

State of California  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION

**ORDER NO. R4-2003-0108**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
for  
DISCHARGES OF GROUNDWATER FROM POTABLE WATER SUPPLY WELLS  
TO SURFACE WATERS  
IN  
COASTAL WATERSHEDS OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES  
(GENERAL NPDES PERMIT NO. CAG994005)**

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

**General Permit Background**

1. On September 22, 1989, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) granted the State of California, through the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the Regional Boards, the authority to issue general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) parts 122 and 123.
2. 40 CFR section 122.28 provides for issuance of general permits to regulate a category of point sources if the sources:
  - a. Involve the same or substantially similar types of operations;
  - b. Discharge the same type of waste;
  - c. Require the same type of effluent limitations or operating conditions;
  - d. Require similar monitoring; and
  - e. Are more appropriately regulated under a general permit rather than individual permits.
3. General waste discharge requirements and NPDES permits enable Regional Board staff to expedite the processing of requirements, simplify the application process for dischargers, better utilize limited staff resources, and avoid the expense and time involved in repetitive public noticing, hearings, and permit adoptions.
4. On May 12, 1997, this Regional Board adopted the *General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for Groundwater Discharges from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* (NPDES No. CAG994001, Order No. 97-045 and NPDES No. CAG994002, Order No. 97-043). These existing General Permits covered discharges of ground water from construction dewatering, subterranean seepage dewatering, including discharges from potable water well development and test pumping, aquifer testing, monitoring well construction and similar discharges. This new waste discharge requirements will replace the coverage for potable water supply well discharges covered under Order No. 97-045 and Order No. 97-043.

August 7, 2003

### Discharge Description

5. Discharges covered by this permit include groundwater from potable water supply wells generated during the following activities:
  - a. Groundwater generated during well purging for data collection purposes;
  - b. Groundwater extracted from major well-rehabilitation and redevelopment activities; and
  - c. Groundwater generated from well drilling, construction, and development.
6. Pursuant to section 2, Article X, California Constitution, and section 275 of the California Water Code on preventing waste and unreasonable use of waters of the state, this Regional Board encourages, wherever practicable, water conservation and/or re-use of wastewater. To obtain coverage under this Order, the discharger shall first investigate the feasibility of conservation, land disposal and/or reuse of the wastewater.

### Storm Water Regulations and Permits

7. This Regional Board adopted *Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Storm Water and Urban Runoff Discharges within the County of Los Angeles* contained in Order No. 01-182 [NPDES No. CAS614001] and *Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Stormwater and Urban Runoff Discharges within Ventura County Flood Control District, County of Ventura, and the Cities of Ventura County* contained in Order No. 00-108 [NPDES No. CAS004002] on July 15, 1996, and July 27, 2000, respectively. These Orders prohibit non-stormwater discharges to storm drain systems unless they are covered by separate NPDES permits. This prohibition, in general, does not apply to rising groundwater, uncontaminated groundwater infiltration discharges, discharges from potable water distribution system releases<sup>1</sup>, foundation and footing drains discharges, and water from crawl space pumps. The municipality may allow discharge of these types of discharges into the storm drain system. However, the municipality or the Regional Board may prohibit these discharges if they are determined to cause, or threaten to cause, degradation of water quality, violation of water quality objectives, cause nuisance and/or impair beneficial uses of receiving waters.

### Basis for Fee

8. Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1, section 2200, *Annual Fee Schedule*, requires that all discharges subject to a specific general permit shall pay the same annual fee.

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<sup>1</sup>

"Potable Water Distribution Systems Releases" means sources of flows from drinking water storage, supply and distribution systems including flows from system failures, pressure releases, system maintenance, distribution line testing, fire hydrant flow testing; and flushing and dewatering of pipes, reservoirs, vaults, and minor non-invasive well maintenance activities not involving chemical addition(s). It does not include wastewater discharges from activities that occur at wellheads, such as well construction, well development (i.e., aquifer pumping tests, well purging, etc.), or major well maintenance.

