

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**AMENDED TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R4-2021-0033-A01  
REQUIRING INTERNATIONAL PAPER, NORWALK RECYCLING**

**TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN THE GENERAL PERMIT  
FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES  
AMENDED NOVEMBER 6, 2018 AND EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020  
(NPDES PERMIT No. CAS000001)  
WDID NO. 4 19I021726**

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

1. International Paper, Norwalk Recycling (IPNR) owns and operates a facility located at 12851 Alondra Boulevard in Norwalk, California (Facility). This Facility encompasses a total area of 4.5 acres, and an industrial area of 1.7 acres.
2. The Facility is an industrial operation that is required to have coverage under the State's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, amended on November 6, 2018 and effective on July 1, 2020 (Amended General Permit). The Amended General Permit also serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program, NPDES Permit No. CAS000001. IPNR receives source-separated fiber, primarily bulk and baled scrap paper and cardboard, and processes and bales these materials for shipping to pulp and paper mills and/or other recycling centers. IPNR has a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of 5093-Scrap and Waste Materials. This SIC code is listed as requiring permit coverage in Attachment A to the Amended General Permit.
3. The Amended General Permit establishes numeric effluent limitations (NELs) for facilities that discharge stormwater associated with industrial activities into water bodies that have certain approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and that have waste load allocations for industrial stormwater discharges as set forth in Attachment E to the Amended General Permit. The NELs are numerical limits, an exceedance of which is a violation of the Amended General Permit and require dischargers to limit the concentration of pollutants in their stormwater discharges to protect water quality.
4. Stormwater runoff from the Facility discharges to Coyote Creek, a tributary to the San Gabriel River.

5. The NELs that apply to industrial discharges from the Facility include total zinc, total copper, and total lead. These NELs are new and more stringent than the prior regulatory requirement in the previous General Permit. These NELs became effective on July 1, 2020 and exceedances of the NELs may result in mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i).
6. IPNR has completed a pollutant source assessment that addresses each of these pollutants and identified total zinc as associated with industrial activities at the Facility.
7. IPNR is expected to exceed the NEL for total zinc based on the historical monitoring data reported to the State's online Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) database. The NEL and the corresponding concentrations of this pollutant in the discharge from the Facility have been reported to be:

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Reported Concentration Range in mg/L</b>	<b>Numeric Effluent Limit in mg/L</b>
Total zinc	0.037-0.36	0.158

8. IPNR will require additional pollutant control measures to comply with the applicable NEL listed in the Amended General Permit.
9. The Amended General Permit provides alternative on-site compliance options for facilities that exceed or expect to exceed the NELs (see Attachment I of the Amended General Permit). These compliance options include capture and diversion of the volume of stormwater associated with industrial activities that results from the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, 24-hour storm to the sanitary sewer, or capture and infiltration of the volume of stormwater associated with industrial activities that results from the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, 24-hour storm, or elimination of exposure of industrial activities to stormwater, or capture the volume of stormwater from the maximum historic precipitation event.
10. The Facility currently implements a combination of housekeeping measures, preventative maintenance, other minimum Best Management Practices (BMPs), passive treatment, and exposure minimization. The BMPs implemented at the Facility are targeted to reduce metals concentrations, including aluminum, iron, and zinc, as part of the ongoing exceedance response actions. A vacuum truck sweeps the Facility weekly. Metal-specific fiber rolls are installed in multiple places along the concrete swale and at the roof drain outlets to provide multiple layers of passive treatment during rain events. Overhead coverage has been installed over the diesel storage area, hazardous material storage area, and over a portion of the

containers staged at the north end of the yard. Fiber rolls, mulch, and precise control of irrigation timing are used to reduce potential soil erosion in unpaved areas.

