

**NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FACT SHEET**

(Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code 445A.236)

Permittee: Truckee Meadows Water Authority
P. O. Box 30013
Reno, NV89520

Permit Number: NEV0020869

Permittee Location: Highland Reservoir
Washington Street
(corner of Washington Street and Reservoir Road)
Reno, Nevada

Reservoir Location:
NE¼ SE¼ Section 3, T. 19N., R.19E., M.D.B.&M.
Latitude: 39° 32' 30" N.
Longitude: 119° 49' 41" W.

Discharge to Truckee River:
Latitude: 39° 31' 20" N.
Longitude: 119° 49' 17" W.

General:

Prior to 1999, Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCo) owned and operated the Highland Water Treatment Plant, where water from the Truckee River was treated for public use and stored in the 20-million gallon Highland Reservoir for periods of high water demand.. The Highland Water Treatment Plant was decommissioned in 1999/2000, and the reservoir was retrofitted with a high density polyethylene (HDPE) liner, sub-drain system and polypropylene cover for storage of the treated potable water for municipal, domestic use. In June, 2001, SPPCo transferred the utility to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), which currently owns and operates the facility.

Approximately 85% of the water supplied to the Highland Reservoir from the Chalk Bluff Treatment Facility, where Truckee River water is filtered and chlorinated to meet drinking water standards. The balance of the stored water is supplied by potable drinking water wells. The water stored in the Highland Reservoir meets drinking water standards, and contains residual chlorine as required by health regulations.

In the event of repair or maintenance of the reservoir, or under emergency conditions, water may be discharged from the Highland Reservoir. During these events, water is discharged into the City of Reno storm drain system adjacent to the reservoir site, and is routed approximately 1.5 miles to the Truckee River. If stored water must be discharged, TMWA mobilizes a portable dechlorination system to remove residual chlorine to a level of 0.10 mg/l prior to release into the storm drain system. Remaining residual chlorine is expected to be dissipated and/or consumed in the 1.5 miles

of storm drain piping.

The quality of discharged water from the reservoir is very high, and discharge is not expected to degrade the water quality of the Truckee River. Additionally, discharge of treated, ‘finish’-grade water is an economically unfavorable option due to the effort and expense of collecting and treating water for potable, domestic use. Therefore, it is anticipated that TMWA will minimize discharge of treated water to the Truckee River.

Discharge Flow and Characteristics:

The Highland Reservoir has a holding capacity of 20 million gallons, and is only used as a storage facility for potable water. Flows out of the reservoir are generally accomplished by gravity-flow.

The Permittee has requested that flows up to and greater than 1 million gallons per day (> 1 MGD) be allowed under this permit. Actual discharge flow rates will be variable and intermittent, depending on the requirements and urgency of any need for repairs or remedial action. The reservoir discharges to an inlet of the storm drain system, which extends in a north-south direction along Washington Street. Discharges are routed through piping from the southeast corner of the reservoir, continuing through the overflow box, and into the storm drain inlet. The storm drain access is constructed in a 36-inch manhole located immediately east and south of the reservoir perimeter. Discharge samples for Outfall 001 will be collected at the overflow box.

During the term of the current permit, there was one discharge event. In October, 2002, the reservoir discharged to the storm drain approximately 14,400 gallons of water from the subdrain system having 0.7 mg/l residual chlorine.

Receiving Water Characteristics:

The potential discharges would be to the Truckee River between the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) identified control points East McCarran (downstream) and Idlewild (upstream). Beneficial uses for the Truckee River, for its entire length, are the following: Irrigation; Watering of livestock; Recreation involving contact with the water; Recreation not involving contact with water; Industrial supply; Municipal or domestic supply, or both; Propagation of wildlife; and Propagation of aquatic life. The aquatic life of major concern in the reach of the river into which the Highland Reservoir would discharge are all life stages of mountain whitefish, rainbow trout and brown trout.

The water quality Requirements to Maintain Higher Existing Quality (RMHQ) and Beneficial Use standards listed in NAC 445A.186 for the Truckee River above the East McCarran control point apply to Outfall 001.

Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements:

Samples are to be collected at the overflow box at the southeast corner of the reservoir. Discharge from Outfall 001 will be limited and monitored according to the following Table.

Discharge Effluent Monitoring

PARAMETER	PERMIT LIMITATION	MONITORING REQUIREMENTS		
	Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sampling Point	Sample Type
Flow (MGD)	Monitor and Report	Each discharge event	Overflow Box (SE corner)	Calculated Estimate
Chlorine Residual (mg/l)	0.10	Each discharge event	Overflow Box (SE corner)	Discrete

MGD: Million gallons per day
 mg/l: milligrams per liter
 SE: Southeast

Schedule of Compliance

The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the schedule of compliance after approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications which the Administrator may make in approving the schedule of compliance.

- a. The Permittee shall achieve compliance with the effluent limitations upon issuance of the permit.
- b. A copy of the agreement between the Permittee and the City of Reno defining conditions of discharge into the City of Reno storm drain system shall be submitted within 180 days of the effective date of this permit.

Rationale for Permit Requirements:

The flow into the storm sewer is not limited, since discharge rates are a direct function of the capacity of the storm drain system, and have been addressed in agreements between TMWA and the City of Reno. Consequently, flow will be monitored and reported only.

Monitoring per the above permit requirements will assess the quality of any water discharged, and will ensure that the water quality of the Truckee River is not degraded. As stated, the water discharged at Outfall 001 is essentially potable, so it is believed that little potential exists to degrade waters of the State. There are no listed discharge parameters or limits that apply to this type of discharge in Chapter 40 of the Code of Federal Regulation effluent limitation guidelines.

Considering the distance to final discharge into the Truckee River and the probability of nearly immediate chlorine uptake/consumption within the storm drain system, the discharge chlorine concentration limitation of 0.10 mg/l has been applied. The existing requirement to dechlorinate discharge water to a concentration of 0.10 mg/L has been successfully demonstrated during prior

discharge events. Given the uptake and consumption dynamics within the storm drain system, this discharge limitation has effectively protected aquatic life in the Truckee River and will be included in the renewed permit.

Procedures for Public Comment:

The Notice of the Division's intent to issue an NPDES permit authorizing this facility to discharge into the Truckee River for a five-year period, subject to the conditions contained within the permit, is being sent to the **Reno Gazette Journal** for publication. The Notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of the public notice in the newspaper. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator. The deadline date and time by which all comments are to be submitted (via postmarked mail or time-stamped faxes, e-mails, or hand-delivered items) to the Division is **June 29, 2006 by 5:00 P.M.**

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator or any interested agency, person or group of persons.

The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determines to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.238.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.605.

Proposed Determination:

The Division has made the tentative determination to re-issue the proposed permit for a 5-year period.

Prepared By: Janine Hartley
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