

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

**BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2004-0023
WDID: 6B360700006**

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
BOARD ORDER NO. 6-87-19
FOR**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF PRISONS
BORON FEDERAL PRISON**

San Bernardino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Regional Board) finds:

1. Discharger and Order History

The Regional Board last updated Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) under Board Order No. 6-87-19, adopted on February 19, 1987, for the disposal of domestic wastewater from the Boron Federal Prison (Facility) owned by the federal government and operated by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons (Discharger).

2. Facility

The Facility operated as a U.S. Air Force radar station from 1950 until 1979 when the property was transferred to the Discharger for use as a prison which operated until June 2000 when all prison operations were transferred elsewhere. Approximately six small operational buildings located near the top of the hill discharged domestic wastewater in separate septic tank/percolation pond systems. Domestic wastewater from the main prison and staff housing complex discharged domestic wastewater into four unlined oxidation/percolation ponds. At least one documented diesel fuel spill of an unknown amount occurred into the sewer system in 1995 before the facility closed. At the request of Board staff, following closure of the Facility in 2000, additional site investigations were completed to establish the nature and extent of diesel remaining in pond bottom sludge and soil. The Facility is located in the Harper Valley Hydrologic Subarea (628.42) of the Mojave Hydrologic Unit within portions of the NW ¼ and SW ¼, Section 1, T11N, R7W, SBB&M.

3. Reason for Action

It is appropriate to rescind Board Order No. 6-87-19 because: 1) the Facility is closed and no longer discharges effluent, and 2) the Discharger has proposed a plan and time schedule to close the wastewater system components as follows.

- a. The contents of all septic tanks will be removed and transported to an appropriate offsite disposal facility.
- b. All remaining septic tanks will be destroyed or back filled in accordance with San Bernardino County requirements.

- c. Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of sludge containing elevated levels of diesel range organics in the now dry percolation ponds will be removed and transported to an appropriate offsite disposal facility.

This work will be completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Discharger and is planned to be completed by October 1, 2004. Board staff will provide regulatory oversight. The Boron Prison is considered a Formerly Used Defense Site.

4. California Environmental Quality Act

This action is being taken by the Regional Board to rescind WDRs issued pursuant to the California Water Code and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources code, Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321 (a)(2), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

5. Notification of Interested Parties

The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to rescind WDRs for the Facility. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the rescission of these WDRs.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order No. 6-87-19 be rescinded.

I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on June 9, 2004.

HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER