

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
1102-A Laurel Lane  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

ORDER NO. 86-04

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
U.S. AIR FORCE  
VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE  
STS POWER PLANT  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, (hereafter Board), finds:

1. Colonel George S. Cudd filed a Report of Waste Discharge on June 26, 1985, in accordance with Section 13260 of the California Water Code. The report was filed on behalf of the U.S. Air Force, Vandenberg Air Force Base for authorization to discharge treated industrial wastewater at the Space Transportation System (STS) Power Plant.
2. The U.S. Air Force, Vandenberg Air Force Base (hereafter Discharger), plans to own and operate an industrial wastewater treatment and disposal facility located on South Vandenberg Air Force Base near Point Arguello. The facilities will be in Section 14, T6N, R36W, SB B&M, as shown on Attachment "A" of this order.
3. Up to 36,000 gallons-per-day (140 m<sup>3</sup>/day) of washdown water and wastewater from a demineralization water treatment system will be disposed at this facility. The treatment facilities consist of a neutralization tank and an oil/water separator. Wastewater will be discharged to a 50-foot square and four-foot deep evaporation/percolation pond.
4. The evaporation/percolation pond will be located on fairly level (<3% slope) topography consisting of sandy terrace soils overlying Monterey Shale bedrock to a depth of 30 feet. No evidence was found of any persistent or continuous ground water conditions in the area. The source of any ground water is from downward percolation of infiltration water through the terrace deposits to bedrock. Ground water in the area is not recommended for drinking water or irrigation uses, as it has consistently high levels of total dissolved solids and chlorides in excess of 1,000 and 250 mg/l.

Item No. 16, Attachment 1  
February 9, 2007 Board Meeting  
Rescind WDRs for STS Power  
Plant, Vandenberg AFB

5. The project site is located approximately 140 feet above sea level and about 900 feet from the Pacific Ocean. Surface drainage flows in a westerly direction to the ocean.
6. Domestic wastewater from the proposed project will be discharged to an existing on-site treatment/disposal system. This discharge is regulated by separate waste discharge requirements.
7. The Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin, (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Board on March 14, 1975, and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on March 20, 1975. The Basin Plan incorporates statewide plans and policies by reference and contains a strategy for protecting beneficial uses of State waters.
8. There are no present or anticipated beneficial uses of groundwater in the vicinity of the discharge.
9. Present and anticipated beneficial uses of the Pacific Ocean that could be affected by the discharge include: water contact recreation; non-contact water recreation; marine habitat; shellfish harvesting; ocean commercial and sport fishing; and, wildlife habitat.
10. The Department of the Air Force completed a "Finding of No Significant Impact" and an Environmental Assessment for the Construction and Operation of the STS Power Plant and Natural Gas Pipeline at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.
11. Discharge of waste is a privilege, not a right, and authorization to discharge is conditional upon the discharge complying with provisions of Division 7 of the California Water Code and any more stringent effluent limitations necessary to implement water quality control plans, to protect beneficial uses, and to prevent nuisance. Compliance with this Order should assure this and mitigate any potential adverse changes in water quality due to the discharge.
12. On October 4, 1985, the Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to adopt waste discharge requirements for the discharge and provided them with a copy of the proposed order and an opportunity to submit written views and comments.
13. After considering all comments pertaining to this discharge during a public hearing on January 10, 1986, this Order was found consistent with the above findings.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, pursuant to authority in Section 13263 of the California Water Code, the U.S. Air Force, its agents, successors, and assigns, may discharge waste at the Vandenberg Air Force Base STS Power Plant providing compliance is maintained with the following:

(Note: other prohibitions and conditions, definitions, and the method of determining compliance are contained in the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January, 1984. Applicable paragraphs are referenced in paragraph C.2. of this Order.)

A. Prohibitions

1. Discharge to areas other than the evaporation/percolation pond shown in Attachment "A", is prohibited.
2. Discharge of any wastes, including overflow, bypass, and seepage from transport, treatment, or disposal systems, to the Pacific Ocean or adjacent drainageways, is prohibited.
3. Bypass of the treatment facility and discharge of untreated or partially treated wastes directly to the evaporation/ percolation pond is prohibited.
4. Discharge to the evaporation/percolation pond of any waste other than water treatment system wastewater and treated wash-down water is prohibited.

B. Discharge Specifications

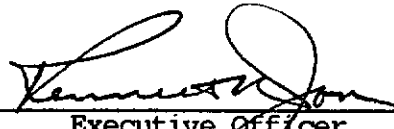
1. Total daily flow shall not exceed 36,000 gallons (140 m<sup>3</sup>).
2. Effluent discharged to the disposal pond shall not have a pH less than 6.5 or greater than 8.4.
3. Extraneous surface drainage shall be excluded from the disposal pond.
4. Freeboard shall exceed two feet in the disposal pond.
5. Petroleum products, grease, and scum shall not be visible on the disposal pond in concentrations which reduce the effectiveness of disposal operations.

