

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

Office
73-720 Fred Waring Dr. #100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



August-September 2019

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT	1
LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM	2
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (SCP).....	2
NPDES PROGRAM	3
Table 1: Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status	4
Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (October 2019)	4
TABLE 1 MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTY STATUS.....	4

The Executive Officer (EO) of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) hereby provides the following report on recent staff activities in the region:

LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Investigative Orders: PFAS is a family of more than 3,000 man-made chemicals used in a wide range of products that are mobile and persistent in the environment. When degradation does occur, it often results in the formation of other PFAS compounds. Health risks associated with PFAS compounds are just beginning to be recognized. In 2019, 22 landfills and the Palm Springs Airport and Imperial Regional Airport received investigative orders, which required submittal of workplans for the investigation of groundwater and soil contamination resulting from disposal and use of materials containing PFAS at the facilities. The workplans were required by Water Code section 13267 orders and have been received for all of these facilities. Staff have approved most of the workplans, though a few were returned needing changes. Reports have been received for four landfill locations; PFAS concentrations were generally low to below detection limits. In the near future, additional orders will be issued to three chromium plating facilities in the region, followed by orders to wastewater treatment plants, likely around the beginning of next year. [Scot Stormo, EG; Jose Cortez, Senior WRCE]

Workshops on Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) List: On August 21, 2019, staff held a workshop at the Palm Desert Regional Water Board office. Staff presented an overview on the region's implementation of the State Water Board's *Policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects*, the criteria for a project to qualify as a SEP, and the solicitation process for interested parties to successfully submit a SEP proposal to be included on the SEP List. On September 4, 2019, staff also held a similar workshop in the City of El Centro. [Frank Gonzalez, AEO; Jose Cortez, Senior WRCE; Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (SCP)

Expedited Claim Account–Joint Execution Team (ECAP-JET) Meeting for Antunez Autobody, 238 East Main Street, El Centro, Case No. UST C 7T2 243 073, UST Claim No.20290: On August 28, 2019, staff participated in an ECAP-JET teleconference with UST Cleanup Fund members, the consultant FREY Environmental Inc. (FREY), and the responsible party. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss abating elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons in on-site wells and eliminating free product in well MW-5. To achieve these objectives, the JET discussed the most current 2019 1st Quarter Groundwater Monitoring report and determined that additional groundwater monitoring wells (MW-12, MW-13 and MW-14) are needed to further delineate contamination at the site. A letter was issued by Colorado River Basin Water Board staff directing the responsible party to submit a workplan to install three additional wells. [Kola

Olatunbosun, WRCE, Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG]

NPDES PROGRAM

Status Update: Seeley WWTP ACLO R7-2019-0001: On February 28, 2019, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability of \$297,000.00 (Order R7-2019-0001) for Seeley County Water District (District) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The settlement allows the total penalty amount to be suspended pending the completion of a compliance project (Project). The Project includes investigating and identifying the source(s) of copper and cyanide, eliminating and/or controlling the source(s) of copper and cyanide. The Board also requested project status updates. The District continues its efforts in identifying the source(s) of copper and cyanide by increasing the monitoring of wastes brought to the WWTP by disposal companies. This monitoring includes sampling and analysis of their dump station and the town of Seeley's collection system. As reported in their quarterly report dated August 1, 2019, copper and cyanide continue to be present in their collection system stream, with results reported significantly high. The District has been in contact with Imperial County Public Health Department, Division of Environmental Health, to identify where the recent loads containing high levels of cyanide originate. A quarterly report is scheduled to be submitted by November 1, 2019. The first milestone required in the Order R7-2019-0001 for the source identification of copper and cyanide will be completed by February 1, 2020. [Maribel Pizano, SEA; Kai Dun, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE]

Table 1: Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status

Number	Facility	Violation Description	Assessed Penalty	Settlement Offer Date	Waiver Received Date	Public Notice Issuance Date	Comment Due Date	EO Execution Date	Number of MMPs
1	Calexico WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$6,000 (Revising penalty)	2/13/19	3/12/19	3/13/19	4/11/19 (Revising offer)		2
2	Holtville WWTP	Oil & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$12,000	2/14/19	3/13/19	3/15/19	4/14/19	6/18/19	4
3	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$21,000 *\$33,000	2/21/19 *9/20/19	3/18/19 *10/04/19	3/26/19	4/24/19 *10/04/19 In settlement discussion		7 *11
4	Imperial City WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$66,000 *\$78,000	3/27/19 *8/01/19	4/18/19 *8/21/19	5/1/19	6/1/19 *9/19/19		22 *26
5	Kent SeaTech Fish Farm	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$84,000	4/5/19 *6/14/19	4/30/19 *7/15/19		10/08/19 In settlement discussion		28
6	Centinela State Prison	Bacteria Indicator Violations	\$33,000	5/10/19	6/10/19	6/19/19	7/19/19	8/5/19	11
7	Valley Sanitary District WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & BOD violations	\$9,000	6/6/19	6/26/19	7/26/19	8/25/19	9/6/19	3
	TOTAL:		\$231,000 *\$285,000						77 *95

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (October 2019)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
7	177

[Maribel Pizano, SEA and Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]