subdivision (a) provides that it is "the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." Although subdivision (a) does not apply directly to the prescribing of WDRs (see Wat. Code, § 106.3, subd. (b)), this Order nevertheless furthers the stated policy by requiring that the receiving groundwater comply with WQOs protective of MUN beneficial uses.

49. Water Code section 13149.2, subdivision (d) requires that the Colorado River Basin Water Board, "[w]hen issuing … individual waste discharge requirements

… that regulate activity or a facility that may impact a disadvantaged[7] or tribal community,[8] and that includes a time schedule in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 13263 for achieving an applicable water quality objective, an alternative compliance path that allows time to come into compliance with water quality objectives, or a water quality variance…," must include finding(s) regarding "potential environmental justice,[9] tribal impact, and racial equity considerations" that are relevant to the permitting action. This Order does not incorporate a time schedule for compliance with applicable WQOs, or any of the other provisions described in Water Code section 13149.2, subdivision (d). Accordingly, no additional findings are necessary under section 13149.2.

California Environmental Quality Act

50. The adoption of this Order is categorically exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), as the Facility is "an existing facility" with negligible or no expansions in use. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, 15301.)

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

51. This Order is also issued pursuant to Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), which provides that the Colorado River Basin Water Board may require that persons discharging waste within the region "shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports…," provided that the

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[7] For the purposes of this requirement, a "disadvantaged community" is defined as a "community in which the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income level." (Wat. Code, § 13149.2, subd. (f)(1).)

[8] For the purposes of this requirement, a "tribal community" is defined as a "community within a federally recognized California Native American tribe or nonfederally recognized Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004." (Wat. Code, § 13149.2, subd. (f)(2).)

[9] Water Code section 13149.2 incorporates the general definition of "environmental justice" in Public Resources Code section 30107.3, subdivision (a): "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." (Wat. Code, § 13149.2, subd. (f).)

discharger's burdens of compliance, including costs, is reasonable relative to the need for the submittals and the benefits to be obtained.

52. The various notifications, technical reports and monitoring program reports required under this Order, including those contained within the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in **Attachment A**, are necessary to ensure compliance with the WDRs.

53. In accordance with section 13267, the burdens of monitoring and reporting imposed on the Discharger under this Order and the separately adopted MRP, are reasonable relative to the need for compliance described above.

54. The Executive Officer may issue a Revised MRP as a standalone order, pursuant to his/her delegated authority under Water Code section 13223 and Colorado River Basin Water Board Resolution R7-2022-0036. Upon issuance, the Revised MRP shall supersede the provisions of **Attachment A**.

Scope of Order

55. This Order, which prescribes WDRs for the discharge of nonhazardous wastewater to land in accordance with the Basin Plan, is exempt from the prescriptive standards for solid waste disposal set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 27 (Title 27), section 20005 et seq. (Title 27, § 20090, subd. (b).)

56. Nothing in this Order shall be construed as preempting or superseding otherwise applicable regulatory requirements issued by local, state, or federal agencies.

Public Participation

57. In developing these WDRs, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff have complied with Water Code section 189.7, subdivision (a)(1), which requires "equitable, culturally relevant community outreach to promote meaningful civil engagement from potentially impacted communities of proposed discharges of waste that may have disproportionate impacts on water quality in disadvantaged communities or tribal communities…."

58. The Dischargers and other interested public agencies and persons were notified of the Board's intent to prescribe the WDRs in this Order, and provided an

opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations at a public hearing. (Wat. Code, § 13167.5.)

59. The Colorado River Basin Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all timely comments pertaining to this discharge.

REQUIREMENTS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, that Order R7-2012-0001 is rescinded (except for enforcement purposes), and that the Discharger shall comply with the following requirements.

A. Prohibitions

1. Waste classified as “hazardous,” as defined in Title 27, section 20164, or constituting “designated waste,” as defined in Water Code section 13173, shall not be discharged at the Facility.

2. The storage, treatment, or disposal of waste at the Facility shall not cause conditions constituting “contamination,” “pollution,” or a “nuisance,” as defined per subdivisions (k), (l), and (m) of Water Code section 13050.

3. Waste shall not be discharged at a location other than the Designated Disposal Area specified in Finding 8, or in a manner other than as described in the findings generally.

4. Wastewater shall not be discharged from the Facility into surface waters or surface drainage courses.

5. The discharge of wastewater to land not controlled by the Discharger, or not authorized for such use, is prohibited.

6. Objectionable odors, originating from the Facility and associated with the generation, treatment, storage, or disposal of waste, shall not be perceivable beyond the boundaries of the Facility or areas not owned/controlled by the Discharger.

7. Surfacing or ponding of wastewater outside of the designated disposal locations is prohibited.

B. Discharge Specifications

1. Wastewater shall be discharged to the Designated Disposal Area, as described in Finding 8.

2. All Facility systems and equipment shall be operated to optimize the quality of the effluent.

3. All conveyance, treatment, storage, and disposal systems shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.

4. Public contact with wastewater at the Facility shall be prevented through such means as fences, signs, or acceptable alternatives.

5. Wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal ponds or structures shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow, design seasonal precipitation, and ancillary inflow and infiltration during the winter while ensuring compliance with all requirements of this Order. 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.

6. The Discharger shall monitor sludge accumulation in the drywells annually beginning in 2025, and shall periodically remove sludge as necessary to maintain adequate storage and disposal capacity. Specifically, if the estimated volume of sludge in the reservoir exceeds five percent of the permitted reservoir capacity, the Discharger shall complete sludge cleanout within 6 months after the date of the estimate.

C. Effluent Limitations

The Facility's wastewater (effluent) shall comply with the Effluent Limitations below in Table 3.

Table 3. Effluent Limitations.

Parameter	Units	Limitation	Determination
Average Daily Flow	gpd	19,600	30-day average
pH	Std. Units	≥ 6.00 ≤ 9.00	Instantaneous
TDS	mg/L	650	12-month rolling average

D. Groundwater Limitations

Discharge of wastewater from the Facility shall not cause groundwater to:

1. Exceed applicable WQOs;
2. Acquire taste, odor, toxicity, or color that create nuisance conditions;
3. Impair beneficial uses; or
4. Contain constituents or organisms in excess of applicable Title 22 MCLs (see, e.g., Title 22, § 64426.1 [bacteriological constituents], § 64431 [inorganics], § 64444 [organics], § 64678 [lead, copper]).

E. Solids Disposal Requirements[10]

1. Sludge and Solid Waste shall be removed from cooling towers and drywells as needed to ensure optimal plant operation.

2. Residual sludge, biosolids, and solid waste shall be permanently disposed offsite at a landfill permitted under Title 27, section 20000 et seq.

F. Monitoring, Reporting and Notification Requirements

1. **Compliance with Monitoring and Reporting Program.** The Discharger shall comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in Attachment A, or in the event of a subsequently issued Revised MRP, the provisions of that Revised MRP, which shall supersede the provisions of Attachment A as the operative MRP.

2. **Noncompliance Notifications.** The Discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. Information shall be provided orally to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) within 24 hours of when the Discharger becomes aware of the incident. If noncompliance occurs outside of business hours, the Discharger shall leave a message on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's office voicemail.

   A written report shall also be provided within five business days of the time the Discharger becomes aware of the incident. The written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance, the anticipated time to achieve full compliance, and the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. A final certified report must be submitted through GeoTracker. Additional information may be added to the certified report, in the form of an attachment, at any time.

   All other forms of noncompliance shall be reported in the next scheduled

[10] For the purposes of this section: "sludge" means the solid, semisolid, and liquid residues removed from the cooling towers and dry wells that result from precipitated or settled suspended solids.

Self-Monitoring Report (SMR), or earlier if requested by the Executive Officer.

3. **General Monitoring Requirements.**

   a. **Testing and Analytical Methods.** The collection, preservation, and holding times of all samples shall be performed in accordance with USEPA-approved procedures. Except as otherwise specified in the MRP or as approved in writing by the Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest editions of either of the USEPA's *Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act* (40 C.F.R. part 136); or *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods Compendium* (SW-846).

   b. **Laboratory Certification.** Except as otherwise approved in writing by the Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).

   c. **Representative Sampling.** All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The time, date, and location of each grab sample shall be recorded on the chain of custody form for the sample. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved in writing by Colorado River Basin Water Board staff.

   d. **Instrumentation and Calibration.** All monitoring instruments and devices used by the Discharger shall be properly maintained and calibrated to ensure their continued accuracy. Any flow measurement devices shall be calibrated at least once per year to ensure continued accuracy of the devices. In the event that continuous monitoring equipment is out of service for a period greater than 24 hours, the Discharger shall obtain representative grab samples each day the equipment is out of service. The Discharger shall correct the cause(s) of failure of the continuous monitoring equipment as soon as practicable. The Discharger shall report the period(s) during which the equipment was out of service and if the problem has not been corrected, shall identify the steps

which the Discharger is taking or proposes to take to bring the equipment back into service and the schedule for these actions.

e. **Field Test Instruments.** Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided:

i. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;

ii. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;

iii. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and

iv. Field calibration reports are submitted.