### Applicable Plans, Policies, and Regulations

9. On June 13, 1994, this Regional Board adopted a revised basin plan, *Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region: Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan incorporates, by reference, State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Control Plans and policies on ocean waters [*Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters in California*, March 22, 1990], temperature [*Water Quality Control Plan for Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California*, Amended September 18, 1975] and anti-degradation [*Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*, State Board Resolution No. 68-16, October 28, 1968].
10. The Basin Plan contains water quality objectives for, and lists the beneficial uses of, specific water bodies (receiving waters) in the Los Angeles Region. Typical beneficial uses covered by this Order include the following:
  - a. Inland surface waters above an estuary - municipal and domestic supply, industrial service and process supply, agricultural supply, groundwater recharge, freshwater replenishment, aquaculture, warm and cold freshwater habitats, inland saline water and wildlife habitats, water contact and noncontact recreation, fish migration, and fish spawning.
  - b. Inland surface waters within and below an estuary - industrial service supply, marine and wetland habitats, estuarine and wildlife habitats, water contact and noncontact recreation, commercial and sport fishing, aquaculture, migration of aquatic organisms, fish migration, fish spawning, preservation of rare and endangered species, preservation of biological habitats, and shellfish harvesting.
  - c. Coastal Zones (both nearshore and offshore) - industrial service supply, navigation, water contact and noncontact recreation, commercial and sport fishing, marine habitat, wildlife habitat, fish migration and spawning, shellfish harvesting, and rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat.
11. The State Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Water and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California (Thermal Plan) on May 18, 1972, and amended this plan on September 18, 1975.
12. The State Board adopted a *Water Quality Control Policy for the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California* in May 1974 (Policy). The Policy contains narrative and numerical water quality objectives that are designed to prevent water quality degradation and protect beneficial uses in enclosed bays and estuaries.

The Policy also lists principles of management that include the State Board's goal to phase out all discharges (excluding cooling waters), particularly industrial process water, to enclosed bays and estuaries as soon as practicable. The waste described above is not considered an industrial process wastewater.

13. Under 40 CFR section 122.44(d), *Water Quality Standards and State Requirements*, "Limitations must control all pollutants or pollutant parameters (either conventional, non-conventional, or toxic pollutants), which the permitting authority determines are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard, including State narrative criteria for water quality." Where numeric effluent limitations for a pollutant or pollutant parameter have not been established in the applicable state water quality control plan, 40 CFR section 122.44(d)(1)(vi) specifies that water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) may be set based on USEPA criteria, and may be supplemented where necessary by other relevant information to attain and maintain narrative water quality criteria, and to fully protect designated beneficial uses.
14. On May 18, 2000, the U.S. EPA promulgated the numeric criteria for priority pollutants for the State of California, known as the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and as codified as 40 CFR section 131.38. Toxic pollutant limits are prescribed in this Order to implement the CTR. 40 CFR section 122.44(d)(1)(ii) requires each toxic pollutant be analyzed with respect to its reasonable potential when determining whether a discharge (1) causes; (2) has the reasonable potential to cause; or (3) contributes to the exceedance of a receiving water quality objective. Performing a reasonable potential analysis (RPA) for each pollutant does this. In performing the RPA, the permitting authority uses procedures that account for existing controls on point and nonpoint sources of pollution, the variability of the pollutant or pollutant parameter in the effluent, and the sensitivity of the species to toxicity testing (when evaluating whole effluent toxicity).
15. A reasonable potential analysis has been conducted using monitoring data supplied by water purveyors as part of their self-monitoring program and as part of supplemental data required for issuing new NPDES permits. Attachment A is a screening table showing those compounds with potential to be in potable water discharge above the CTR but generally at a concentration below the maximum contaminant level.
16. Effluent limitation guidelines requiring the application of best practicable control technology currently available (BPT), best conventional pollutant control technology (BCT), and best available technology economically achievable (BAT), were promulgated by the USEPA for some pollutants in this discharge. Effluent limitations for pollutants not subject to the USEPA effluent limitation guidelines are based on one of the following: best professional judgment (BPJ) of BPT, BCT or BAT; current plant performance; or WQBELs. The WQBELs are based on the Basin Plan, other State plans and policies, or USEPA water quality criteria which are taken from the CTR. These requirements, as they are met, will protect and maintain existing beneficial uses of the receiving water. The attached fact sheet for this Order includes specific bases for the effluent limitations.
17. Best professional judgment (BPJ) was used in developing technology-based effluent limits in this tentative order. BPJ is defined as the highest quality technical opinion developed by the permit writer after consideration of all reasonably available and pertinent data or information that forms the basis for the terms and conditions of a NPDES permit. The authority for BPJ is contained in Section 402(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

18. The Basin Plan also implements the State Board's adopted Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Water in California". This policy which is also referred to as the "Anti-degradation Policy", protects surface and ground waters from degradation. In particular, this policy protects waterbodies where existing quality is higher than that necessary for the protection of beneficial uses.

This permit complies with State and Federal "Anti-degradation" policies. The conditions and effluent limitations established in this Order for discharges of groundwater from potable water wells to surface waters in this Region ensure that the existing beneficial uses and quality of surface waters in this Region will be maintained and protected. Discharges regulated by this Order should not adversely impact water quality if the terms and conditions of this Order are met.