11. IPNR has hired a consulting firm to conduct a hydrology study and analysis of the Facility. Stormwater design flows were estimated and multiple alternatives were evaluated. Based on preliminary findings, diversion and infiltration of non-industrial water is the preferred alternative. Flow from non-industrial areas including run-on and roof runoff will be diverted and discharged directly through the outfall along Blackburn Avenue adjacent to the Facility. Flow from the industrial portion of the Facility, including the north and west yard will be diverted to a sub-grade infiltration system. The system will be designed to capture and infiltrate twice the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm using a manhole filtration system and a below-grade arch storage system rated for truck traffic. The system will be sized to incorporate a 24-hour drawdown time. In addition to the infiltration option, refinements to existing BMPs, such as painting newly-installed galvanized fencing and roofing on the overhangs in the north yard, will also be implemented. These modifications could not be designed, installed, or put into operation prior to July 1, 2020, due to the time needed to design, install, and begin operation of the on-site infiltration compliance option.
12. In November 2022, the Regional Water Board directed IPNR to conduct a site-specific soils and groundwater study to confirm that infiltration of stormwater would not cause exceedance of maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in groundwater underlying the Site. This infiltration study was submitted to the Regional Water Board on August 23, 2023.
13. On August 23, 2023, IPNR requested an extension of the milestones and final compliance deadlines in Time Schedule Order (TSO) R4-2021-0033 due to the time required to conduct the infiltration study before construction of the infiltration system could begin. The Regional Water Board agrees that an extension is warranted. This amendment to TSO R4-2021-0033 provides additional time to come into final compliance with the Amended General Order.
14. Per Water Code section 13385 subdivision (j)(3)(C)(iii)(I), if a time schedule exceeds one year from the effective date of the TSO, the schedule must include interim requirements that include effluent limitations for the pollutants of concern. Because this Order ends on May 1, 2025, consistent with Water Code section 13385, an interim effluent limit is included for total zinc.
15. IPNR has developed and updated a facility specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that is currently being implemented and complies with the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Amended General Permit. The

facility specific SWPPP dated November 11, 2022 has been submitted electronically to the SMARTS database.

16. Water Code section 13300 states: “Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, or the state board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements.”
17. Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i), require the Regional Water Board to impose mandatory minimum penalties when dischargers violate effluent limitations in NPDES permits. Water Code section 13385 subdivision (j)(3) allows the Regional Water Board to exempt certain facilities from mandatory minimum penalties “when there are exceedances of NELs if the facility is in compliance with a time schedule order issued pursuant to Section 13300 if all of the [specified] requirements are met.”
18. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(B)(i), allows the Regional Water Board to issue a TSO if the “regional board finds that... the discharger is not able to consistently comply with one or more of the effluent limitations established in the waste discharge requirements” if the “effluent limitation is a new, more stringent, or modified regulatory requirement that has become applicable to the waste discharge after the effective date of the waste discharge requirements and after July 1, 2000, new or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the effluent limitation, and the new or modified control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days.”
19. Prerequisites to issuing a TSO include those set forth in Water Code section 13385 subdivisions (j)(3)(C)(i), (j)(3)(C)(iii), and (j)(3)(D):

The TSO must establish “a time schedule for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitation that is as short as possible, taking into account the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect design, development and implementation of the control measures that are necessary to comply with the effluent limitation.” (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(C)(i).) The TSO shall not exceed five years in length unless an extension is granted in accordance with Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(C). If the time schedule exceeds one year from the effective date of the order, the schedule shall include interim requirements and the dates for their achievement. The interim requirements shall include both .... (I) Effluent limitations for the pollutant or

pollutants of concern. (II) Actions and milestones leading to compliance with the effluent limitation. (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(C)(iii).) The discharger must “[have] prepared and [be] implementing in a timely and proper manner, or [be] required by the regional board to prepare and implement, a pollution prevention plan pursuant to section 13263.3.” (Wat. Code § 13385, subd. (j)(3)(D).)

