



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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August 25, 2011

Scott W. McClelland
Director of Water Quality
Sweetwater Authority
Post Office Box 2328
Chula Vista, CA 91912-2328

In reply refer to:
CRU: 9 00000858:MMata
CIWQS Place ID: 259791

Dear Mr. McClelland:

Subject: Violations of Order No. R9-2010-0012, NPDES Permit No. CA0108952, Review of 2010-2011 Self-Monitoring Reports for Sweetwater Authority Richard A. Reynolds Desalination Facility

| MONITORING REPORTS REVIEWED FOR ORDER NO. R9-2010-0012 | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| FREQUENCY | PERIOD | REPORT DATE | DATE RECEIVED |
| Quarterly | July – September 2010 | October 25, 2010 | October 25, 2010 |
| | October – December 2010 | January 27, 2011 | January 28, 2011 |
| | January – March 2011 | April 22, 2011 | April 28, 2011 |
| | April – June 2011 | July 24, 2011 | July 28, 2011 |
| Annual | January – December 2010 | January 27, 2011 | January 28, 2011 |

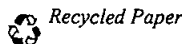
The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) has completed review of the referenced reports for the subject facility. Please note the following comments and violations on the reports received:

July-September 2010 quarterly report:

• **Effluent Violations**

1. The effluent at discharge point EFF-001 exceeded the total nitrogen maximum daily limit of 1.0 mg/L with a value of 1.1 mg/L on September 9, 2010.
2. The effluent at discharge point EFF-002 exceeded the total recoverable copper maximum daily limit of 5.8 µg/L with a value of 7.4 µg/L on July 14, 2010.

California Environmental Protection Agency



HPD/NUN/∞

October – December 2010 quarterly report:

• **Effluent Violations**

3. The effluent at discharge point EFF-001 exceeded the total recoverable nickel maximum daily limit of 14 µg/L with a value of 26.5 µg/L on November 3, 2010.
4. The effluent at discharge point EFF-001 exceeded the total recoverable nickel maximum daily limit of 0.09 lbs/day with a value of 0.15 lbs/day on November 3, 2010.

January – December 2010 annual report:

5. No comments at this time

January – March 2011 quarterly report:

• **Effluent Violations**

6. The effluent at discharge point EFF-001 exceeded the phosphorous maximum daily limit of 0.10 mg/L with a value of 0.16 mg/L on January 4, 2011.
7. The effluent at discharge point EFF-002 exceeded the total recoverable copper maximum daily limit of 5.8 µg/L with a value of 7.6 µg/L on January 5, 2011.

April – June 2011 quarterly report:

• **Effluent Violation**

8. The effluent at discharge point EFF-001 was outside the range of 8 ppt – 11 ppt (as an average monthly) for total dissolved solids with a value of 7.4 ppt during the month of June.

• **Comment**

9. The report notes that the chronic whole effluent toxicity trigger was exceeded. The report also notes that Sweetwater Authority has initiated the Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE)/ Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) process to determine the source of toxicity. Please include an update of the TRE/TIE process in the next quarterly report.

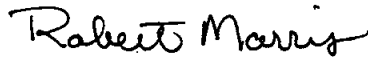
Pursuant to the California Water Code (CWC) section 13385(h), violation no.'s 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 noted above are subject to a mandatory minimum penalty of \$3,000 for each violation. The San Diego Water Board will issue that enforcement action under separate cover.

Please take steps to ensure that the violations noted above do not occur in the future. Pursuant to the California Water Code (CWC), the violations noted above are subject to additional enforcement action(s) by the San Diego Water Board including issuance of a time schedule order, cease and desist order, cleanup and abatement order, imposition of administrative civil liability, referral to the district attorney for criminal prosecution, or referral to the attorney general. Administrative civil liability amounts that may be imposed by the San Diego Water Board under authority of CWC Section 13350 include up to \$10,000 per day, or up to \$10 per gallon for each gallon of waste discharged.

The heading portion of this letter includes a San Diego Water Board code number noted after "In reply refer to:" In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence please include this code number in the heading or subject line portion of all correspondence and reports to the San Diego Water Board pertaining to this matter.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Michelle Mata at (858) 467-2981 or mmata@waterboards.ca.gov.

Respectfully,



Robert W. Morris
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

RWM:mm

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RM: 380801

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|-----------------|--------------|
| Order No. | R9-2010-0012 |
| NPDES No. | CA0108952 |
| CIWQS Place ID | 259791 |
| WDID | 9 000000858 |
| Reg Measure No. | 373359 |
| Party ID | 42701 |