

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. 84-56**

**ORDER REQUIRING THE CITY OF NEEDLES TO CEASE AND DESIST  
FROM DISCHARGING AND THREATENING TO DISCHARGE  
WASTE CONTRARY TO REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY THE  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. On November 16, 1983, this Regional Board adopted Order No. 83-91 (NPDES No. CA0104205) prescribing waste discharge requirements for the discharge of wastewater by the City of Needles to the Colorado River near the center of Section 33, T9N, R23E, SBB&M.
2. The discharge requirements provide, in part as follows:

**"A. Effluent Limitations**

5. The daily maximum total residual chlorine shall not exceed 0.02 mg/l.
6. The discharged wastewater shall be adequately disinfected. Said wastewater shall be considered to be adequately disinfected if at some point in the treatment process the Median Most Probable Number of Coliform Organisms, as determined from the bacteriological results of the last seven (7) days for which analyses have been completed, does not exceed the limit prescribed below for the described discharge condition:
  - a. Effluent piped into the main part of the channel - coliform organisms not to exceed 23 per one hundred (100) milliliters; or
  - b. Where recreationists can come into direct contact with effluent before full mixing is accomplished, wastewater shall be at all times adequately disinfected, oxidized, coagulated, clarified and filtered. The wastewater shall be considered adequately disinfected if at some location in the treatment process the median number of coliform organisms does not exceed 2.2 per 100 milliliters, and the number of coliform organisms does not exceed 23 per 100 milliliters in more than one sample within any 30-day period. Final turbidity, as determined by an approved laboratory method, shall not exceed an average operating turbidity of 2 turbidity units and shall not exceed 5 turbidity units more than 5 percent of the time during any 24-hour period.

*Cancelled  
1/27/88  
Superseded  
by BO 94-001  
1-18-94*

Samples for determining coliforms in 6.a. and 6.b. (above) shall be taken at least daily and at a time when wastewater flow and characteristics are most demanding on the treatment facilities and disinfection procedures.

**B. Receiving Water Limitations**

1. Wastewater discharged to Colorado River shall not:
  - c. Contain heavy metals or associated chemicals or pesticides in concentrations toxic to fish and to aquatic life."
3. On July 12, 1978, this Board adopted Cease and Desist Order No. 78-72 which prescribed a compliance time schedule requiring that the City of Needles achieve full compliance by September 1, 1980. On July 12, 1979, this Board adopted Addendum No. 1 to Cease and Desist Order No. 78-72 to make proper reference to a new NPDES Permit adopted by the Board on that same date.
4. Through the Clean Water Grant program, the City chose the alternative of constructing a mid-river discharge point rather than construct tertiary treatment facilities and continue discharging along the side of the river. Construction of new treatment facilities commenced in March 1983, with completion anticipated in October 1983. However, beginning in May 1983, the Bureau of Reclamation began releasing significantly higher than normal flows in the Colorado River in response to heavy runoff in the watershed. The high flows will continue for at least several more months. Construction of the mid-river discharge is not economically feasible under existing high flows in the Colorado River.
5. Dechlorination facilities necessary to achieve compliance with effluent limitation A.5. (above) are designed to operate in the mid-river discharge pipe and can not be used until the discharge pipe is completed.
6. The City of Needles can not feasibly achieve compliance with Effluent Limitations A.5. and A.6. and Receiving Water Limitation B.1.c. until the flow in the Colorado River is reduced and construction of the mid-river discharge can be completed.
7. On May 10, 1978, this Regional Board adopted Order No. 78-57, "Requesting the City of Needles to Conduct a Survey of Saline Wastewater Discharges within the Sewerage System and Submit a Plan by Which the City will Achieve Compliance with Incremental Chemical Constituent Effluent Limitations." Order No. 83-91 increased or eliminated the chemical constituent standards with which the City of Needles must comply. The City's discharge is now in compliance with effluent chemical constituent limitations. The enforcement action imposed by Order No. 78-57 is no longer needed.

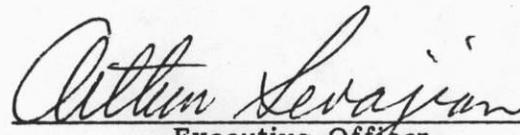
8. On May 16, 1984, the Regional Board conducted a public hearing in the City of El Centro, after due notice to the discharger, and all other affected persons, at which the discharger appeared and evidence was received concerning the discharge.
9. Upon the basis of the evidence received, the Regional Board determined that the City of Needles is violating and is threatening to violate the requirements listed in Finding No. 2, above.
10. This enforcement action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15121, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Administrative Code.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The City of Needles cease and desist discharging and threatening to discharge wastes contrary to the requirements listed in Finding No. 2, above.
2. Compliance with this Board's discharge requirements shall be accomplished during the first 30-day period that the Colorado River flow along the Needles reach remains below 18,000 cfs, as scheduled by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
3. The City of Needles shall fully comply with the Waste Discharge Requirements in Order No. 83-91, excepting for the requirements listed in Finding No. 2, above. In the interim, until the mid-river discharge structure can be completed, the City shall additionally comply with the following:
  - a. Wastewater discharged to Colorado River shall at all times be an adequately disinfected, oxidized wastewater. The wastewater shall be considered adequately disinfected if at some location in the treatment process the median number of coliform organisms does not exceed 2.2 per 100 milliliters, as determined from the bacteriological results of the last seven days for which analyses have been completed.
  - b. Wastewater discharged to Colorado River shall not contain heavy metals or associated chemicals or pesticides, except for residual chlorine, in concentrations toxic to fish and other aquatic life.
4. The City of Needles is required to provide reports to this Board under penalty of perjury concerning the following. Reports shall be submitted for each calendar quarter, with the reports due within fifteen (15) days of the end of the reporting quarter.

- a. Average daily flow of water released into the Colorado River from Davis Dam, reported for each day of the quarter; and
  - b. Progress towards compliance achieved during the quarter
5. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the City of Needles fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer is directed to request the Attorney General to take appropriate action against the City of Needles, including injunction and civil monetary remedies, if appropriate.
  6. Cease and Desist Order No. 78-72, and Addendum No. 1 to Cease and Desist Order No. 78-72 are hereby rescinded.
  7. Order No. 78-57 is hereby rescinded.

I, Arthur Swajian, 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, Colorado River Basin Region, on May 16, 1984.

  
Executive Officer