19. Water Quality Objectives and Effluent Limits in this General Permit are based on:
- The plans, policies and water quality objectives and criteria contained in the 1994 Basin Plan, as amended including the Antidegradation Policy;
  - California Toxic Rule (CTR) (40 CFR § 131.38);
  - CCR section 64431 of Title 22 (Drinking Water Standards);
  - Applicable Federal Regulations (including 40 CFR Parts 122 and 131);
  - Department of Health Services (DHS);
  - Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA); and
  - Best Professional Judgement.
20. Because this Order is intended to serve as a general NPDES permit and covers discharges to all surface waters in the Los Angeles Region, the effluent limitations established pursuant to this general order are established to protect the most protective water quality objective for the surface water beneficial uses in the Los Angeles Region.
21. USEPA regulations, policies, and guidance documents upon which BPJ was developed may include in part, the following:
- Technical Support Document for Water Quality Based Toxics Control, March 1991 (EPA-505/2-90-001);
  - Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Control Policy, July 1994; and
  - USEPA NPDES Permit Writer's Manual, December 1996 (EPA-833-B-96-003).
22. The SWRCB adopted *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (also known as the *State Implementation Plan* or *SIP*) on March 2, 2000. The SIP was amended by Resolution No. 2000-30, on April 26, 2000, and the Office of Administrative Law approved the SIP on April 28, 2000. The SIP applies to discharges of toxic pollutants in the inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries of California which are subject to regulation under the State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 of the Water Code) and the Federal Clean Water Act. This policy also establishes the following: implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria promulgated by USEPA through the CTR and for

priority pollutant objectives established by Regional Water Quality Control Boards in their water quality control plans (Basin Plans) and chronic toxicity control provisions.

23. The SIP authorizes the RWQCB to grant Categorical Exceptions from meeting the priority pollutant criteria/objectives, if determined to be necessary to implement control measures regarding drinking water conducted to fulfill statutory requirements under the Safe drinking water Act or California Health and Safety Code. Generally, discharges of potable water at the well head are done to fulfill DHS statutory requirements, and to ensure steady and safe drinking water supply to end-users. The potable water discharges under this permit are mostly intermittent, short duration, high flow discharges that comply with DHS maximum contaminant levels, for protection of human health. Therefore, potable well discharges as qualified under this permit have been determined to pose no significant threat to water quality and meet the conditions for categorical exception under SIP.
24. To satisfy the Categorical Exception requirements of section 5.3 of the SIP, dischargers seeking enrollment under this general permit will be required to submit project-specific information to the Executive Officer on the discharge and its water quality effects. The information required by the SIP includes:
  - (1) A detailed description of the proposed action, including the proposed method of completing the action;
  - (2) A time schedule;
  - (3) A discharge and receiving water quality monitoring plan (before project initiation, during the project, and after project completion, with the appropriate quality assurance and quality control procedures);
  - (4) CEQA documentation;
  - (5) Contingency plans;
  - (6) Identification of alternate water supply (if needed); and
  - (7) Residual waste disposal plans.
  - (8) Additionally, upon completion of the project, the discharger shall provide certification by a qualified biologist that the receiving water beneficial uses have been restored.
25. The effluent limitations from potable water supply well discharge regulated under this permit are calculated assuming no dilution. For most practical purposes, discharges from potable water supply wells do not flow directly into receiving waters with enough volume to consider dilution credit or to allocate a mixing zone. Most discharges of groundwater regulated under this general permit are to storm drain systems that discharge to creeks and streams. Many of these creeks and streams are dry during the summer months. Therefore, for many months of the year, these discharges may represent all or nearly all of the flow in some portions of the receiving creeks or streams.

An exception to this policy may be applied based on approved mixing zone study and based on demonstration of compliance with water quality objectives in the receiving water as prescribed in the Basin Plan. This exception process is more appropriate for an individual permit, and would not be appropriate for a general permit, that should be protective of most stringent water quality objectives and beneficial uses. If a discharger requests that a dilution credit be included in the computation of effluent limit or that a

mixing zone be allowed, an individual permit will be required. However, if no mixing zone is proposed, this general permit provides coverage for all discharges to receiving water bodies in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

26. Section 301(b)(2) of the Federal Clean Water Act (Clean Water Act) requires that all NPDES permits prescribe the application of Best Available Technology (BAT) in the determination of technology-based effluent limitations.
27. Effluent limitations and toxic effluent standards established pursuant to Sections 301, 302, 304, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and amendments thereto, are applicable to the dischargers herein.
28. The requirements contained in this Order were derived using Best Professional Judgement (BPJ) and are based on the Basin Plan, CTR, Federal and State Plans, policies, guidelines, and as they are met, will be in conformance with the goals and objectives of the aforementioned water quality control plans, water quality criteria, and will protect and maintain existing and potential beneficial uses of the receiving waters.

