

SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY ORDER

ORDER NO.	WQ 2008-0010
DATE ADOPTED	November 18, 2008
PETITION TITLE	PETITION OF CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE (WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2007-0134 [NPDES NO. CA0079260] FOR THE CITY OF YUBA CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, SUTTER COUNTY)
POPULAR NAME [if applicable]	CALSPA – City of Yuba City WWTP
REGIONAL BOARD	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
FILE NO[S]	SWRCB/OCC File A-1895

PRECEDENTIAL DECISION

The City of Yuba (City) owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant (plant) with a dry weather flow of 10.5 million gallons per day. Wastewater is normally discharged through a multi-port diffuser to the Feather River. The Feather River is a water of the United States. Alternatively during planned maintenance of process units or in the event that permit requirements cannot be achieved, effluent can be discharged to any of six disposal ponds located within the flood plain of the Feather River.

The discharge is currently regulated by Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) Order R5-2007-0134 (NPDES Permit No. CA0079260) (2007 Permit or Permit). Prior to adoption of the Permit, the Central Valley Water Board previously issued Order R5-2003-0085 (2003 Permit). The City filed a petition seeking the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) review of the 2003 Permit and an associated Cease and Desist Order. The State Water Board adopted Order WQO 2004-0013 remanding the 2003 Permit to the Central Valley Water Board. The remanded issues included calculation of effluent limitations, determination of hardness for metals criteria, and dilution credits and mixing zones. In response to the State Water Board's remand order and the City's planned expansion of the plant, the Central Valley Water Board issued the 2007 Permit.

Petitioner raises a series of objections to the 2007 Permit issued by the Central Valley Water Board. The contentions addressed in this order concern permit provisions related to mixing zones and dilution credits, diffuser monitoring and maintenance, disposal pond monitoring requirements, and effluent limitations for cyanide and diethyl phthalate.

This order directs the Central Valley Water Board to revise the permit on remand to: identify the mixing zone boundary; confirm whether the dilution model was based on 25 or 40 open diffuser ports and based on that determination, ensure the diffuser maintenance requirements and/or effluent limitations are protective of beneficial uses; delete effluent limitations based on the State Water Board adoption of the Lower Yuba River Accord; and require additional disposal pond monitoring for pond discharges when there is a process upset, operational error, or mechanical malfunction. Unless otherwise indicated, issues not addressed by this order are deemed dismissed.