

Martin

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 83-42
AGAINST
MECCA SANITARY DISTRICT
Mecca - Riverside County

The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. Mecca Sanitary District (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger), P. O. Box 516, Mecca, CA 92254, owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant located in Section 8, T7S, R9E, SBB&M, which serves the Mecca area.
2. The Regional Board prescribed waste discharge requirements for the facility in Order No. 79-8 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104485) on January 17, 1979, which require, in part:
 - C.1 Neither the treatment nor the discharge of wastes shall cause a pollution or a nuisance, as defined in Division 7 of the California Water Code.
3. Section 13050 (m), Division 7, California Water Code, states:

"Nuisance" means anything which: (1) is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property, and (2) affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal, and (3) occurs during or as a result of the treatment or disposal of wastes.
4. At 2:30 p.m. on March 23, 1983, the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health reported that they had received several citizen complaints concerning odors from the Mecca Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant.
5. At 3:30 p.m. on March 23, 1983, the Regional Board staff inspected the subject facility and found offensive odors emanating from several sources as discussed below. Odors were noticeable for three blocks downwind of the facility in the center of town. Facility representatives could not be contacted.
6. At approximately 8:30 a.m. on March 24, 1983, Regional Board staff contacted the District's plant manager by telephone, informed him of the odor problems, and requested immediate corrective action.

*Cancelled
9/21/88*

7. Regional Board staff inspections of the facility at 4:00 p.m. on March 24, 6:00 p.m. on March 25, and 11:00 a.m. on March 29, 1983 revealed continuing odor nuisances from the facility. The inspections and communication with the plant manager determined that no significant action was being taken to alleviate the nuisance conditions.
8. Regional Board staff inspections reveal several major sources of odors as follows:
 - a. Sludge drying beds are completely filled with wet, anaerobic sludge. The southern bed particularly has a thick scum layer giving off strong odors and supporting flies.
 - b. The aerobic digester is covered with a thick layer of dried foam which gives off offensive odors.
 - c. On the west side of the plant there have been repeated spills of sludge and scum creating a large area of wet sludge which generates offensive odors and supports flies.
9. Existing conditions at the subject facility constitute a nuisance in violation of Order No. 79-8 and the California Water Code.
10. This enforcement action is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et. seq.) in accordance with Section 2714, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Administrative Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 13304 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, Mecca Sanitary District shall:

1. Take all necessary action to immediately abate the odor nuisance conditions.
2. By April 11, 1983, submit to the Regional Board a report describing the actions taken by the District to alleviate the odor nuisances and prevent their recurrence.

March 30, 1983
Date

Arthur Severson
Executive Officer