California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

ORDER NO. R8-2003-0067

Amending Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027
Waste Discharge and Producer/User Reclamation Requirements

for

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Regional Water Reclamation Facility
Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter, Board), finds that:

1. On February 25, 2000, the Board adopted Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027, prescribing Waste Discharge and Producer/User Reclamation Requirements for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's (EVMWD) Regional Water Reclamation Facility for the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater to Temescal Creek. Order No. 00-1 was amended by Order No. 01-70 on July 20, 2001 to correct some inadvertent omissions.

2. On January 23, 2002, the Board adopted Order No. R8-2002-0008-A02, amending Order No. 00-1 to authorize the implementation of a project that would include the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater from EVMWD's Regional Water Reclamation Facility to Lake Elsinore, and the discharge of groundwater to the Lake from three island wells located at the east end of the Lake. The intent of this project is to provide additional water to Lake Elsinore to increase and help stabilize water levels in the Lake. The volume of recycled water available from EVMWD for supplementing the Lake level is estimated to be 2.0 to 4.0 mgd (2,240 to 4,480 acre-feet per year). When EVMWD is unable to provide this volume of recycled water, the deficit could be filled by the discharge of recycled water by Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). The island wells have a production capacity sufficient to provide 3,000 to 5,000 acre-feet of water per year.

3. Order No. R8-2002-0008-A02 prohibited the discharge of recycled water to the Lake beyond February 1, 2004, when the replenishment pilot project will terminate.

4. On March 21, 2003, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District requested that Order No. 00-1 be amended to extend the termination date for the replenishment pilot project from February 2004 to December 2004. The replenishment pilot study was intended to acquire two years of data but due to the delayed start and non-discharge period of the project, two years of data will not be available by February 2004. Extending the replenishment pilot project will allow the collection of data necessary to complete the pilot project and assess the effects of recycled water discharges on the lake.

5. In accordance with Water Code Section 13389, amending the waste discharge requirements for this discharge is exempt from those provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act contained in Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21100), Division 13 of the Public Resources Code.

6. The Board has notified the discharger and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

7. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 00-1 as amended by Orders No. 01-70 and R8-2002-0008-A02, be amended as follows:

1. Provisions Section of Order No. 00-1, change Provision K. 29. as follows:

   29. This Replenishment Pilot Project terminates on December 1, 2004.

2. All other conditions and provisions of Order No. 00-1, as amended, shall remain unchanged.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on July 1, 2003.

for Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

July 1, 2003

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Amending Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027, Waste Discharge and Producer/User Water Reclamation Requirements for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District – Regional Water Reclamation Facility, Order No. R8-2003-0067.

DISCUSSION:

On February 25, 2000, the Regional Board adopted Order No. 00-1, NPDES No. CA8000027, prescribing waste discharge requirements for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's Regional Water Reclamation Facility, for the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater to Temescal Creek. Order No. 00-1 was amended by Order No. 01-70.

On January 23, 2002, the Board adopted Order No. R8-2002-0008-A02, amending Order No. 00-1 to authorize the discharge of tertiary treated wastewater from EVMWD's Regional Water Reclamation Facility to Lake Elsinore as part of a two-year lake replenishment pilot project. . The pilot project includes the discharge of up to 4480 acre-feet per year of recycled water provided by EVMWD and Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), and the discharge of up to 5000 acre-feet per year of groundwater from three wells located at the east end of the lake. Order No. R8-2002-0009-A01 amended Order No. 99-5 to authorize EMWD to discharge up to 1500 acre-feet of recycled water per year to the lake when it was necessary to supplement the recycled water discharged by EVMWD to meet the total planned recycled water discharge of 4480 acre-feet per year. Both EVMWD and EMWD were granted authorization for recycled water discharges to the lake for a two-year period, which expires on February 1, 2004.

Initiation of recycled water discharges was contingent on the Executive Officer's approval of an appropriate Lake monitoring and reporting program. That program was approved and is now being implemented.

Although the Lake Elsinore replenishment pilot project implementation was approved by the Regional Board on January 23, 2002, recycled water discharges commenced approximately six months later, on June 12, 2002. The delay resulted, in part, from the need to develop and refine an acceptable Lake monitoring program. Per project decision criteria established prior to the commencement of the recycled water discharges, the discharges were suspended on August 2, 2002 due to the high chlorophyll levels measured in the lake. However, high chlorophyll levels were measured prior to the onset of the recycled water discharges and continued high despite the termination of the discharges. Since there was no evident correlation between chlorophyll levels and recycled water discharges, the discharges were resumed in late September 2002. Cumulatively, no recycled water discharges occurred during six to eight months of the authorized pilot project period.

Three quarterly monitoring reports on the pilot project have been submitted to the Regional Board to date. The reports conclude, in part, that continued monitoring will quantify the longer-term effects of recycled water addition on water quality in Lake Elsinore and assess the lake's ability to assimilate external inputs of nutrients.

EVMWD and EMWD have requested that their waste discharge requirements be amended further to extend authorization for the pilot project, including their recycled water discharges, to December 1, 2004 to allow collection of data necessary to complete the pilot project and assess the effects of the discharges on Lake Elsinore. EMWD has also requested that the 1500 acre-feet per year discharge limitation be revised to allow EMWD to discharge recycled water up to the 4480 acre-feet per year cap placed on discharges by both EMWD and EVMWD. The 4480 acre-feet per year cap would remain; modifying the amount of recycled water that could be discharged by EMWD would enhance the flexibility of the project.

Board staff believes that the discharger's request for extended authorization for recycled water discharges is reasonable. Additional data concerning the effects of recycled water discharges on Lake Elsinore should help to address questions related to long-term maintenance of stable lake levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R8-2003-0067, as presented.

Comments were solicited from the following agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Permits Issuance Section (WTR-5) - Terry Oda
U.S. Army District, Los Angeles, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Carlsbad
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – Jorge Leon
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality- James Maughan
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance – Diana Robles
State Department of Health Services, Santa Barbara - Jeff Stone
State Department of Health Services, San Diego – Steve Williams
State Department of Water Resources - Glendale
State Department of Fish and Game - Long Beach
Orange County Water District - Nira Yamachika
City of Lake Elsinore – City Manager
City of Canyon Lake – City Manager
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Riverside County Department of Environmental Health Services
Santa Ana River Dischargers Association
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority – Joseph Grindstaff
Montgomery Watson – Jeff Mohr
Best Best & Krieger LLP - Arthur L. Littleworth
County of Riverside – Supervisor Bob Buster
Orange County Coastkeeper – Garry Brown
Lawyers for Clean Water C/c San Francisco Baykeeper

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Internet Address: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8
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Gray Davis
Governor

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8.

July 9, 2003

Ronald E. Young, General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
31315 Cherry Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92531-3000

TRANSMITTAL OF ADOPTED ORDER NO. R8-2003-0067, NPDES NO. CA8000027

Dear Mr. Young:

At the regular Board Meeting held on July 1, 2003, the Regional Board adopted Order No. R8-2003-0067, amending Order No. 00-1. A certified copy is enclosed for your records.

Sincerely,

Barbara Laffoon

BARBARA LAFFOON
Executive Assistant

Enclosure: Adopted Order No. R8-2003-0067

c. State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality, James Maughan
United States Environmental Protection Agency, WTR 5, Permits Section, Terry Oda

/bjl