#### **Watershed Management Approach**

29. The SWRCB 1998 Water Quality Assessment (WQA) identified the water quality conditions of water bodies in the state. Impaired water bodies are listed on the 1998 California 303(d) List.
30. This Regional Board has implemented a Watershed Management Approach (WMA) to address water quality protection in the region. Watershed management may include diverse issues as defined by stakeholders to identify comprehensive solutions to protect, enhance, and restore water quality and beneficial uses. To achieve this goal, the watershed management approach integrates the Regional Board's many diverse programs, particularly Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), to better assess cumulative impacts of pollutants from all point and nonpoint sources to more efficiently develop watershed-specific solutions that balance the environmental and economic impacts within a watershed. The TMDLs will establish waste load allocations (WLAs) and load allocations (LAS) for point and nonpoint sources, and will result in achieving water quality standards for the waterbody.

#### **Notification**

31. The Regional Board has notified interested agencies, parties, and persons of its intent to issue general waste discharge requirements for discharges of groundwater from potable water supply wells to surface waters and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
32. The Regional Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharges to be regulated under this Order and to the tentative requirements.

33. This Order shall serve as a general NPDES permit pursuant to section 402 of the Clean Water Act, or amendments thereto, and shall take effect at the end of ten days from the date of its adoption provided the Regional Administrator, USEPA, has no objections.
34. The issuance of waste discharge requirements that serve as an NPDES permit for this discharge is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21100) of Division 13 (California Environmental Quality Act) of the Public Resources Code in accordance with California Water Code Section 13389.
35. However, for the portions of this order effecting a Categorical Exception to the CTR to satisfy statutory requirements to ensure safe drinking water supply, the Regional Board must comply with CEQA. The issuance of this permit involves discharges of potable water in the vicinity of water supply well head to fulfill statutory requirements of programs implemented by the Department of Health Services (DHS), and to ensure safe and steady supply of fresh and clean water to end-users. In addition, this permit issuance involves the renewal of authorized potable water discharges under existing general NPDES permits. The potable water discharges under this permit are mostly intermittent, short duration, high flow discharges that comply with the DHS maximum contaminant levels for protection of human health. Therefore, potable water discharges as qualified under this permit have been determined to pose no significant threat to water quality. The Regional Board actions on issuing this permit for existing and new potable water discharges, and on the exceptions is exempt from CEQA in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15061 (b)(3) which states that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential for causing adverse environmental effects.
36. Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13320, any aggrieved party may seek review of this Order by filing a petition with the State Board. A petition must be sent to the State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812, within 30 days of adoption of the Order.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that dischargers authorized under this Order and General Permit, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code, and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

**A. Eligibility**

1. This order covers discharges of groundwater defined in Finding No. 5, Discharge Description, in the vicinity of well heads from potable water supply wells.
2. To be covered under this Order, a discharger must:
  - a. Demonstrate that pollutant concentrations in the discharge will not cause violation of any applicable water quality objectives for the receiving waters, including discharge prohibitions, and/or;



- b. Perform reasonable potential analysis using a representative sample of groundwater to be discharged from potable water supply well. The sample shall be analyzed and the data compared to the water quality screening criteria for the constituents listed on Attachment A.
    - i. If analytical data exceeds the screening criteria, further sampling may be required, if appropriate.
    - ii. If analytical data exceeds the screening criteria but not greater than the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), enrollment will be authorized for temporal short-term discharges under this permit and effluent limitation E.1, and E.2 will be applicable.
    - iii. If the analytical data exceeds the MCL, enrollment will be authorized if condition 1) or 2), below is satisfied.
      - 1) Treatment is provided to meet the eligibility requirement ii), above, or
      - 2) In accordance with SIP, submit documentation listed below in a timely manner, for approval of categorical exemption by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board.
        - (a) A detailed description of the proposed action, including the proposed method of completing the action;
        - (b) A time schedule;
        - (c) A discharge and receiving water quality monitoring plan (before project initiation, during the project, and after project completion, with the appropriate quality assurance and quality control procedures);
        - (d) CEQA documentation;
        - (e) Contingency plans;
        - (f) Identification of alternate water supply (if needed); and
        - (g) Residual waste disposal plans.
    - iv. If analytical data meets the screening criteria, full enrollment under this general permit will be authorized and section E.2 will not be applicable.
  - c. The discharge shall not cause acute nor chronic toxicity in receiving waters;
  - d. The discharger shall be able to comply with the terms or provisions of this General Permit.
3. New discharges and existing discharges regulated under existing general or individual permits, which meet the eligibility criteria, may be regulated under this Order.

