

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2014-0087

**RESCISSION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR**

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
TWO HISTORICAL LAND TREATMENT UNITS
BOARD ORDER NO. 6-97-81
WDID 6B369107001**

San Bernardino County

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

1. Discharger and Facility Description

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and operates a natural gas compressor station located southeast of the town of Hinkley in San Bernardino county. For the purpose of this Order, PG&E is referred to as the Discharger. On April 30, 1997 the Discharger submitted a complete revised Report of Waste Discharge for two land treatment units.

Land treatment units (LTUs) are agricultural fields that receive and treat extracted groundwater containing hexavalent chromium from historical waste discharges from PG&E's natural gas compressor station. The soluble, toxic hexavalent form of chromium is converted to the insoluble, less toxic trivalent form during application of extracted groundwater for alfalfa irrigation at the LTUs. The LTU located between Highway 58 and Santa Fe Road is referred to as the "Ranch LTU". The LTU located at the northwest corner of Summerset Road and Community Boulevard is referred to as the "East LTU." For the purpose of this Order, both LTUs are referred to as the "Facility."

2. Permit History

The Water Board previously adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the East LTU under Board Order No. 6-91-917, which was adopted on September 12, 1991. An amendment to Board Order No. 6-91-917 was adopted for the East LTU on August 12, 1993. WDRs 6-97-81 were adopted on July 17, 1997 to include requirements for both the Ranch and East LTUs, and rescinding the previous WDRs regulating the only East LTU.

PG&E discontinued the discharges (i.e., shut off the extraction and irrigation systems) regulated by Board Order No. 6-97-81 at the Facility in June 2001 but continued the monitoring and reporting program. Agricultural treatment of hexavalent chromium in groundwater ceased until August 2004 following the Water Board adoption of Board Order No. R6V-2004-0034, WDRs for land treatment units at the Desert View Dairy, located north of the Facility.

3. Reason for Action

On March 12, 2014, the Water Board adopted Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023, establishing new WDRs for all existing and new discharges related to land treatment of waste hexavalent chromium in groundwater. Establishing new WDRs allowed the Water Board to impose the stringent monitoring, reporting and mitigation measure implementation requirements outlined in the 2013 Environmental Impact Report adopted by the Water Board for the comprehensive cleanup of chromium in groundwater.

In its Report of Waste Discharge and addenda submitted during April through July 2014 for coverage under the new WDRs, the Discharger has proposed to construct or expand agricultural treatment units (ATUs, formerly called LTUs) at the locations of the former Ranch and East LTUs. Such discharges will now be subject to the requirements of Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023.

Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023 formally rescinded WDRs R6V-2004-0034 (and its amendments), since the Desert View Dairy LTU will also be regulated under the new WDRs, but neglected to rescind Board Order No. 6-97-81. Therefore, this Board Order is proposed to rectify that administrative oversight.

4. Conclusion

It is in the public interest to rescind Board Order No. 6-97-81, since ATU discharges will continue to be appropriately regulated under Board Order No. R6V-2014-0023.

5. California Environmental Quality Act

Rescission of the WDRs is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with section 15321, title 14, California Code of Regulations.

6. Notification of Interested Parties

The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested parties of its intent to rescind Board Order No. 6-97-81. Opportunity to comment was provided starting in July 2014 using U.S. mail, e-mail, and internet posting.

7. Public Meeting

The Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the rescission of Board Order No. 6-97-81.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT pursuant to Water Code sections 13260 and 13263, Board Order No. 6-97-81 is hereby rescinded.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on September 10, 2014.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian

PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER