



## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TO:** Discharger File: WDID 7B360110014, City of Needles Wastewater Treatment Plant, Board Order R7-2015-0018

**FROM:** Andrea Varela  
Water Resource Control Engineer  
Colorado River Basin  
Water Quality Control Board

**DATE:** 03/30/2026

**SUBJECT:** Facility Inspection Report

**FACILITY:** City of Needles, City of Needles Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Bernardino County

<b>INSPECTOR: Andrea Varela</b>		
<b>WDR</b>	<b>City of Needles</b>	<b>City of Needles Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>
PROGRAM TYPE	NAME OF AGENCY/RESPONSIBLE PARTY	NAME OF FACILITY
<b>7B360110014</b>	<b>817 Third Street</b>	<b>516 East Broadway Street</b>
WDID NUMBER	AGENCY MAILING ADDRESS	FACILITY PHYSICAL ADDRESS
<b>WDR100027223</b>	<b>Needles, CA 92363</b>	<b>Needles, CA 92363</b>
GEOTRACKER NUMBER	AGENCY CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	FACILITY CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
<b>R7-2015-0018</b>	<b>Patrick Martinez</b>	<b>Kris Hendricks</b>
ORDER NUMBER	AGENCY CONTACT	FACILITY CONTACT
<b>03/30/2026</b>	<b>(760) 326-2115 x113</b>	<b>(602) 300-7946</b> <a href="mailto:hendrickskris7@gmail.com">hendrickskris7@gmail.com</a>
INSPECTION DATE	AGENCY CONTACT PHONE NO./email	FACILITY CONTACT PHONE NO./email
<b>INSEPCION TYPE: B Type - Compliance Inspection</b>		

VIVIAN PEREZ, CHAIR | MICHAEL PLACENCIA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## **Facility Narrative**

The City of Needles (Discharger) owns a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system operated by EUSI, LLC (Operator). The City of Needles Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) is located at 516 East Broadway Street, Needles, CA 92363. The Facility receives wastewater flows from the City of Needles and has a design treatment capacity of 1.2 million gallons per day (MGD) and utilizes an average of 0.4 MGD of its design capacity. The treatment system consists of a mechanical bar screen with a manual bypass, an aerated grit removal chamber, two sequencing batch reactors (SBRs), an aerobic digester, an effluent equalization basin, twenty-four sludge drying beds and four unlined evaporation/percolation ponds utilized for final disposal of treated wastewater.

The Facility is currently regulated under Board Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R7-2015-0018, which was adopted on March 12, 2015.

## **Inspection Summary**

On March 30, 2026, Andrea Varela, Water Resource Control Engineer for the Regional Water Board (Staff), conducted a planned inspection of the City of Needles Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). Staff arrived at the Facility at approximately 11:40 a.m. and met with Kris Hendricks, Grade IV contracted wastewater treatment plant operator with EUSI, LLC. The sky was clear, it was sunny, and the temperature was approximately 92°F. Staff was given authorization to take photos during the inspection.

Regional Water Board Staff began the inspection at the entrance to the plant where the influent pipe was observed above ground and clearly labeled. Next to the influent pipe is the mechanical bar screen where large solids are screened out and collected in a wheelbarrow which is emptied in a nearby dumpster. The dumpster is equipped with a lid to help with odor control and is hauled, when full, for disposal. Influent samples are taken prior to the bar screen via an automatic composite sampler that samples every thirty minutes and keeps the sample refrigerated. Wastewater flows from the mechanical bar screen to the aerated grit chamber that is equipped with an airlift pump. The airlift pump utilized for grit removal operates 24 hours a day and pumps grit from the aeration chamber to a grit settling zone. Grit is screened out, five to six days a week, from the grit settling zone, by use of a handheld mesh scooper that allows grit to be collected and water to drain. The collected grit is placed in five-gallon buckets that have holes on the bottom and sides to allow water to drain out of the buckets and back into the grit settling zone. After grit is placed in the five-gallon buckets lime is sprinkled on top to help limit vectors and odors. The five-gallon buckets are emptied in the dumpster five to six days a week.

Next, the inspection continued to the SBRs. SBR No. 1 was in operation at the time of inspection while SBR No. 2 was out of service for yearly maintenance. Normal operation at the treatment plant consists of one SBR in service at a time. During yearly maintenance the equipment is inspected, and parts are replaced and serviced as needed. Each SBR is designed to treat 600,000 gallons per day (gpd) and provides equalization, aeration, clarification and decanting into a single timed sequence controlled by a programmable logic control (PLC) system. There are four operating phases in a full treatment cycle which

include fill, react, settle and decant. During the initial fill phase influent wastewater is kept in an anoxic state to generate microorganisms that can denitrify. The next phase provides aeration to stabilize the organics in the wastewater and allow the biomass to be consumed. The settle phase allows solids to settle out followed by the decant phase where clear treated water from the upper layer is drawn into a decanting well. Sludge accumulated during the settle phase and scum from the top layer are routed to an aerobic digester. The inspection continued to the effluent wet well. Effluent samples and pH measurements are drawn from the effluent wet well and an automated composite sampler was observed to be operating properly next to the effluent wet well. An odor control basin filled with woodchips is adjacent to the effluent sampler and no odors were detected. Wastewater is routed from the effluent wet well to an effluent equalization tank. Treated wastewater from the effluent equalization tank is pumped to the evaporation/percolation ponds. Staff was shown the workshop where spare parts and equipment are stored. A spare motive pump was observed and a spare solids excluding valve, which is controlled by pressure/head loss differential, was shown in the open and close position. The main office and laboratory were inspected and a copy of the Order, historic monitoring reports, daily operator logs, laboratory calibration records, process control lab results, and the PLC were observed along with the motor control center.

The inspection continued to the sludge drying beds. A total of 24 sludge drying beds are on site and typically 6 are used at a time. One of the sludge drying beds is used to store biosolids. The evaporation/percolation ponds were observed next, and the area was fully fenced with proper signage. Pond No. 2 was in use at the time and treated wastewater was observed to be flowing to Pond No. 2. One pond receives effluent at a time for a period of approximately 3 months then flow is directed to a different pond. Pond No. 1 has not been in use for at least a decade and is not planned for future use.

Staff concluded the inspection at approximately 1:30 p.m. The plant and the evaporation/percolation ponds were properly fenced. Pictures taken during the inspection follow.

<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP INSPECTIONS, NOTES, ETC</b>
None.

**INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:**                     AV                     **DATE:**                     05/12/2026                    

**REVIEWED BY:** **REVIEWER'S INITIALS:**                     K.G                     **DATE:**                     5/15/2026                    

*FOR INTERNAL USE:*

**INSPECTION ID:**                     63425262



*Figure 1. Entrance sign is located along East Broadway Street marking the entrance to the Facility.*



*Figure 2. The influent wastewater pipeline routes wastewater from the sewer collection system to the treatment plant and is clearly labeled. The influent pipeline is located on the east side of the Facility.*



*Figure 3. A mechanical bar screen removes larger solids from the influent wastewater. Solids are collected in the wheelbarrow and hauled.*



*Figure 4 The aerated grit chamber that utilizes an airlift pump that operates 24 hours a day. Grit is collected in 5-gallon buckets, and lime is placed on top to help limit vectors and odors.*



*Figure 5. The airlift pump is in operation, and the operator is scooping out grit from the grit settling zone and placing the collected grit in the five-gallon buckets.*



*Figure 6. SBR No. 1 in operation at the time of inspection. Each SBR is designed to treat 600,000 gpd and provides equalization, aeration, and clarification into a single timed sequence in one reactor basin.*



*Figure 7. SBR No. 2 not in operation due to yearly maintenance. Typically, one SBR is in operation at a time.*



*Figure 8. The effluent wet well shown in the foreground. Effluent samples are taken from the effluent wet well using an automated composite sampler located to the left. In the background a wood chip basin is used for odor control.*



*Figure 9. The effluent equalization basin stores treated wastewater. Treated wastewater from the effluent equalization basin is pumped to the evaporation/percolation ponds.*



*Figure 10. The emergency generator provides power to run the Facility in the event of a power outage.*



Figure 11. The solids excluding valve, which is controlled by pressure/head loss differential, was shown in the open and closed position.



Figure 12. The workshop where spare parts/equipment are stored. A motive pump was observed.



Figure 13. Operator certifications displayed in the main office.

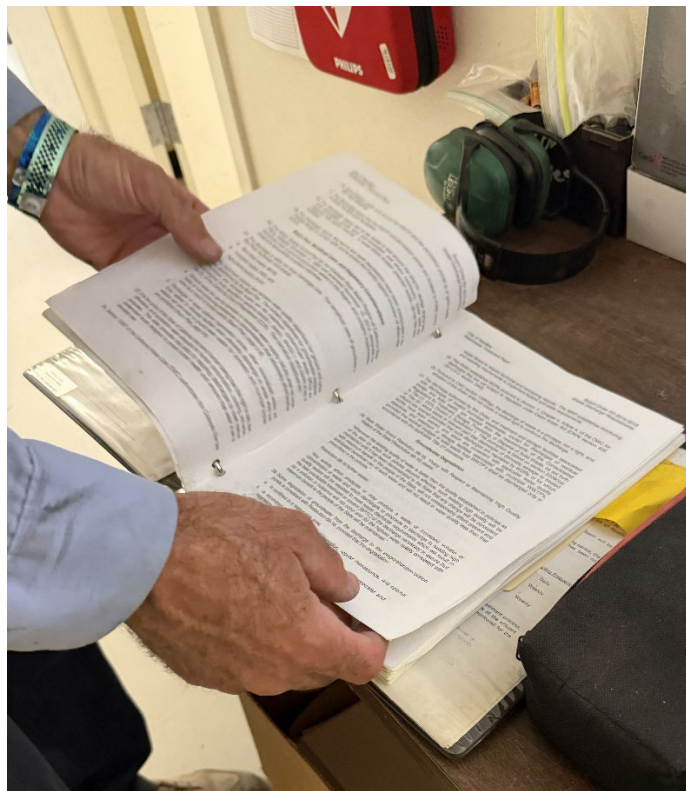


Figure 14. Copy of Board Order R7-2015-0018 in the main office. Historic reports are located in a filing cabinet in the main office along with operator logs.



Figure 16 A motor control center located in the main office.



Figure 16. Sludge drying beds. There are a total of twenty-four sludge drying beds onsite.



*Figure 17. The onsite laboratory is adjacent to the main office. Laboratory tests are conducted to measure pH, total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, nitrate/nitrite for process control.*



*Figure 18. Evaporation/percolation pond area properly fenced and proper signage observed.*



*Figure 19. Evaporation/percolation Pond No. 2 was the only pond receiving treated wastewater flows at the time of inspection. Approximately less than a quarter of the pond was observed to be filled with treated wastewater.*



*Figure 20. The influent pipe to Evaporation/percolation Pond No. 2 was observed.*



*Figure 21. Evaporation/percolation Pond No.3 not in use at the time of inspection.*