

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2014-XXXX

AMENDING ORDER R5-2013-0073
NPDES NO. CAG995002

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR LIMITED THREAT DISCHARGES OF
TREATED/UNTREATED GROUNDWATER FROM CLEANUP SITES,
WASTEWATER FROM SUPERCHLORINATION PROJECTS, AND
OTHER LIMITED THREAT WASTEWATERS
TO SURFACE WATER

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Central Valley Water Board), finds that:

1. On 31 May 2013, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2013-0073 (NPDES No. CAG995002) for Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order).
2. The Limited Threat General Order, Attachment B – Screening Requirements for All Limited Threat Discharges, requires sampling and analysis of the potential discharge for California Toxics Rule (CTR) priority pollutants, and requires comparison of the analytical results to the screening levels. The Limited Threat General Order, Limitations and Discharge Requirements, contains effluent limitations for CTR priority pollutants to include in the Discharger's Notice of Applicability when the discharge demonstrates reasonable potential to exceed the screening levels. However, the Limited Threat General Order does not require screening of the discharge for the non-CTR constituents aluminum, nitrate, hardness, and pH. Screening of these non-CTR constituents is necessary in determining potential impacts on beneficial uses. Therefore, this Order amends the Limited Threat General Order to include aluminum, nitrate, hardness, and pH sampling and analysis to Attachment B – Screening Requirements for All Limited Threat Discharges.

Iron and manganese are constituents found in groundwater throughout many areas within the Central Valley Region. Prior to permitting discharges under the Limited Threat General Order, monitoring of constituents including iron and manganese is necessary for determining if the discharge has the reasonable potential to cause exceedance of the applicable water quality standard for protection of the receiving water beneficial uses. Therefore, this Order amends the Limited Threat General Order to include screening requirements and effluent limitations for iron and manganese because of their prevalence in groundwater, and to determine the necessity for Dischargers to treat the water prior to discharging to receiving waters.

3. The Limited Threat General Order contains effluent limits for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) based on criteria for protection of aquatic life. However, groundwater extraction and

treatment systems at groundwater remediation sites typically produce VOC concentrations in the effluent that are less than the VOC water quality based effluent limits in the Limited Threat General Order. Therefore this Order amends the Limited Threat General Order to include technology-based effluent limits for groundwater remediation sites that have an active groundwater extraction and treatment system.

4. The Limited Threat General Order contains hardness-dependent metals screening levels and corresponding effluent limits. For hardness concentrations between 0 and 200 mg/L, screening levels and effluent limits are segmented into 50 mg/L increments and the central value for each increment is used for calculation of the screening levels and corresponding effluent limits (e.g. for a hardness between 0 and less than 50 mg/L a concentration of 25 mg/L is used for calculation of the effluent limit, etc.). However, with a large omission of screening levels and effluent limits within the 50 mg/L increments, smaller increments are necessary to better represent the actual discharge condition when hardness concentrations are 100 mg/L or below. Therefore this Order amends the Limited Threat General Order to include 10 mg/L incremental segments for hardness concentrations between 0 and 100 mg/L for the hardness-dependent metals screening levels and corresponding effluent limits. This Order also amends the Limited Threat General Order to contain screening levels and effluent limits for hardness concentrations between 100 mg/L and 200 mg/L, and for hardness concentrations at or above 200 mg/L.
5. As part of the application process, the Limited Threat General Order requires Dischargers that are performing groundwater cleanup (not specifically to decrease the salinity of the groundwater) to submit a salinity minimization plan. This requirement is redundant because all Dischargers enrolled under the Limited Threat General Order are required to develop and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) “that include site-specific plans and procedures implemented and/or to be implemented to prevent the generation and potential release of additional pollutants from the Facility to waters of the State.” Beyond implementing BMPs to reduce salinity created by the operation of the treatment system, there are no other source controls that the Discharger can target to further reduce the existing salinity of the groundwater. Therefore this Order amends the Limited Threat General Order to remove the Salinity Requirements portion of Attachment G – Application Requirements and other associated salinity requirements in the General Order.
6. Previous Order R5-2008-0082 allowed for receiving water monitoring requirements to be specified in the NOA. As an oversight Order R5-2013-0073 prescribed receiving water monitoring requirements without allowing the requirements to be specified in the NOA. Receiving water monitoring up and down stream of the discharge is useful in determining the effects the discharge may, or may not, have on the receiving water. Therefore this Order also amends the Limited Threat General Order to allow the Executive Officer to specify the receiving water monitoring requirements in the NOA as necessary.
7. On <Date>, in Rancho Cordova, California, after due notice to the Discharger and all other affected persons, the Central Valley Water Board conducted a public hearing at which evidence was received to consider this Order under the California Water Code.
8. Issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) (“CEQA”) pursuant to Water Code section 13389, since the adoption or modification of a NPDES permit for an existing source is statutorily exempt and this Order only serves to implement a NPDES permit. (*Pacific Water Conditioning Ass’n, Inc. v. Discharger Council of Discharger of Riverside* (1977) 73

Cal.App.3d 546, 555-556.). Issuance of this Order is also exempt from the provisions of CEQA in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15321, subdivision (a)(2).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT pursuant to California Water Code Section 13300 and 13267, Order R5-2013-0073 is amended as shown in underline/strikeout format in Attachment A.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and 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 date of this Order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday (including mandatory furlough days), 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 on the Internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Order R5-2014-XXXX, adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 5/6 June 2014.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer