

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 93-041  
AGAINST

COACHELLA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE YARD BUS WASH FACILITY  
South of Coachella - Riverside County

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

1. The Coachella Valley Unified School District (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), P.O. Box 847, Thermal, CA 92274, discharges wastewater from the vehicle maintenance yard bus wash facility into an oil and grease interceptor that flows into a seepage pit. The facility is located in the SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 13, T6S, R7E, SBB&M, with a street address of 83800 Airport Blvd., which is south of Coachella.
2. The Regional Board staff conducted an investigation of this bus wash wastewater disposal facility on December 4, 1992. The wastewater in the seepage pit for this facility was sampled and analyzed for total dissolved solids (TDS), heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The analytical results revealed an excessive amount of benzene at 11.0 µg/L. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) listed in the California Drinking Water Standards is 1.0 µg/L for benzene. This high amount is suspected to be the result of using cleaning solvents to clean the exterior of the buses as well as the engines, removing road tar, grease, oil, gasoline, radiator fluids, and other petroleum hydrocarbons that accumulate in the oil and grease interceptor, and overflow into the seepage pit. Other volatile organic compounds and heavy metals were detected in concentrations below regulatory limits.
3. The EPA "Handbook of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Carcinogens" list benzene as a hazardous compound contained in motor fuels and cleaning solvents.
4. The discharger reports that there are two active wells on-site. The main well, which is located about 1500 feet south of the seepage pit, supplies water to all facilities of the Coachella Valley High School except for one portion of the maintenance yard. The second well is located approximately 250 feet east and downgradient of the seepage pit and is connected to some of the buildings in the maintenance yard. This well draws from the shallow ground water aquifer at a depth from 10 to 200 feet, which has a total dissolved solids (TDS) content of about 1,000 mg/L.
5. The site is located on relatively flat terrain consisting of a silty alluvial floodplain. The soil is known to be moderately permeable.
6. The hazardous constituent noted in Finding No. 2 (above) indicates soil contamination, which threatens to pollute ground water.
7. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of

*Adm*  
*Resubmitted*  
*H/tee*  
*5/15/98*

California was adopted May 15, 1991 and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.

8. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Coachella Hydrological Subunit are:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
  - c. Agricultural supply (AGR)
9. Contamination of ground water at this site would adversely impact the above listed beneficial uses.
10. Section 13304 of the California Water Code states, in part, that:

"Any person...who has caused or permitted...any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the State and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the Regional Board cleanup such waste or abate the effects thereof, or in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action."
11. Section 13267 of the California Water Code states in part that:

"...any person discharging...waste within its (the Board's) region...that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, those technical or monitoring program reports as the Board may specify."
12. This enforcement action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that pursuant to Sections 13304 and 13267 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, the discharger shall comply with the following:

1. Cleanup and abate all contaminated soil in addition to contaminated wastes in the treatment and disposal system to levels which are determined acceptable by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. By June 1, 1993, submit to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for approval a workplan and time schedule for remedial action to remove all wastewater and contaminated soil. The workplan must include design specifications for a ground water monitoring system. The time schedule should provide a schedule for testing the soil to determine aerial and vertical extent of pollution, and propose a schedule for remedial actions to cleanup polluted wastewater and soil.
3. By July 1, 1993, submit to the Regional Board's Executive Officer a progress report describing the cleanup investigation.
4. By September 30, 1993, complete all remediation and cleanup work, and submit a final technical report containing the results of the cleanup work.

5. All technical reports submitted to the Regional Board office for consideration shall be prepared by a professional who is registered as a civil engineer, or certified as an engineering geologist in the State of California.

If, in the opinion of the Regional Board's Executive Officer, this Order is not complied with in a reasonable and timely manner, the Regional Board's Executive Officer will recommend additional enforcement action by the Regional Board which may include the imposition of administrative civil liabilities, or referral to the State Attorney General for such legal action as may be deemed appropriate.

ORDERED BY: Philip A. Gruenberg

3-25-93  
Date