4. For the purpose of renewal of existing individual NPDES permits with this General Permit, provided that all the conditions of this General Permit are met, renewal is effective upon issuance of a notification by the Executive Officer and issuance of a new monitoring program.
5. When an individual NPDES permit with more specific requirements is issued to a discharger, the applicability of this Order to that discharger is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit.

**B. Authorization**

To be authorized to discharge under this Order, the discharger must submit a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) and an application for an NPDES permit in accordance with the requirements of Part C of this Order. Upon receipt of the application, the Executive Officer shall determine the applicability of this Order to such a discharge. If the discharge is eligible, the Executive Officer shall notify the discharger that the discharge is authorized under the terms and conditions of this Order and prescribe an appropriate monitoring and reporting program. For new discharges, the discharge shall not commence until receipt of the Executive Officer's written determination of eligibility for coverage under this general permit or until an individual NPDES permit is issued by the Regional Board.

**C. Report Of Waste Discharge**

1. Deadline for Submission
  - a. Renewal of permits for existing dischargers covered under individual permits that meet the eligibility criteria in Part A and have submitted a ROWD will consist of a letter of determination from the Executive Officer of coverage under this Order.
  - b. Existing potable water well dischargers covered under Order No. 97-045 or Order No. 97-043 will be sent a Notice of Intent (NOI) form that must be completed and returned to the Regional Board within 60 days of receipt; otherwise, permit coverage will be revoked. Existing dischargers enrolling under this Order are required to collect representative groundwater sample(s) and analyze the samples for all the constituents listed on Attachment A. Dischargers shall conduct this analysis and submit the result with an NOI; otherwise, the existing authorization will be terminated. However, instead of an NOI, the Executive Officer may require an existing discharger to submit a new ROWD, may revise an existing discharger's monitoring and reporting programs, may require an existing discharger to participate in a regional monitoring program, or any combination of the foregoing.
  - c. New dischargers shall file a complete application at least 45 days before commencement of the discharge.

2. Report of Waste Discharge Forms
  - a. Dischargers shall use the appropriate USEPA Forms or equivalent forms approved by the Regional Board or the Executive Officer.
  - b. The discharger, upon request, shall submit any additional information that the Executive Officer deems necessary to determine whether the discharge meets the criteria for coverage under this Order, or to prescribe an appropriate monitoring and reporting program, or both.
  - c. The discharger must obtain and analyze (using appropriate sampling and laboratory methods) a representative sample(s) of the groundwater to be treated and discharged under this Order. The analytical method(s) used shall be capable of achieving a detection limit at or below the minimum level (ML<sup>2</sup>), otherwise, a written explanation shall be provided. The analytical result shall be submitted with the NPDES application. The data shall be tabulated and shall include the results for every constituent listed on Attachment A.
  - d. The ROWD shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:
    - i. A feasibility study on reuse and/or alternative disposal methods of the treated groundwater;
    - ii. The type of chemicals that will be used (if any) during the construction and development of wells;
    - iii. Description of the groundwater treatment collection and discharge system (if required);
    - iv. Flow diagram of influent, treatment, and discharge system (if required); and
    - v. Pollution Prevention Plan (PLAN) in order to reduce or prevent pollutants in the discharge.
  - e. The ROWD shall be accompanied by the first annual fee (if appropriate) in accordance with the *Annual Fee Schedule*. The check or money order shall be made payable to the "State Water Resources Control Board".

#### **D. Discharge Prohibitions**

1. The discharge of wastes other than those which meet eligibility requirements in Part A of this Order is prohibited unless the discharger obtains coverage under another general permit or an individual permit that regulates the discharge of such wastes.

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<sup>2</sup> The minimum levels are those published by the State Water Quality Control Board in the Policy for the Implementation of Toxic Standards for Inland Surface Water, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California, March 2, 2000. See attached Appendix I.

2. The purposeful or knowing discharge of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) is prohibited.
3. The discharge of any radiological, chemical, or biological warfare agent or high level radiological waste is prohibited.