4. **General Reporting Requirements.** The Discharger shall comply with the following General Reporting Requirements:

a. **Electronic Submittal.** All materials shall be submitted electronically via the GeoTracker Database (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov).[11] After uploading, Dischargers shall notify Colorado River Basin Water Board staff via email to RB7_WDRs_paperless@waterboards.ca.gov, or another address specified by staff. The following information shall be included in the body of the email:

Attention:	Land Disposal Unit
Report Title:	[Report Title]
Upload ID:	[Number]
Facility:	Rancho Mirage High School Cooling Towers
County:	Riverside County
GeoTracker ID:	WDR100032544

[11] Large files must be split into appropriately labelled, manageable file sizes and uploaded into GeoTracker.

b. **Qualified Professionals.** All technical reports[12] submitted under this Order shall be prepared by, or under the direct supervision of, a competent licensed civil engineer or engineering geologist (Qualified Professional). The submittal shall be signed and stamped by the Qualified Professional, and contain a brief summary of the Qualified Professional's qualifications.

c. **Data Presentation and Formatting.** In reporting monitoring data, the Discharger shall arrange data in tabular form so that the date, the constituents, the concentrations, and the units are readily discernible. Additionally, data shall be summarized in a manner that clearly illustrates compliance/noncompliance.

d. **Non-Detections / Reporting Limits.** Unless reporting limits (RL) are specified in the same table, non-detections and sub-RL concentrations shall be reported as "< [limit]" (e.g., "< 5 µg/L").

e. **Units.** Absent specific justification, all monitoring data shall be reported in the units specified herein.

f. **Certification.** All submittals under this Order shall be accompanied by a transmittal containing the following certification that is signed by either the Required Signatory or their Authorized Representative:

> I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

[12] A "technical report" is a one incorporating the application of scientific or engineering principles.

i. The Required Signatory shall be the individual identified in Table 4 below.

ii. To act as an Authorized Representative for a Required Signatory (Table 4), an individual must be identified[13] and duly authorized in writing by the Required Signatory; this written authorization shall be provided to the Board beforehand, or concurrently with the first submittal signed by the Authorized Representative.

Table 4. Required Signatories for Submittals.

Category of Discharger	Required Signatory
Corporations	Senior Vice President or Equivalent Principal Executive
Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)	Manager
General Partnerships and Limited Partnerships (LPs)	General Partner
Sole Proprietorships	Sole Proprietor
Public Agencies	Principal Executive or Ranking Elected/Appointed Official

G. Other Provisions

1. **Facility Inspection.** Dischargers and their agents shall permit Board staff to inspect the Enrolled Facility during business to verify compliance with WDRs. Failure to consent to a reasonable request for inspection constitutes a violation of this Order.

[13] This identification may be in reference to the Authorized Representative's title or position, provided it is one that customarily has the responsibility of supervising the Facility's overall operation (e.g., facility manager, superintendent).

2. **Facility Operation and Maintenance.** The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all systems and components of collection, treatment, and control installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with this Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to, effective performance, adequate process controls, and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities/systems when necessary to achieve compliance with this Order. All systems in service or reserved shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records of inspections and maintenance shall be retained and made available to the Colorado River Basin Water Board on request.

3. **Duty to Mitigate.** The Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this Order that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

4. **Disposal Capacity.** The Discharger shall provide a report to the Colorado River Basin Water Board when it determines that the Facility's average dry-weather flow rate for any month exceeds 80 percent of the design disposal capacity. The report shall indicate what steps, if any, the Discharger intends to take to provide for the expected wastewater disposal capacity necessary when the plant reaches design capacity.

5. **Material Changes.** Prior to any modifications which would result in any material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the Discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Colorado River Basin Water Board, and if required by the Colorado River Basin Water Board, obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.

6. **Operational Personnel.** The Facility shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing the necessary expertise in the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment system.