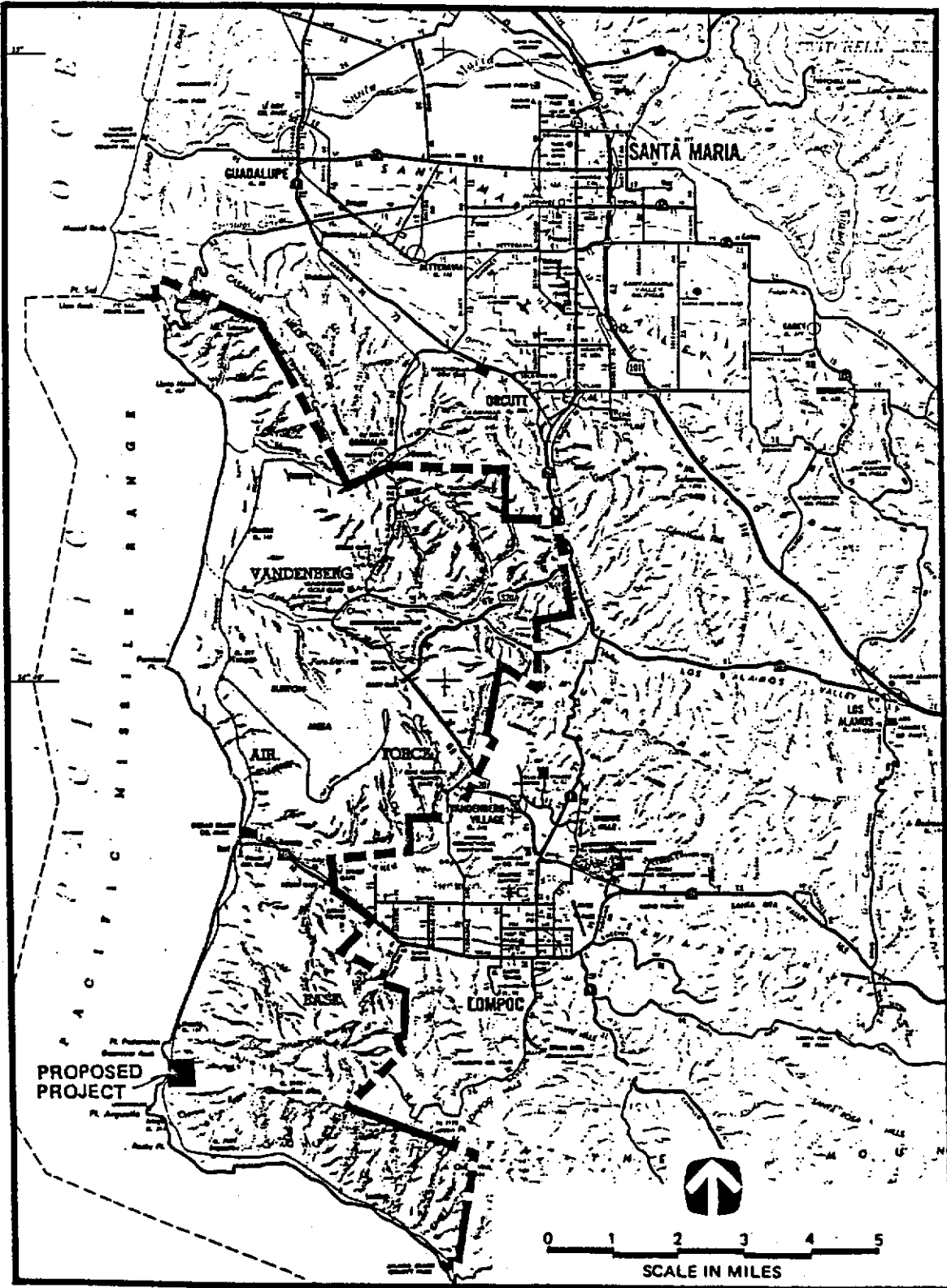
C. Provisions

1. Discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 86-04", as specified by the Executive Officer.

2. Discharger shall comply with all items of the attached "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements" dated January, 1984; except items A.6., A.8., A.11., A.17., C.8., C.9., and C.16.
3. Pursuant to Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 9, of the California Administrative Code, the Discharger must submit a written report to the Executive Officer not later than July 1, 1990, addressing:
  - a. Whether there will be changes in the continuity, character, location, or volume of the discharge; and,
  - b. Whether, in their opinion, there is any portion of the Order that is incorrect, obsolete, or otherwise in need of revision.