**E. Effluent Limitations**

1. Discharge of an effluent in excess of the following limitations is prohibited.

Constituents	Units	Discharge Limitations	
		Daily Maximum	Monthly Average
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	150	50
Turbidity	NTU	150	50
BOD <sub>5</sub> 20°C	mg/L	30	20
Settleable Solids	ml/L	0.3	0.1
Residual Chlorine	mg/L	0.1	---

2. In addition to effluent limitations E.1., the following discharges eligible under section A.2.b.ii shall comply with the following effluent limits. The discharge of an effluent in excess of these limitations is prohibited. In a letter of determination, the Executive Officer shall indicate the applicability of this limitation to the particular discharge.

Constituents	Units	Discharge Limitations
		Daily Maximum
Copper (Cu)	µg/L	1000
Lead (Pb)	µg/L	50
Total Chromium	µg/L	50
1,1 Dichloroethane	µg/L	5
1,1 Dichloroethylene	µg/L	6
1,1,1 Trichloroethane	µg/L	200
1,1,2 Trichloroethane	µg/L	5
1,1,2,2 Tetrachloroethane	µg/L	1
1,2 Dichloroethane	µg/L	0.5
1,2-Trans Dichloroethylene	µg/L	10
Tetrachloroethylene	µg/L	5
Trichloroethylene	µg/L	5
Carbon Tetrachloride	µg/L	0.5
Vinyl Chloride	µg/L	0.5
Total Trihalomethanes	µg/L	80

Constituents	Units	Discharge Limitations
		Daily Maximum
Benzene	µg/L	1
Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE)	µg/L	5

3. The pH of the discharge shall at all times be within the range of 6.5 and 8.5.
4. The temperature of the discharge shall not exceed 100° F.
5. Attachment B establishes the applicable effluent limits for mineral and nitrogen constituents for discharges covered by this Order. The discharge of an effluent with mineral and nitrogen constituents in excess of applicable limits established in Attachment B is prohibited. In the letter of determination, the Executive Officer shall indicate the watershed/stream reach limitations in Attachment B applicable to the particular discharge.
6. Pass-through or uncontrollable discharges of PCBs shall not exceed daily average concentrations of 14 ng/L into fresh waters or 30 ng/L into estuarine waters.
7. The acute toxicity of the effluent shall be such that the average survival in the undiluted effluent for any three (3) consecutive 96-hour static or continuous flow bioassay tests shall be at least 90%, with no single test less than 70% survival.
8. The discharge shall meet effluent limitations and toxic and effluent standards established pursuant to sections 301, 302, 304, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and amendments thereto.

**F. Receiving Water Limitations**

1. The discharge shall not cause the following to be present in receiving waters:
  - a. Toxic pollutants at concentrations that will bioaccumulate in aquatic life to levels that are harmful to aquatic life or human health;
  - b. Biostimulatory substances at concentrations that promote aquatic growth to the extent that such growth causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses;
  - c. Chemical substances in amounts that adversely affect any designated beneficial use;
  - d. Visible floating materials, including solids, liquids, foams, and scum;

- e. Oils, greases, waxes, or other materials in concentrations that result in a visible film or coating on the surface of the receiving water or on objects in the water;
  - f. Suspended or settleable materials in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses;
  - g. Taste or odor-producing substances in concentrations that alter the natural taste, odor, and/or color of fish, shellfish, or other edible aquatic resources; cause nuisance; or adversely affect beneficial uses;
  - h. Substances that result in increases of  $BOD_{5,20^{\circ}C}$  that adversely affect beneficial uses;
  - i. Fecal coliform concentrations which exceed a log mean of 200 per 100 ml (based on a minimum of not less than four samples for any 30-day period), nor shall more than 10% of total samples during any 30-day period exceed 400 per 100 ml; or
  - j. Concentrations of toxic substances that are toxic to, or cause detrimental physiological responses in, human, animal, or aquatic life.
2. The discharge shall not cause the following to occur in the receiving waters:
- a. The dissolved oxygen to be depressed below:

WARM <sup>3</sup> designated waters	5 mg/L
COLD <sup>3</sup> designated waters	6 mg/L
COLD and SPWN <sup>3</sup> designated waters	7 mg/L
  - b. The pH to be depressed below 6.5 or raised above 8.5, and the ambient pH levels to be changed from natural conditions in inland waters more than 0.5 units or in estuaries more than 0.2 units;
  - c. The temperature at any time or place and within any given 24-hour period to be altered by more than 5°F above natural temperature; but at no time be raised above 80°F for waters with a beneficial use of WARM (Warm Freshwater Habitat);
  - d. The turbidity to increase to the extent that such an increase causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses; such increase shall not exceed 20% when the natural turbidity is over 50 NTU or 10% when the natural turbidity is 50 NTU or less;

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<sup>3</sup> Beneficial Uses WARM - Warm Freshwater Habitat; COLD -Cold Freshwater Habitat; SPWN - Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development.

