

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

**FACT SHEET
APPLICATION FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
TO DISCHARGE TO STATE WATERS**

Public Notice No. 7-00-08
NPDES No. CA0105015
Board Order No. 00-002

City of Calipatria
P.O. Box 167
Calipatria, CA 92243

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the Regional Board proposed to renew waste discharge requirements for the discharge. The tentative proposed determinations are described below.

Description of Proposed Discharge

The City of Calipatria owns a sewage collection, treatment and disposal system. The treatment plant is located near the intersection of Lindsey and English Streets. The maximum average design capacity of the plant is 1.70-million gallons-per-day (MGD). Present flow to the wastewater treatment plant is around 0.85 MGD, half of which is from the nearby state prison.

The treatment facility consists of bar screens, four aeration ponds arranged in series and a disinfection system. Three of the ponds are lined with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) liners. The effluent from the last pond flows to a chlorine contact chamber, where it is chlorinated by the addition of sodium hypochlorite. The disinfected effluent is dechlorinated by mixing it with sodium metabisulfite in a flash mixer. Treated effluent is discharged to the "G" Drain, which discharges to the Alamo River.

Basis for Discharge Specifications

Effluent discharged from this facility could contain pollutants in sufficient quantities to affect receiving water quality. Pursuant to Section 13263, Article 4, Chapter 4 of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Regional Boards are required to issue Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges that could affect the quality of the state's waters. Furthermore, Federal Regulation 40 CFR 122.1 requires the issuance of NPDES permits for pollutants discharges from a point source to the waters of the United States. The draft discharge requirements contain specific discharge limitations for selected pollutants. The rationales for each of the limitations is as follows:

Constituents

Basis for Limitations

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

Discharge to waters that support aquatic life, which is dependent on oxygen. Organic matter in the discharge may consume oxygen as it breaks down.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

High levels of suspended solids can adversely impact aquatic habitat. Untreated or improperly treated wastewater can contain high amounts of suspended solids.

Settleable Matter

High levels of settleable matter can have an adverse effect on aquatic habitat. Untreated or improperly treated wastewater can contain high amounts of settleable matter.

Hydrogen Ion (pH)

Hydrogen Ion (pH) is a measure of Hydrogen Ion concentration in the water. A range specified between 6.0 to 9.0 ensures suitability of biological life. This limitation has been adopted in the Basin Plan of the Region.

Toxicity

Toxicity testing ensures that the effluent does not contain metals, chemicals, pesticides or other constituents in concentration toxic to aquatic life.

E. Coli

These limits are required by the Basin Plan for waters designated for water contact recreation (REC I).

Flow

The plant is designed to treat 1.70 million gallons per day (MGD) of domestic wastewater.

Chlorine

High levels of chlorine are harmful to aquatic life.

Written Comments

Interested parties and agencies are invited to submit written comments on the proposed waste discharge requirements and the Regional Board's Executive Officer's proposed determinations. Comments should be submitted in writing not later than January 6, 2000 to:

Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The application number shall appear on the first page of any submitted comments. All comments received by the above date will be considered in the formulation of the final determinations.

Public Hearing

The Waste Discharge Requirements will be considered by the Regional Board at a public hearing to be held at the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, 78-495 Calle Tampico, La Quinta on April 12, 2000.

Waste Discharge Requirements Appeals

Any person may petition the State Board to review the decision of the Regional Board regarding waste discharge requirements. A petition must be made within 30 days of the Regional Board's hearing.

Additional Information

Persons wishing further information may write to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

or call the Regional Board at (760) 346-7491.