

Heber Public Utility District

Report to the Board of Directors

Date: April 18, 2019
From: Laura Fischer, General Manager
Subject: General Manager's Report to Board of Directors

HPUD EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt

Thanks to the following groups for their support of the Easter Egg Hunt.

- The Senior Lunch Program
- Ms. Ibarra – Senior Aerobic Instructor
- Heber School ASB
- Heber Drum Line
- Dogwood School Drill Team
- Heber School Drill Team
- Heber School Chess Team
- Diahna Garcia-Ruiz – Proyecto Heber

Movie Night

Our next movie night will be May 17th.

HPUD OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Temporary Part-Time Employee

We have hired a temporary part-time employee to assist the office staff when one of our staff members will be off due to medical reasons. The new part-time employee will begin on April 22 and will work until our permanent employee is able to return to work, which will most likely be in July.

CSDA Chapter

I attended a meeting set up by CSDA and hosted by IID regarding possible start of a local CSDA Special District Chapter. A lot of good information was shared by CSDA representatives Chris Palmer and Kyle Packem about the benefits of starting a local chapter.

Special Districts Joining LAFCO

We discussed this at the CSDA Chapter Formation meeting, and have some new interest from IID staff to move the project forward with their Board. This would be the next step in the process.

Solar Light Project

Thanks to Mr. Nolasco we have approval from all residents that are next to the park. We are taking the signed letters to the Building department and should get the permit by early next week. Staff will schedule the installation as soon as possible.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Report

We received the compliance inspection report from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which found that no deficiencies were observed during the inspection and no follow-up communication is required.

HPUD PROJECTS

Recreation Room at Littlefield/Bloomfield

The project variance request was **approved by the County Planning Commission** on March 13th. Our next step is to modify the plans to install a modular building at that site and submit them to the Planning Department for review and approval. After Planning Commission approval, we now know the maximum size of the building and that we only need 5 parking spaces on site.



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 26, 2019

RECEIVED
MAR 28 2019

Laura Fisher, District Manager
Heber Public Utilities District
1078 Dogwood Road, Suite 103
Heber, CA 92249

H.P.U.D.

Dear Ms. Fisher:

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT

As you are aware, an inspection was conducted at the Heber Public Utilities District Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant on November 8, 2018 a copy of the inspection report is enclosed with this letter. Inspections of regulated facilities are part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program to ensure compliance with an issued permit to discharge to waters of the United States.

No deficiencies were observed during the inspection. No follow-up communication with the Regional Water Board is necessary currently. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at (760) 352-1464.

Sincerely,

Jose Gpe. Figueroa-Acevedo
Water Resources Control Engineer
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control Board

JFA/tab

Enclosure: Inspection Report

cc: Francisco Rodriguez; WWTP Chief Operator

File: WDID No. 7A 13 0104 011, Heber PUD WWTP, Board Order No. R7-2016-0006

NANCY WRIGHT, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

INSPECTION REPORT

WDR No.: R7-2016-0006
WDID No.: 7A 13 0104 011

Heber Public Utilities District WWTP
1184 Rockwood Avenue
Heber, CA 92249
Imperial County

Date of Inspection: 11/8/2018
Permit Effective Date: 8/1/2016
NPDES Permit Number: CA0104370

Legal Responsible Official Laura Fisher, District Manager
Name of On-Site Representative: Francisco Rodriguez (WWTP Chief Operator)
Contact Information: (760) 427-4685; frodriguez@heber.ca.gov

Mailing Address: 1078 Dogwood Road, Suite 103
P.O. Box H
Heber, CA 92249

Inspector: Jose Gpe. Figueroa-Acevedo

An inspection of the Heber Public Utilities District Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) located at 1184 Rockwood Avenue in the City of Heber, CA, was conducted on November 8, 2018 by Regional Water Board staff engineers. The Facility is bounded by undeveloped area on the east and the north and by commercial facilities on the east and the south. The Permittee is currently discharging pursuant to Order R7-2016-0006 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) adopted on June 30, 2016, become effective on August 1, 2016, Permit No. CA0104370. The permit will expire on June 30, 2021. Board Order No. R7-2016-0006, allows discharge of secondary treatment disinfected wastewater into the Central Drain 3-D No. 1, a tributary to the Alamo River within the Salton Sea Watershed. No significant industrial users are served by the Facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the terms stipulated in the Board Order and to perform a field observation of the overall operation of the Facility. The City of Heber owns and operates the Facility used to provide domestic sewage services to a population of approximately 3,000 people.