- e. Residual chlorine in concentrations that persist and impairs beneficial uses;  
or
  - f. Any individual pesticide or combination of pesticides in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses or increase pesticide concentration in bottom sediments or aquatic life.
3. The discharge shall not alter the color, create a visual contrast with the natural appearance, nor cause aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the receiving waters.
  4. The discharge shall not degrade surface water communities and populations, including vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species.
  5. The discharge shall not damage, discolor, nor cause formation of sludge deposits on flood control structures or facilities nor overload their design capacity.
  6. The discharge shall not cause problems associated with breeding of mosquitoes, gnats, black flies, midges, or other pests.

#### **G. Provisions**

1. The Executive Officer may require any discharger authorized under this Order to apply for and obtain an individual NPDES permit with more specific requirements. The Executive Officer may require any discharger authorized to discharge under this permit to apply for an individual permit only if the discharger has been notified in writing that a permit application is required. This notice shall include a brief statement of the reasons for this decision, an application form, a statement setting a deadline for the discharger to file the application, and a statement that on the effective date of the individual permit, the authority to discharge under this General Permit is no longer applicable.
2. The discharger shall comply with all the applicable items of the *Standard Provisions and Reporting for Waste Discharge Requirements* (Standard Provisions), which are part of this General Permit (Attachment C). If there is any conflict between provisions stated herein and the Standard Provisions, those provisions stated herein prevail.
3. The discharger shall develop a Pollution Prevention Plan (PLAN), for implementation if necessary. All PLANs developed by water purveyors must be able to: (1) identify and evaluate sources of pollutants associated with potable water well head activities that may affect the quality of wastewater discharge and (2) develop a site specific best management practices (BMPs) program to reduce or prevent to the maximum extent practicable pollutants and soil erosion.

The PLAN should address all wellhead activities that include but not limited to; short-term and long-term aquifer pumping tests, well construction, development or redevelopment of wells, and well purging during well sampling. The objective of

the BMP program is to minimize, to the extent possible, adverse environmental impacts and to prevent significant detrimental effects on receiving water.

4. New and emergent chemicals including perchlorate, 1-4 Dioxane, and NDMA have been detected sporadically in potable water aquifers in this Region. It is necessary that water suppliers monitor these compounds in their discharges and to take appropriate best management practices (BMPs) action to mitigate their presence if detected in significant concentration in groundwater. Periodic monitoring of these compounds will be included in the Monitoring and Reporting Program.
5. Prior to application, the discharger shall submit for Executive Officer' s approval the list of chemicals and proprietary additives that may affect the discharge, including rates/quantities of application, compositions, characteristics, and material safety data sheets, if any.
6. Oil or oily materials, chemicals, refuse, or other materials that may cause pollution in storm water and/or urban runoff shall not be stored or deposited in areas where they may be picked up by rainfall/urban runoff and discharged to surface waters. Any spill of such materials shall be contained, removed and cleaned immediately.
7. This Order neither exempt the discharger from compliance with any other laws, regulations, or ordinances that may be applicable, nor legalize the waste disposal facility.
8. The discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems installed or used to achieve compliance with this Order.
9. Pursuant to 40 CFR section 122.61(b), coverage under this Order may be transferred in case of change of ownership of land or discharge facility provided the existing discharger notifies the Executive Officer at least 30 days before the proposed transfer date, and the notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new dischargers containing a specific date of transfer of coverage, responsibility for compliance with this Order, and liability between them.
10. Pursuant to 40 CFR sections 122.62 and 122.63, this Order may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. Reasons for modification may include new information on the impact of discharges regulated under this Order become available, promulgation of new effluent standards and/or regulations, adoption of new policies and/or water quality objectives, and/or new judicial decisions affecting requirements of this Order. In addition, if receiving water quality is threatened due to discharges covered under this permit, this permit will be reopened to incorporate more stringent effluent limitations for the constituents creating the threat. TMDLs have not been developed for all the parameters and receiving waters on the 303(d) list. When TMDLs are developed this permit may be reopened to incorporate appropriate limits. In addition, if TMDL identifies that a particular discharge covered under this permit is a load that needs to be reduced; this permit will be reopened to incorporate appropriate TMDL based limit and/or to remove any applicable exemptions.



