

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
 COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. 89-057  
 AGAINST  
 CITY OF EL CENTRO  
 Imperial County

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

1. On June 22, 1984 this Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted Order No. 84-24 (NPDES No. CA0104426), prescribing waste discharge requirements for the discharge of wastewater by the City of El Centro (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger) into the Central Drain near the center of Section 25, T15S, R13E, SBB&M. The drain flows 8 miles and enters the Alamo River.
2. Board Order No. 84-24 requires, in part, that the discharger comply with the following:
  - A. Representative samples of wastewater discharged to Central Drain shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	30-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge <u>Rate</u>	7-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge <u>Rate</u>
20° BOD <sub>5</sub>	lbs/day mg/l	1,251 30	1,876 45
Suspended Solids	lbs/day mg/l	1,251 30	1,876 45
Settleable Matter	ml/l	0.3	0.5

3. Monthly monitoring reports submitted by the discharger indicate several months of non-compliance with effluent limitations as described in Finding No. 2, above, in regards to the allowable limits of 20° BOD<sub>5</sub>. These violations are further confirmed by inspections and wastewater sampling conducted by the Regional Board staff.
4. The City's sewage treatment plant had suffered severe structural deteriorations in its various components including the anaerobic digester. As a result, some of the components are either not utilized or are under-utilized; and it may be that the resultant violations of effluent limitations noted above is partly due to this non or under utilization of treatment processes. Although the City of El Centro has

*3/19/96  
Rescinded*

been making an effort to correct the above-mentioned problems, as of this date structural damage in several areas of the wastewater treatment plant still exist.

5. By letter dated April 6, 1988, the Regional Board's Executive Officer notified the City of El Centro of the violations of the above-mentioned discharge requirements; and:
  - A. Requested that by April 25, 1988, the discharger submit to this Regional Board its proposal and time schedule of specific actions that the City would take whereby correction of the violations will be accomplished; and
  - B. Explained that this Regional Board was scheduling a public hearing on June 30, 1988 for consideration of issuance of a Cease and Desist Order against the City of El Centro.
6. On June 30, 1988 the Regional Board issued Time Schedule Order No. 88-91 with a time schedule for specific improvements at the wastewater treatment plant.
7. Towards the end of 1988 the City of El Centro fell behind in meeting the due dates contained in Time Schedule Order No. 88-91 due to delayed delivery of some equipment and non-receipt of any bids on their advertised construction work.
8. Regional Board staff met with the City staff and received a new time schedule for completion of those tasks contained in Time Schedule Order No. 88-91 as shown below:

A. DIGESTERS

<u>Task</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Report Due To Regional Board</u>
1. Engineering Agreement Approval	April 6, 1988	Completed
Start of Design Documents	April 15, 1988	Completed
Completion of Design Documents	December 16, 1988	Completed
2. Construction Start	April 13, 1988	Completed
3. First Progress Report	June 1, 1989	June 10, 1989
4. Second Progress Report	August 1, 1989	August 10, 1989

<u>Task</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Report Due To Regional Board</u>
5. Third Progress Report	November 1, 1989	November 10, 1989
6. Construction Completion	January 8, 1990	January 18, 1990
7. In Full Operation	February 1990	February 15, 1990

A. AERATION BASINS

<u>Task</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Report Due To Regional Board</u>
1. Engineering Agreement Approval	July 20, 1988	Completed
Start of Design Documents	July 21, 1988	Completed
Completion of Design Documents	September 5, 1988	Completed
2. Construction Completion	June 17, 1989	June 30, 1989
3. In Full Operation	July 23, 1989	August 1, 1989

B. CONCRETE REPAIR AND GATE REPLACEMENT

1. Complete Design	December 15, 1988	Completed
2. Construction Completed	January 8, 1990	January 18, 1990
3. In-Service	February 1990	February 15, 1990

9. Board Order No. 84-24 also requires the discharger to comply with the following provision:

"Neither the treatment nor the discharge of waste shall cause a pollution or a nuisance, as defined in Division 7 of the California Water Code."

10. The Regional Board has received many odor complaints regarding the City's wastewater treatment plant which constitute violations of the nuisance portion of the above referenced provision.

11. On May 15, 1989 the Regional Board received a proposal from the City to eliminate the odors from the wastewater treatment plant according to the following time schedule:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Report Due To Regional Board</u>
Commencement of dewatering of daily sludge production and substantial reduction of odors	June 6, 1989	June 12, 1989
Complete elimination of nuisance odors outside of treatment plant site	July 28, 1989	August 4, 1989

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The discharger shall achieve compliance with the Regional Board's waste discharge requirements by completing improvements as delineated in Findings No. 8 and 11 above, and by proper operation and maintenance of the sewage system.
2. The discharger is required to provide the above described reports to the Regional Board under penalty of perjury, explaining the progress toward compliance with specific tasks outlined in various findings above.
3. This Order supersedes Time Schedule Order No. 88-91.
4. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the discharger fails to comply with this Order, the Executive Officer may recommend to the Regional Board, to issue further Enforcement Action including referral to the Attorney General.

Phil Gruenberg  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6-2-89  
Date