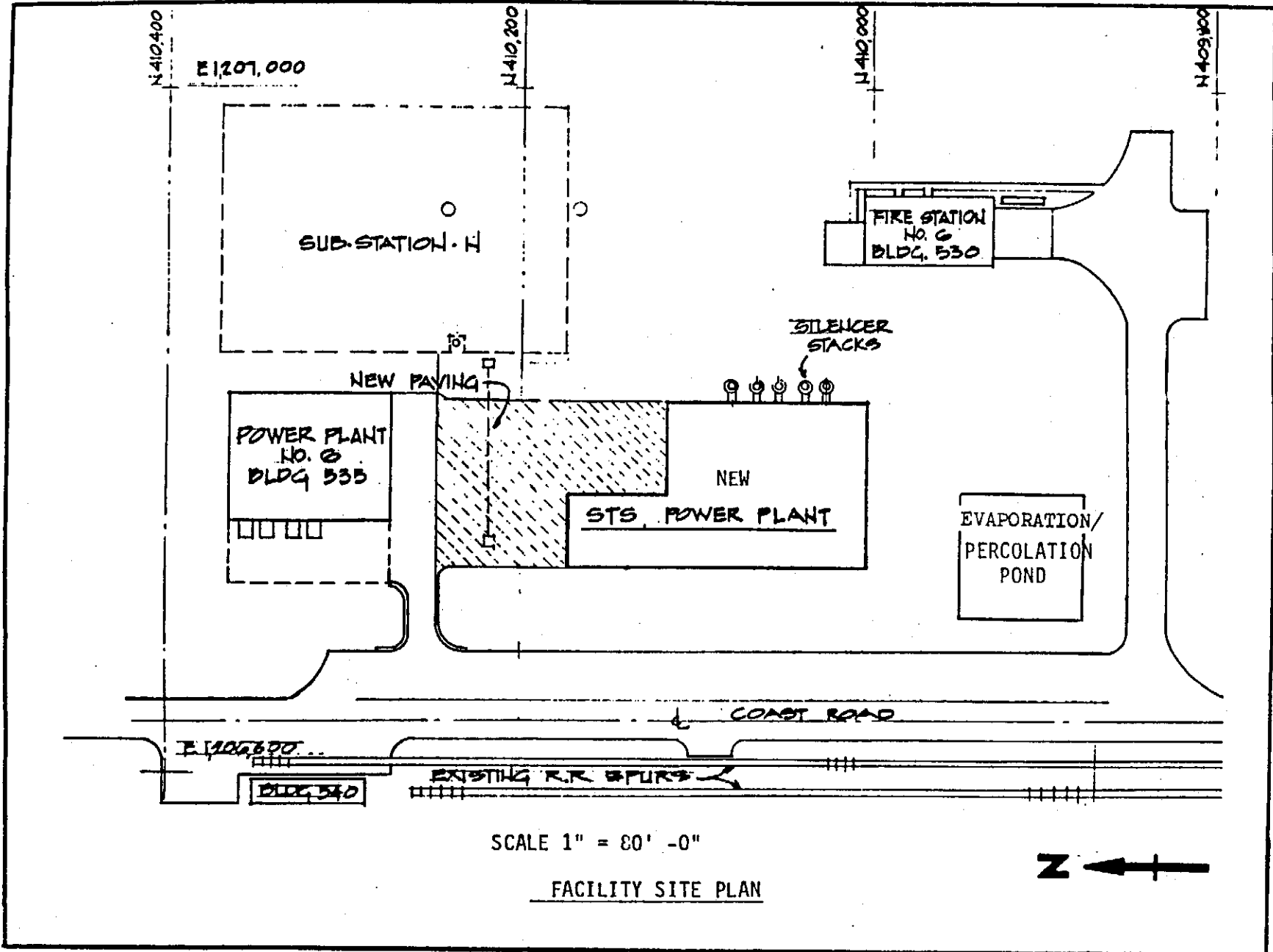
I, KENNETH R. JONES, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on January 10, 1986.

  
Executive Officer



VANDENBERG AFB AND PROPOSED PROJECT

U.S. AIR FORCE  
 VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE  
 STS POWER PLANT  
 ATTACHMENT "A"



SCALE 1" = 80' - 0"

FACILITY SITE PLAN



U.S. AIR FORCE  
 VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE  
 STS POWER PLANT  
 ATTACHMENT "B"

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 86-004**

**(Revised 5/3/2002)**

Waste Discharger Identification No. 3 420707020

**For  
VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE  
STS POWER PLANT  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

**WATER SUPPLY MONITORING**

Representative samples of the water supply shall be collected and analyzed as follows:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
pH	N/A	Field	Quarterly

**WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM WASTEWATER MONITORING**

A sampling station shall be established at the collection sump where representative samples of wastewater discharged from the water treatment system to the evaporation/percolation pond can be obtained. Samples and measurements are to be taken as described below:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Flow	gal/day	Estimated	Monthly
pH		Field	Monthly*
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/l	Grab	Semi-Annually(December, June)

\*Except December and June, when grab sample shall be taken and analyzed by a laboratory certified by the California Department of Health Services.

**WASHDOWN WATER MONITORING**

A sampling station shall be established at the oil/water separator where representative samples of the washdown water discharged to the evaporation/percolation pond can be obtained. Samples and measurements are to be taken as described below:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Flow	gal/day	Estimated	Monthly

**FREEBOARD MONITORING**

Pond freeboard (inches) shall be measured using a staff gauge and recorded weekly. Results shall be reported semiannually to the Board.

**REPORTING**

Semiannual monitoring reports shall be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of January and July.

ORDERED BY \_\_\_\_\_

  
Executive Officer

5-8-02

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date