I arrived at the facility around 8:30 am and met with Mr. Francisco Rodriguez, Mr. Lucas G. Agatep and Mr. Edoardo Gonzalez. A copy of Board Order R7-2014-0004 was available on-site, the mailing address of the Permittee is as identified in the NPDES permit, Ms. Laura Fisher is the Manager District. The primary on-site Facility representative during the inspection was Mr. Francisco Rodriguez who was accompanied by Mr. Lucas G. Agatep and Mr. Edoardo Gonzalez, the assistant of the Chief Operator and a wastewater treatment plant operator, respectively. Mr. Rodriguez oversees the overall operation and compliance monitoring of the Facility and distribution and collection system(s). The current total design capacity of the Facility is 1.2 MGD; actual discharge monthly flow averages about 0.4 MGD.

The following records and reports were requested during the inspection: A copy of the existing permit, the Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) Work Plan; the Spill Response Plan (SRP); Total Dissolved Study (TDS); Sludge Disposal records; the latest monthly monitoring reports; the most recent flow meter calibration records; flow measurement records; contract laboratory records; chain-of-custodies; maintenance records; operator certifications; and the Laboratory Quality Assurance. Three electronic

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self-monitoring reports (eSMRs) and the California Integrated Water Quality System Violation reports for the period(s) from January to October 2018 were randomly reviewed to compare the numerical data reported in the eSMRs submitted for compliance purposes against the contract laboratory reports documenting the actual analytical results. No discrepancies were identified during the review of the eSMRs and the CIWQS reports, all the records and reports required by the permit appeared to be well organized or available for inspection.

Monitoring results are reported at the intervals specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program as required by the permit. Monitoring results are reported on eSMRs specified by the Regional Water Board. The Permittee submits monthly, quarterly, and annual eSMRs including the results of all required monitoring using USEPA-approved test methods or other test methods specified in the permit. Effluent grab samples are collected immediately prior to the discharge point. Sampling and analytical records include: dates; times; and location of sampling; names of individuals performing sampling; analytical methods; results and dates of analyses; and the time of analyses as necessary to verify holding times. Sample collection locations and methods appeared to provide representative samples of the effluent, and the up and downstream receiving waters.

The effluent flow, and pH are monitored daily and Temperature once a week at the discharge pipe to the outlet to the Central Drain 3-D No. 1 (Latitude 32°, 44', 15" N and Longitude 115°, 31', 27" W). Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) are monitored twice biweekly. Fecal Coliform, and Escherichia Coli (E. coli) are monitored five times monthly, and Oil and Grease, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) once a month, Hardness (as CaCO₃), Nitrates as Nitrogen (N), Nitrites as N, Ammonia Nitrogen as N, Total Nitrogen as N, Total Phosphate as Phosphorus (P), Ortho-Phosphate as P, and Toxicity are required to be monitored quarterly. Also, the effluent is annually monitored for Priority Pollutants. There is not upstream point of discharge; RSW-002 (downstream) is located at the outlet pipe downstream the discharge to the drain and is monitored monthly for the receiving water conditions, Hardness (as CaCO₃), DO, pH, Temperature, TDS, and quarterly for Nitrates as Nitrogen (N), Total Ammonia as N, Nitrites as N, total Nitrogen as N, Ortho-Phosphate, Total Phosphorus (as P).

The average monthly effluent flow has been around the 0.45 MGD, the monthly average flow rate does not exceed 80% of the design treatment in any of the last two years. The review also indicated that during the last two years, the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) was below the average weekly of 45 mg/l and 45 mg/l (450 and 450 lbs/day), or the average monthly of 30 mg/l and 22 mg/l (300 and 225 lbs/day), respectively. The pH was within the required range of 6.0 - 9.0 units. In addition, the maximum daily concentration for Grease and Oil were below the required 25 mg/l (250 lbs/day). The average monthly percent removal of BOD is required to be not less than 85%. BOD% removal required was also not exceeded during the last two years. The concentration of DO in the receiving water do not cause any further depression of the DO present in the receiving water. The facility is currently in compliance with the monitoring requirements stipulated in the permit.

