

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 89-088

REQUIRING UNITED STATES NAVY, MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, VALLEJO, SOLANO COUNTY, TO CEASE AND DESIST THE DISCHARGE AND THREATENED DISCHARGE OF WASTE IN VIOLATION OF THE TOXIC PITS CLEANUP ACT OF 1984

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, (hereinafter the Board) finds that:

1. The United States Navy, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, hereinafter called the discharger, repairs, overhauls, and builds ships at its facilities located in Vallejo, Solano County. These activities include metal cleaning, electroplating, lead battery repair, oil handling and reclamation, and abrasive blasting.
2. The discharger discharges inorganic and oily residues from work centers that perform metal cleaning, electroplating, battery overhaul, oil reclamation and photographic operations to the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (IWTP) with treated wastewater discharged to the sanitary sewer. The treatment processes include four surface impoundments. Two northern impoundments are used to blend incoming industrial wastewaters to allow an equalized flow to the IWTP for treatment. Two southern impoundments are alternately used to settle, dry, and store sludge generated at the IWTP prior to offsite disposal. All four surface impoundments are located within the boundaries of a waste disposal unit known as the Facility (Historic) Landfill.
3. All four impoundments are subject to the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act (TPCA) of 1984 because they contain hazardous wastes and free liquids. The impoundments are not within one-half mile upgradient of a potential drinking water source. TPCA requires that such impoundments not be used for storage of hazardous wastes containing free liquids after January 1, 1989.
4. The discharger ceased discharging from its work centers into the impoundments on November 8, 1988. The discharger's efforts to remove free liquids and sludge remaining in the impoundments by December 31, 1988, were unsuccessful. Board staff inspected the impoundments on January 23, 1989 and confirmed this condition still existed. Thus, the discharger failed to comply with the TPCA's January 1, 1989 deadline.
5. The Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements in Order No. 87-170 on December 16, 1987. The Order prescribes prohibitions, landfill and surface impoundment closure specifications and provisions based on Subchapter 15 regulations to protect the waters of the State.
6. Closure of the impoundments will be accomplished by the closure of the Facility Landfill. Closure of the impoundments and any necessary corrective action must be implemented in accordance with Order No. 87-170.
7. Interim closure procedures for the four impoundments were proposed in letters dated November 23, 1988 and January 18, 1989 by the discharger to

preclude any further environmental impact while final closure procedures are being developed for the Facility Landfill. The interim closure procedures will include removal of all liquids and sludges from the impoundments; cleaning of the concrete impoundment surfaces; sampling and analyses of the impoundment surfaces for hazardous waste constituents, and backfilling of the impoundments with clean soil. If any hazardous waste constituents are detected, an infiltration barrier membrane will be installed before the impoundments are backfilled.

8. The sludge and blending impoundments are also subject to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Completion of the interim closure procedures does not constitute compliance with the closure requirements under RCRA.
9. The beneficial uses of San Pablo Bay, Mare Island Strait and Carquinez Strait in the vicinity of the site are:
  - a. Industrial Process Supply
  - b. Contact and Non-contact Water Recreation
  - c. Wildlife and Estuarine Habitat
  - d. Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species
  - e. Fish Migration and Spawning
  - f. Navigation
  - g. Commercial and Sport Fishing
  - h. Shellfish Harvesting
10. The potential beneficial uses of the groundwater underlying the site are:
  - a. Industrial Process Water and Service Supply
  - b. Agricultural Supply
11. Interim closure of the impoundments will eliminate a pollutant source thereby preventing possible pollutant migration to adjacent surface and ground waters.
12. This Order is a regulatory enforcement action, exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.
13. The discharger and interested agencies and persons have been notified of the Board's intent to issue this Order and have been provided with the opportunity for a public hearing and opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
14. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this matter.


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Section 13301 of the California Water Code, that United States Navy, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, cease and desist from violating the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act of 1984 as follows:

1. By October 31, 1989, submit a technical report acceptable to the Executive Officer documenting completion of the interim closure procedures as specified in Finding No. 7 and compliance with TPCA requirements for the

four impoundments.

2. If the discharger is delayed, interrupted or prevented from meeting the time schedule in this Order due to circumstances beyond his control, the discharger shall promptly notify the Executive Officer. In the event of such delays, the Board will consider modification of the time schedule established in this Order.