20. The Regional Water Board issues this Amended TSO to IPNR based on all the findings set forth herein.
21. The time schedule set forth herein ends on May 1, 2025. This date does not exceed 5 years.
22. Pursuant to Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3), full compliance with the requirements of this Amended TSO exempts IPNR from mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) only for violations of the NEL for total zinc that occur after the effective date of this Amended TSO until the expiration date of this Amended TSO. If an interim effluent limitation contained in this Amended TSO is exceeded, IPNR may be subject to enforcement action. An exceedance of the interim effluent limitations for the purpose of this Amended TSO is defined as when two (2) or more analytical results from samples taken for any single parameter within a reporting year exceed the interim effluent limitations. In addition, if IPNR does not implement its SWPPP or comply with the time schedule in this Order, IPNR may be subject to enforcement action.
23. The issuance of this Amended TSO is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15301 because the Amended TSO pertains to an existing facility and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. In addition, the issuance of this Amended TSO is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 15307, 15308, and 15321, subdivision (a)(2). The issuance of this Amended TSO is an action to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement and protection of the environment and a natural resource and is also an enforcement order issued by the Regional Water Board.
24. All technical and monitoring reports required under this Amended TSO are required pursuant to Water Code section 13383. The Regional Water Board needs the required information to determine compliance with this Amended TSO and the Amended General Permit.
25. Pursuant to Water Code section 13167.5, subdivision (a)(3), the Regional Water Board has notified IPNR, interested agencies, and interested persons of its intent to issue this Amended TSO concerning compliance with waste discharge

requirements and provided a 30-day comment period. The Regional Water Board considered all comments received.

26. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Regional Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with the Water Code section 13320 and the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the Regional Water Board action, except that if the thirtieth day following the action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found online at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, pursuant to the Water Code sections 13300 and 13385, subdivision (j)(3), International Paper, Norwalk Recycling (IPNR), shall comply with the requirements listed below to ensure compliance with the NEL for total zinc contained in the Amended General Permit by May 1, 2025:

1. Comply immediately with the following interim actions, schedule, and interim effluent limitations at all discharge points:

<b>Interim Action:</b>	<b>Schedule:</b>
Obtain local City and/or County building permits	June 1, 2024
Complete site modifications to divert non-industrial stormwater away from the infiltration project	September 30, 2024
Install and construct the infiltration system	April 1, 2025
Complete testing and begin system operation to include pretreatment, monitoring, and troubleshooting as necessary	May 1, 2025

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Interim Effluent Limitation in mg/L</b>
Total zinc	0.30

The foregoing interim effluent limitations and interim actions are in effect from **DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION** through May 1, 2025. During this time, IPNR shall comply with the interim actions and associated schedule as described in this Amended TSO.

2. Submit, electronically through the SMARTS database, biannual progress reports of efforts taken to comply with the interim actions per the above schedule and with the interim effluent limitations in addition to other reporting requirements pursuant to the Amended General Permit. The reports shall summarize the progress to date, the activities conducted during the reporting period, and the activities planned for the upcoming reporting period. Biannual progress reports shall be due April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> each year throughout the duration of this Amended TSO.
3. Submit, electronically through the SMARTS database, a final report due on May 1, 2025 that describes a summary of all the interim actions completed and their successful completion.
4. Any person signing a document submitted under this Amended TSO shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

5. If IPNR fails to comply with any provisions of this Amended TSO, the Regional Water Board may take any further action authorized by law. The Executive Officer, or a delegee, is authorized to take appropriate administrative enforcement action pursuant, but not limited to, Water Code sections 13350 and 13385. The Regional Water Board may also refer any violations to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, including injunction and civil monetary remedies.
6. All other provisions of the Amended General Permit that are not in conflict with this Amended TSO, including NELs not addressed by this Amended TSO, remain in full force and effect.
7. The Regional Water Board may reopen this Amended TSO at its discretion or at the request of IPNR, if warranted. Lack of progress towards compliance with this Amended TSO may be cause for the Regional Water Board to modify the conditions of this Amended TSO.
8. This Amended TSO is effective on **DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION** and expires on May 1, 2025.

**SO ORDERED.**

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**Susana Arredondo**  
**Executive Officer**

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**Date**