After the review of the files, a visual evaluation of the facility was performed with Mr. Agatep, Gonzalez and Mr. Rodriguez, the wastewater treatment system consists of the headwork's consisting of the flow meter; the influent pump sump, mechanical screens, and a grit trap/classifier system. A set of oxidation ditches, two not in operation during the time of the inspection and flow splitter boxes after each oxidation ditch, which split flow between a set of secondary clarifiers, and an ultraviolet disinfection system, and the components for treating solids. Sludge processing consists of a sludge dewatering unit and a set of concrete sludge drying structures. Two of the primary clarifiers from the old treatment system have been incorporated into the sludge treatment system. Also, the Facility has lifting stations, emergency

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power generators, a small office/laboratory and most of the old appurtenances which remain idle and a new retaining lagoon located in the north of the Facility. The sludge generated from the clarifiers is pumped to a sludge holding tank or the sludge dewatering unit. Once the sludge is thickened it is discharged into a sludge holding container and then transferred to the drying beds for further drying. Sludge is dried on-site for no more than two years and the dried solids are tested as required by the permit. Bio solids collected by the screening mechanisms are disposed at the local landfill in the City of Imperial. All the facilities appurtenances and the mechanical treatment units appeared clean and working adequately throughout the treatment train (Photos No. 1-6).



Photo 1.- Emergency power plant



Photo 2.- Trash removal system



Photo 3.- Secondary clarifier



Photo 4.- Oxidation ditch

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Photo 5.- Drying Beds



Photo 6.- UV disinfection system

The old oxidation ditch was not in use during the time of the inspection, a clarifier and the dewatering units were also idle during the time of the inspection, the dewatering unit is normally used during the cold weather station or as required, the clarifier can also be used if required. The wastewater treatment plant is supervised and operated by persons possessing certification of appropriate grade pursuant to Section 3680, Chapter 26, Division 3, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations and the operating personnel are familiar with the contents of the operating permit.

A copy of the SRP was available onsite during the inspection. No signs of spill or other malfunction were observed during the inspection. Odors appears to be adequately controlled, no complaints of odors are reported. A review of the Facility's records indicates that the Permittee notify the Regional Water Board, the local health officer and the Office of Emergency Services of any noncompliance discharge endangering human health or the environment as required.

The Facility representative indicated that temperature and pH are conducted on-site and a contract laboratory is responsible for all the other monitoring required for compliance. The on-site lab is not ELAP-certified. pH, and temperature are used for eSMR and DMR reporting purposes. Adequate equipment and procedures are used for on-site analyses. On-site laboratory records include: Laboratory SOPs; calibration and maintenance of equipment; equipment operating instructions and manuals; adequate spare parts and supplies for on-site analyses. Holding times being met by on-site and/or contract laboratory, pH is measured in situ within 15 minutes of sample collection. Most wastewater samples are analyzed at the Imperial Valley Laboratory from Calexico which is a certified contract laboratory. The onsite representative stated that they are also contract other laboratories as necessary. All the Laboratories contracted by the Permittee are certified laboratories. EPA-approved analytical procedures are identified on contract laboratory reports. Water samples are preserved using methods listed in 40 CFR, Part 136 (e.g., chilled, acidified, etc., etc.). Sample containers are provided by the laboratory and meet the criteria listed in 40 CFR, Part 136. Chain-of-custody is maintained and

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documented in the Facility. Samples are collected using approved protocols. Sample collection locations and methods appeared to provide representative samples.

Temporary power and storage capacity is provided to maintain the plant in operation in the event of commercial power failure, also a fence about 6 ft. high was observed around the periphery of the facility to minimize the probability of contact of unauthorized persons and domestic animals with the wastewater disposal facilities. The Permittee retains records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by the permit, for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application.

The Permittee is not required to implement a pretreatment program and the Regional Water Board has not designated this facility to enroll in a pretreatment program. The Permittee appears to properly operate and maintain all systems and components of the collection system. Records of inspections and maintenance performed at the Facility were available to the Regional Water Board staff during the inspection.

The Facility may conduct a Water Pollution Performance Evaluation Study (QA Study) to evaluate the analytical ability of laboratories that routinely perform or support self-monitoring analyses. The Facility can obtain and analyze a QA sample as part of the QA Study. Results of the QA Study must be sent to the State Water Board.

Enrollment under Water Quality NPDES General Permit CAS000001 (SWGP), for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities is required for facilities used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal or domestic sewage, including land dedicated to the disposal of sewage sludge, that are located within the confines of the facility with a design flow of 1 MGD or more.

SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION: The Facility is well operated and maintained, all the Facility appurtenances and all mechanical treatment units appeared clean and working adequately throughout the treatment train.

The Permittee is not required to implement a pretreatment program and the Regional Water Board has not designated this facility to enroll in a pretreatment program. The wastewater treatment plant is supervised and operated by persons possessing certification of appropriate grade.

The Permittee retains records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by the permit, for a period of at least five years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application.

No signs of spill or other malfunction were observed during the inspection. Odors appears to be adequately controlled, no complaints of odors are reported.

No further communication or a follow up inspection is recommended at this time, the Permittee is in compliance with the terms and stipulations of the permit.