11. Any discharge authorized under this Order may request to be excluded from the coverage of this Order by applying for an individual permit.

#### **H. Monitoring And Reporting Requirements**

1. The Executive Officer is hereby authorized to prescribe a Monitoring and Reporting Program for each authorized discharger. This program may include participation of the discharger in a regional monitoring program.
2. The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Requirements stated in Part B of the Standard Provisions (Attachment C).
3. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information and data used to complete the Report of Waste Discharge and application for coverage under this Order for at least five years from the date of sampling, measurement, report, or application. The retention period shall be extended during any unresolved litigation regarding the discharge or when requested by the Executive Officer.
4. The monitoring report shall specify the USEPA analytical method used, the Method Detection Limit (MDL) and the Minimum Level (ML)<sup>4</sup> for each pollutant. For the purpose of reporting compliance with numerical limitations, performance goals, and receiving water limitations, analytical data shall be reported with one of the following methods, as the case may be:
  - a. An actual numerical value for sample results greater than or equal to the ML; or
  - b. "Detected, but Not Quantified (DNQ)" if results are greater than or equal to the laboratory's MDL but less than the ML. The estimated<sup>5</sup> chemical concentration of the sample shall also be reported; or
  - c. "Not-Detected (ND)" for sample result less than the laboratory's MDL with the MDL indicated for the analytical method used.

The ML employed for an effluent analysis shall be lower than the permit limit established for a given parameter, unless the Discharger can demonstrate that a particular ML is not attainable and obtains approval for a higher ML from the Executive Officer. At least once a year, the Discharger shall submit a list of the analytical methods employed for each test and associated laboratory quality assurance and quality control procedures.

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<sup>4</sup> The minimum levels are those published by the State Water Resources Control Board in the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*, March 2, 2000. (See Appendix I)

<sup>5</sup> Estimated chemical concentration is the estimated chemical concentration that results from the confirmed detection of the substance by the analytical method below the ML value.

5. The discharger shall maintain all sampling, measurement and analytical results, including: the date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurement; individual(s) who did the sampling or measurement; the date(s) analyses were done; analysts' names; and analytical techniques or methods used.
6. All sampling, sample preservation, and analyses must be conducted according to test procedures under 40 CFR part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this Order or by the Executive Officer.
7. All chemical, bacteriological, and bioassay analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the California Department of Health Services or other state agency authorized to undertake such certification.
8. The discharger shall calibrate and maintain all monitoring instruments and equipment to insure accuracy of measurements, or shall insure that both activities will be conducted.
9. For parameters/constituents where both monthly average and daily maximum limits are prescribed, but where monitoring frequency is less than four times a month, the following procedure shall apply:

If analysis of a representative sample yields a result greater than the monthly average limit for a parameter/constituent, the sampling frequency for that parameter/constituent shall increase to weekly within one week of receiving the laboratory result until at least three consecutive weekly samples are obtained and compliance with the monthly average has been demonstrated, and the discharger has submitted for Executive Officer approval a program that will ensure future compliance with the monthly average limit.
10. The discharger shall file with the Regional Board (Attention: Information Technology Unit) technical reports on self-monitoring work conducted according to the Monitoring and Reporting Program specified by the Executive Officer and submit other reports as requested by the Regional Board.
11. In reporting the monitoring data, the discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, constituents, and concentrations are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized to demonstrate compliance with waste discharge requirements.
12. For every item where the requirements are not met, the discharger shall submit a statement of the actions undertaken or proposed that will bring the discharge into full compliance with requirements at the earliest time and submit a timetable for correction.
13. The discharger shall file a report of any material change or proposed change in the character, location or volume of the discharge.

14. The discharger shall notify this Regional Board within 24 hours by telephone of any adverse condition resulting from the discharge, such notification shall be affirmed in writing within five working days.

**I. Compliance And Enforcement**

1. The discharger must comply with all of the conditions of this Order. Any noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act and the Water Code and is subject to enforcement action and/or permit termination.
2. The Clean Water Act and the Water Code provide for civil and criminal penalties for violations of waste discharge requirements.

**J. Expiration Date And Continuation Of This Order**

This Order expires on August 7, 2008; however, for those dischargers authorized to discharge under this Order, it shall continue in full force and effect until a new order is adopted.

**K. Reauthorization**

Upon re-issuance of a new general permit order, dischargers authorized under this Order shall file a Notice of Intent or a new Report of Waste Discharge within 60 days of notification by the Executive Officer.

I, Dennis A. Dickerson, 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, Los Angeles Region, on August 7, 2003.



Dennis A. Dickerson  
Executive Officer