7. **Onsite Physical Copies of Order.** Physical copies of this Order, as well as of the operative Monitoring and Reporting Program, shall be maintained onsite at the Facility, and shall be identified to all operating personnel; the Discharger shall ensure that such personnel are familiarized with these materials.

8. **Record Retention.** The Discharger shall retain copies of all reports required by this Order and the associated MRP. Records shall be maintained for a minimum of five years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. Records may be maintained electronically. This period may be extended in writing by the Executive Officer.

9. **Changes in Ownership.** Prior to any change in ownership of this operation, the Discharger shall notify the Executive Officer in writing at least 30 days in advance. The notice shall include a written transfer agreement between the existing owner and the new owner. At a minimum, the transfer agreement shall contain a specific date for transfer of responsibility for compliance with this Order, and an acknowledgment that the new owner or operator is liable for compliance with this Order from the date of transfer. The Board may require modification or revocation and reissuance of this Order to formally substitute the permitted parties, and to incorporate other requirements as appropriate.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A—Monitoring and Reporting Program
Attachment B—Maps and Facility Diagrams

ENFORCEMENT

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Dischargers fail to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to $10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to the Water Code, including sections 13268, 13350 and 13385. The Colorado River Basin Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Any person aggrieved by this Colorado River Basin Water Board action may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. To be timely, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the next business day. The law

and regulations applicable to filing petitions are available on the State Water Board website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality). Copies will also be provided upon request.

ATTACHMENT A—MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

A. General Requirements

1. **Testing and Analytical Methods.** The collection, preservation, and holding times of all samples shall be in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)-approved procedures. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of either the USEPA's *Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act* (40 C.F.R. part 136) or *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods Compendium* (SW-846), unless otherwise specified in the MRP or approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer.

2. **Laboratory Certification.** All analyses shall be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Drinking Water's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), unless otherwise approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer.

3. **Reporting Levels.** All analytical data shall be reported with method detection limits (MDLs) and with either the reporting level or limits of quantitation (LOQs) according to 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136, Appendix B. The laboratory reporting limit for all reported monitoring data shall be no greater than the practical quantitation limit (PQL).

4. **Sampling Location(s).** Samples shall be collected at the location(s) specified in the WDRs. If no location is specified, sampling shall be conducted at the most representative sampling point available.

5. **Representative Sampling.** All samples shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge or matrix of material sampled. The time, date, and location of each grab sample shall be recorded on the chain of custody form for the sample. If composite samples are collected, the basis for sampling (time or flow weighted) shall be approved by Colorado River Basin Water Board staff.

6. **Instrumentation and Calibration.** All monitoring instruments and devices used by the Discharger shall be properly maintained and calibrated to ensure their continued accuracy. Any flow measurement devices shall be calibrated at least once per year to ensure continued accuracy of the devices. In the event that continuous monitoring equipment is out of service for a period greater than 24 hours, the Discharger shall obtain

representative grab samples each day the equipment is out of service. The Discharger shall correct the cause(s) of failure of the continuous monitoring equipment as soon as practicable. The Discharger shall report the period(s) during which the equipment was out of service and if the problem has not been corrected, shall identify the steps which the Discharger is taking or proposes to take to bring the equipment back into service and the schedule for these actions.

7. **Field Test Instruments.** Field test instruments (such as those used to test pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) may be used provided that:

    a. The user is trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments;

    b. The instruments are field calibrated prior to monitoring events at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer;

    c. Instruments are serviced and/or calibrated by the manufacturer at the recommended frequency; and

    d. Field calibration reports are submitted.

8. **Records Retention.** The Discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of the sampling or measurement. This period may be extended by request of the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer at any time. Records of monitoring information shall include:

    a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement(s);

    b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurement(s);

    c. The date(s) analyses were performed;

    d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;

    e. The analytical techniques or method used; and

f. All sampling and analytical results, including:

i. units of measurement used;

ii. minimum reporting limit for the analyses;

iii. results less than the reporting limit but above the method detection limit (MDL);

iv. data qualifiers and a description of the qualifiers;

v. quality control test results (and a written copy of the laboratory quality assurance plan);

vi. dilution factors, if used; and

vii. sample matrix type.

9. **Inoperative Facility.** If the Facility is not in operation, or there is no discharge during a required reporting period, the Discharger shall forward a letter to the Colorado River Basin Water Board indicating that there has been no activity during the required reporting period.