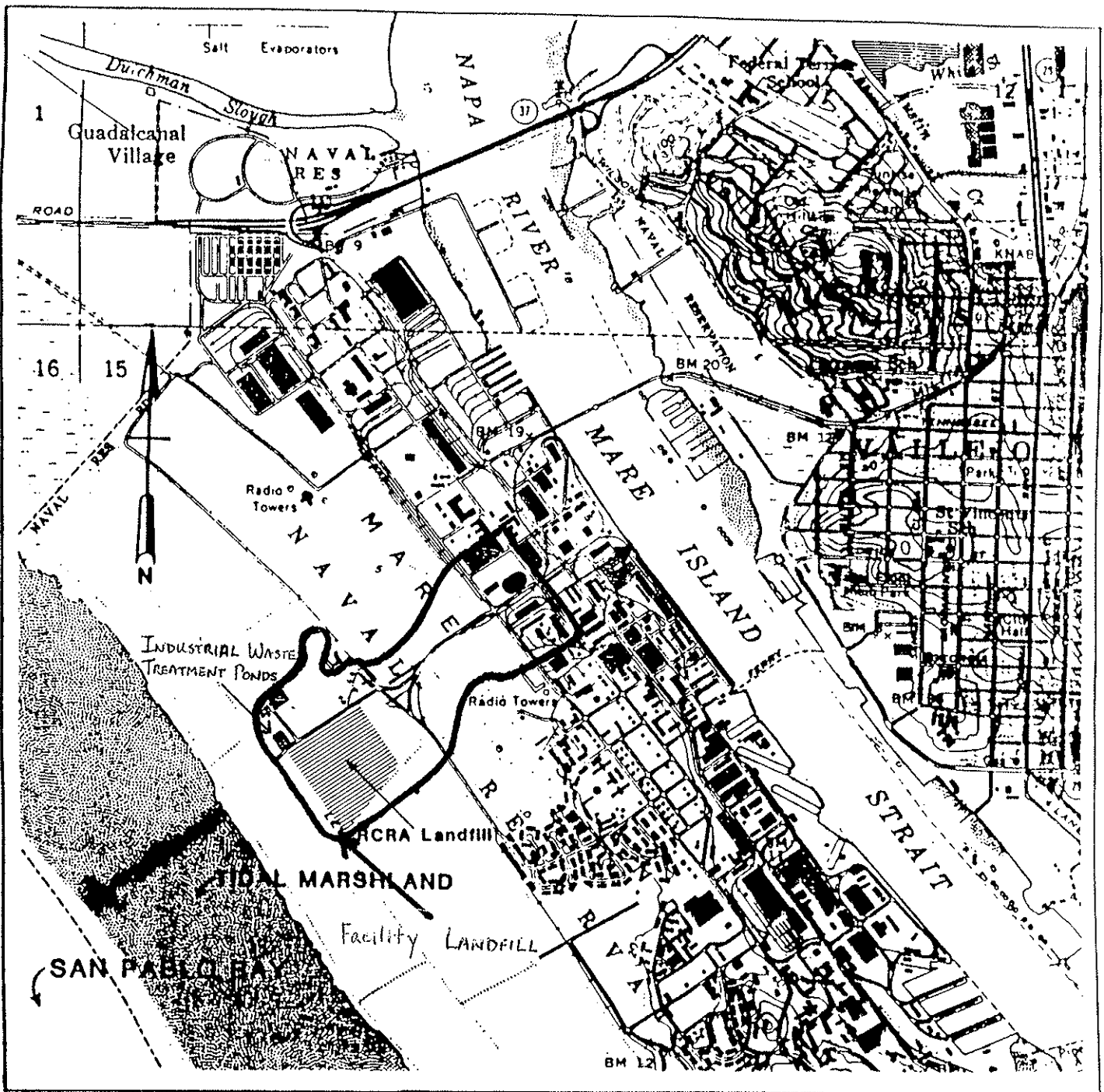
I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region on May 17, 1989.



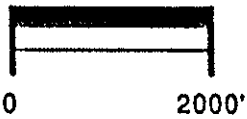
STEVEN R. RITCHIE  
Executive Officer

Attachment:

Location Map



Scale 1" = 2000'



LOCATION MAP

MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD