

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

**TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R4-2024-0277
REQUIRING WIRETECH, INC.**

**TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN GENERAL PERMIT FOR
STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES
AMENDED NOVEMBER 6, 2018 AND EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020
(ORDER WQ 2018-0028-DWQ,_NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS000001)
WDID NO. 4 19I030564**

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

1. WireTech, Inc. (WTI) owns and operates a facility located at 6440 East Canning Street in Commerce, California (Facility). This Facility encompasses a total area of 2.74 acres, and an exposed industrial area of 1.53 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. WTI is a steel wire supplier of various grades and sizes. WTI has a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code of 3315-steel wiredrawing and steel nails and spikes. 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. 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 Reach 2 of the Los Angeles River.
5. The NELs that apply to industrial discharges from the Facility include total cadmium, total copper, total lead, total zinc, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen and ammonia. These NELs are new and more stringent than

the prior regulatory requirements 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. WTI 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. WTI is expected to exceed the NEL for total zinc based on 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 pollutants in the discharge from the Facility have been reported to be:

Pollutant	Reported Concentration Range in mg/L	Numeric Effluent Limit in mg/L
Total zinc	0.147-0.635	0.159

8. WTI will require additional pollutant control measures to comply with the applicable NELs listed in the Amended General Permit.
9. WTI implements the required minimum BMPs at the Facility. As an interim BMP, the Facility is evaluating filter socks to improve water quality. These filters will be deployed in multiple layers upstream from discharge monitoring points for forecasted rain events with a 50% chance of rainfall greater than 0.1 inches. These filters include compost filled socks with metal absorbing media followed by biochar-filled socks.
10. WTI completed a bench scale test to evaluate stormwater treatment media to remove zinc and iron. WTI will implement stormwater drainage system improvements at the Facility to convey all of the industrial stormwater runoff to a single location. WTI is designing and installing a stormwater treatment system to treat the 85th percentile 24-hour storm at the Facility. The treatment system will include an attenuation tank(s), mechanical filtration to remove solids, and media filtration to remove metals.
11. WTI 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 March 15, 2024, has been submitted electronically to the SMARTS database.
12. 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.”

13. 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.”
14. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(B)(i), allows the Regional Water Board to issue a Time Schedule Order (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.”
15. Prerequisites to issuing a TSO include those set forth in Water Code section 13385 subdivisions (j)(3)(C)(i) 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). 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).)
16. The Regional Water Board issues this TSO based on all the findings set forth herein.

17. The time schedule set forth herein ends on July 30, 2025. This date does not exceed one year from the date of issuance of this Order.
18. Since the time schedule for completion of the actions necessary to comply with the NEL for total zinc in the Amended General Permit does not exceed one year from the effective date of this Order, this TSO does not include interim effluent limitations.
19. Pursuant to the Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3), full compliance with the requirements of this TSO exempts WTI from mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) only for violations of the NEL for total zinc that occur after the effective date of this TSO until the expiration date of this TSO. If WTI does not implement its SWPPP or comply with the time schedule in this TSO, WTI may be subject to enforcement action.
20. All technical and monitoring reports required under this TSO are required pursuant to Water Code section 13383. The Regional Water Board needs the required information to determine compliance with this TSO and the Amended General Permit.
21. The issuance of this 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 TSO pertains to an existing facility and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. In addition, the issuance of this 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 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.
22. Pursuant to Water Code section 13167.5, subdivision (a)(3), the Regional Water Board has notified WTI, interested agencies, and interested persons of its intent to issue this TSO concerning compliance with waste discharge requirements and provided a 30-day comment period. The Regional Water Board considered all comments received.
23. 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 or will be provided upon request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to the Water Code sections 13300 and 13385, subdivision (j)(3), the WireTech, Inc. (WTI), shall comply with the requirements listed below to ensure compliance with the NEL for total zinc contained in the Amended General Permit by July 30, 2025:

1. Comply immediately with the following actions and schedule:

Action:	Schedule:
Implement facility specific SWPPP	In compliance with terms in the Amended General Permit
Complete storm drain design improvements at the Facility	December 31, 2024
Complete installation of treatment system	December 31, 2024
Test the efficacy of the stormwater treatment system	July 30, 2025

The foregoing actions are in effect from (**IMPLEMENTATION DATE**) through July 30, 2025. During this time, WTI shall comply with the actions and associated schedule as described in this TSO.

2. Submit, electronically through the SMARTS database, quarterly progress reports of efforts taken to comply with the actions per the above schedule 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. Progress reports shall be due on February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, and November 1st, with the first report due on November 1, 2024.
3. Submit, electronically through the SMARTS database, a final report due on July 30, 2025 that describes a summary of all the interim actions completed and their successful completion.
4. Any person signing a document submitted under this 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 WTI fails to comply with any provisions of this 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 TSO, including NELs not addressed in this TSO, remain in full force and effect.
7. The Regional Water Board may reopen this TSO at its discretion or at the request of WTI, if warranted. Lack of progress towards compliance with this TSO may be cause for the Regional Water Board to modify the conditions of this TSO.
8. This TSO is effective on (**IMPLEMENTATION DATE**) and expires on July 30, 2025.

SO ORDERED.

Susanna Arredondo
Executive Officer

Date