SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY ORDER

ORDER NO.	WQ 2010-0001
DATE ADOPTED	January 5, 2010
PETITION TITLE	IN THE MATTER OF OWN MOTION REVIEW OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0162 [NPDES NO. CA 0084727] FOR THE TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT, SONORA REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND JAMESTOWN SANITARY DISTRICT JAMESTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, TUOLUMNE COUNTY, ISSUED BY THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, CENTRAL VALLEY REGION.
POPULAR NAME [*if applicable*]	
REGIONAL BOARD	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
FILE NO[S]	SWRCB/OCC File A-1967

PRECEDENTIAL DECISION

On October 24, 2008, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) reissued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Permit) to the wastewater treatment plants owned and operated by the Tuolumne Utilities District and the Jamestown Sanitary District. The Permit regulates seasonal surface water discharges from Quartz Reservoir, a manmade effluent storage lagoon, to Woods Creek, a water of the United States. The order concerns the Permit's effluent limitations for chlorine residual.

At the workshop held on September 15, 2009, the Central Valley Water Board and Tuolumne Utilities District requested to supplement the administrative record with three letters written in 2004 that explain why, from January through March 2004, detections of chlorine residual in amounts that exceeded the effluent limitation were not considered in adopting less stringent effluent limitations. The letters articulate that the presence of manganese in the effluent gave false positive test results for chlorine residual. Pursuant to the comments raised at the workshop, State Water Board staff requested that the Central Valley Water Board and the Tuolumne Utilities District provide information related to the apparent detections of chlorine residual documented in the discharge monitoring reports.

The order concludes that manganese is present in the effluent, but evidence in the record is insufficient to determine how much interference exists and whether chlorine residual is actually present in the effluent. Therefore, the order concludes that new sampling data needs to be collected to justify manganese interference and, consequently, to justify whether the Permit's effluent limitations for chlorine residual were correctly calculated. In the interim, the order restores the prior permit's effluent limitations and monitoring requirements for chlorine residual until there is sufficient evidence to support an alternative effluent limitation. Additionally, the order concludes that operating requirements must be developed to eliminate the potential for short circuiting in Quartz Reservoir when seasonal surface water discharges are allowed.