

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. 97-109

ISSUED TO

CITY OF CALIPATRIA, OWNER/OPERATOR

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

City of Calipatria - Imperial County

The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (hereinafter referred to as the Regional Board), finds that:

1. The City of Calipatria, P.O. Box 167, Calipatria, California, 92233 (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger) owns and operates the City of Calipatria Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant is located in the SW 1/4 of Section 6, T12S, R14E, SBB&M.
2. The facility is designed to treat a maximum average flow of 1.7 MGD. Current average flow is around 1.0 MGD. Approximately 50% of the flow is from the Calipatria State Prison (hereinafter the prison). The prison discharges sewage to the wastewater treatment plant through a 12" underground force main that runs parallel to the "G" Drain.
3. The treatment system at this facility consists of bar screens, four aeration ponds connected in a series, and a disinfection system. Treated effluent is discharged to "G" Drain which flows approximately four miles to the Salton Sea via the Alamo River.
4. On March 15, 1994, this Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted Board Order No. 94-008 (NPDES NO. CAO105015) which allows for discharge of treated wastewater to the "G" Drain. Board Order No. 94-008 specifies effluent limitations, prohibitions, specifications, and provisions necessary to protect the beneficial uses of surface waters in Imperial County.
5. On May 6, 1997, the Imperial Irrigation District notified the City of Calipatria of sewage seeping out of the ground at Lindsey Road. The discharger determined that the sewage was coming from a 2" pressure vent of the 12" force main line, which discharges sewage from the Calipatria State Prison to the City wastewater treatment plant.
6. The discharger responded immediately, by containing most of the spilled wastewater in collection ditches excavated near the site. Vacuum trucks were used to collect the fluid and transport it to the Delta Street lift station and the receiving pond at the wastewater treatment plant. The contaminated soil was excavated and removed.
7. Prison infrastructure greatly impaired the repair efforts since no provisions were made to enable diversion and containment at the prison facility.
8. The spill was estimated to consist of seven thousand gallons, of which approximately three hundred gallons were estimated to have spilled into the "G" Drain.
9. In a letter received by Regional Board staff on May 13, 1997, the City of Calipatria indicated that a diversion system enabling diversion of at least ten hours of discharge was necessary in order to give the City crews and contractors sufficient time to ensure a competent repair.

10. The discharger is in non-compliance with Prohibition No. 3 of Board Order No. 94-008 which states that:

" The bypass or overflow of untreated wastewater or wastes to "G" Drain is prohibited, except as allowed in Standard Provision No. 13."
11. Standard Provision No. 13 (d) states that:
 - d. Prohibition of bypass. Bypass is prohibited, and the Regional Board may take enforcement action against the discharger of bypass unless:
 - 1) The bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
 - 2) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate backup equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgement to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance;
 - 3) The discharger submitted notices as required under paragraph c. of this provision.
12. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on November 17, 1993 and designated the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
13. The beneficial uses of waters in the Imperial Valley Drains and the New River are:
 - a. Fresh Water Replenishment of Salton Sea (FRSH)
 - b. Water Contact Recreation (RECI)
 - c. Warm Water Habitat (WARM)
 - d. Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
 - e. Preservation of Rare, Endangered or Threatened Species (RARE)
14. Section 13300 of the California Water Code states:

"..Whenever a Regional Board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the Regional Board, or the State Board, the Board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements."
15. Without design modifications in the collection system, a major break in the 12" force main can result in discharge of large amounts of raw sewage to the "G" Drain.
16. This enforcement action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Article 19, Division 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

1. By November 30, 1997, the discharger shall submit a technical report detailing actions that the discharger intends to take in order to prevent future discharges of raw sewage to the "G" Drain.
2. By November 30, 1997, the discharger shall submit for Regional Board's Executive Officer review and approval a detailed time schedule for implementing the corrective action.
3. Beginning January 1, 1998, and quarterly thereafter, the discharger shall submit progress reports to Regional Board staff.
4. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the discharger fails to comply with this Order, the Regional Board's Executive Officer may recommend additional enforcement action, which may include monetary penalties.

Ordered By: Philip A. Grunberg
Executive Officer

7-9-97
Date