B. Monitoring Requirements

1. Cooling Tower Blowdown that is discharged to the Designated Disposal Area (Effluent) shall be monitored in accordance with MRP Table 1 below.

MRP Table 1. Effluent (Blowdown) Monitoring Schedule.

Constituent	Units	Type of Sample	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
Flow	gpd[14]	Measurement[15]	Monthly	Quarterly
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L[16]	Grab	Monthly	Quarterly
pH	s.u.[17]	Grab	Weekly	Quarterly
General Minerals	mg/L	Grab	Annually	Annually[18]
Total Metals[19]	µg/L[20]	Grab	Annually	Annually
VOCs[21]	µg/L	Grab	Annually	Annually

[14] Gallons per day (average daily flow calculated from monthly meter readings).

[15] Flow Meter Reading.

[16] Milligrams per Liter.

[17] Standard Units.

[18] Annual monitoring shall be conducted between June 1 and August 31 of each year.

[19] Metal analyses shall include at a minimum Aluminum, Iron, and CAM 17 metals.

[20] Micrograms per Liter.

[21] Volatile Organic Compounds (EPA Methods 624 and 625).

2. The domestic water supply shall be monitored in accordance with MRP Table 2 below. Samples shall be collected at a location or in a manner that is representative of actual TDS concentrations of domestic water distributed to the community.

MRP Table 2. Source Water Monitoring Schedule.

Constituent	Units	Type of Sample	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Frequency
TDS	mg/L	Grab	Quarterly	Quarterly
Water Supply Report[22]	--	---	Annually	Annually

C. Reporting Requirements

1. **Quarterly Reporting.** Daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly monitoring shall be included in the Quarterly Self-Monitoring Reports (SMRs). Quarterly SMRs shall be submitted by **January 31st, April 30th, July 31st, and October 31st**. Each report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

   a. **Cover Letter.** A transmittal letter summarizing the essential points in the report.

   b. **Maps.** Maps depicting the Facility layout and the location of sampling points.

   c. **Tabulated Monitoring Data.** Tables of the data collected. Each row shall be a monitoring event and each column shall be a separate parameter at a single location (or a single average, as appropriate).

[22] A copy of Coachella Valley Water District's Annual Domestic Water Quality Summary shall be submitted with the Annual Monitoring Report.

d. **Compliance Summary.** Identification of any violations found since the last report was submitted, and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger previously submitted a report describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated.

2. **Annual Reporting.** In addition to the above requirements, the 4th Quarter SMR (due January 31) shall contain the following:

a. **Tabulated Summary of All Previous Monitoring Data.** Tables of the data collected. The tables shall include all of the data collected for the specific year at each monitoring point, organized in chronological order, with the oldest data in the top row and progressively newer data in rows below the top row. Each row shall be a monitoring event and each column shall be a separate parameter at a single location (or a single average, as appropriate).

b. **Graphical Display.** Graphs depicting monitoring parameters through time, with the concentrations being the y-axis and time being the x-axis. Logarithmic scales can be used for values that vary by orders of magnitude. Individual graphs can combine multiple locations or multiple chemicals if that allows the data to be compared more easily.

c. **Operation and Maintenance Summary.** Information concerning operation and maintenance of the facility, including documentation showing the calibration of flow meters and equipment, modifications to the Operation and Maintenance Manual, and any modifications or updates to the Discharger's wastewater rules and/or regulations.

d. **Compliance Summary.** Identification of any violations found since the last report was submitted, and actions taken or planned for correcting each violation. If the Discharger previously submitted a report describing corrective actions and/or a time schedule for implementing the corrective actions, reference to the previous correspondence will be satisfactory. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated.

e. **Summary of Sludge Disposal Activities.** The quantity, location, and method of disposal of all sludge and similar solid materials being

produced at the Facility. If no sludge is disposed of during the subject year, the Discharger shall indicate “No Sludge Removed.”

3. **Supplemental Monitoring.** The results of any analyses or monitoring activities conducted in addition to those specified herein, or conducted on more frequent basis than otherwise required herein, shall be reported to the Colorado River Basin Water Board in the next regularly submitted SMR.

ATTACHMENT B—MAPS AND FACILITY DIAGRAMS

Figure 1. Map with Facility Location

Figure 2. Site Plan