

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



August 2021

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

### **LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM**

**Notices of Violation/Noncompliance:** One (1) Notice of Violation/Noncompliance was issued to a Discharger for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements.

- Mission Springs Water District, West Valley Water Reclamation Facility, subject to Order R7-2020-0011, issued on August 24, 2021, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

**Notifications and Approvals:** Five (5) Approvals/Notifications were issued to Dischargers for various projects region wide:

- Coachella Valley Water District was issued a comment letter regarding Technical Memorandum No. 2, describing the methods to be used to evaluate the extent of groundwater contamination (containing greater than 45 mg/L nitrate) required by Order R7-2018-0001, on August 9, 2021, Palm Desert, Riverside County. *[Scot Stormo, EG]*
- Borrego Water District was issued a letter of approval for a Final Total Dissolved Solids Source Control Program Technical Report and Work Plan required by Order R7-2019-0015 on August 26, 2021, Ram's Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility, Borrego Springs, San Diego County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Cal Energy Operating Corporation, Region 1 Salton Sea Power Plant Units 1-5 Geothermal Facility, was issued a Letter of Technical Adequacy of Sample Collection and Analysis Plan, and Sampling and Spill Prevention Plan required by Order R7-2021-0008 on August 31, 2021, Calipatria, Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Mission Springs Water District, West Valley Water Reclamation Facility, was issued a Letter of Extension to submit a work plan and time schedule to monitor groundwater required by Order R7-2020-0011 on August 31, 2021, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Landers Sanitary Landfill was issued a Letter of Approval for a Revised Unsaturated Zone Monitoring Work Plan required by Order R7-2019-0013 on August 31, 2021, Landers, San Bernardino County. *[Scot Stormo, EG]*

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

Regional Water Board staff continues to work with staff from the Department of Defense (DOD) to expedite ongoing activities at cleanup sites located at military facilities within the Colorado River Basin region. The UST and SCP staff issued correspondence reviewing technical reports, requesting site access, providing direction for site assessment, and

approving remedial action plans for sites currently in the assessment and cleanup process. The following table lists the correspondence regarding DOD, UST and SCP projects issued in August 2021.

| <b>Date</b>    | <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Site</b>   | <b>Staff</b>                                      |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| August 2, 2021 | Notice of Potential Responsibility and Request for Responsible Party Worksheet                                      | Former Wave Crest Inc., 93243 Highway 111, Mecca, Riverside County (APN 729-070-023) GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606599293       | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer          |
| August 2, 2021 | Comments on The Final Corrective Action Plan, Areas of Concern Nos. 3 And 4 (AOC 3 And 4)                           | Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000002630 And T10000002631     | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist              |
| August 2, 2021 | Comments on The Final Corrective Action Plan, Area of Concern 2 (AOC 2)   | Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000002629                      | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist              |
| August 2, 2021 | Response to Water Board July 23, 2021 Comments on The Draft Final Corrective Action Plan, Area of Concern 2 (AOC 2) | Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000002629                      | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist              |
| August 4, 2021 | Review of Technical Report Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10; Corrective Action Requirements      | Amigo Mini Mart, 85509 Highway 111, Coachella, Riverside County, Global ID No. T0606500931 (APN 778-041-001)                    | Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist           |
| August 4, 2021 | Response To "Soil Vapor Extraction and Air Sparging Pilot Test Report"  | Former USA Service Station #292, 1497 Adams Avenue, El Centro Imperial County, Ca (CRWQCB 1.0 7T2 243 032 I.D. No. T0602583961) | Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer |

| <b>Date</b>     | <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Site</b>   | <b>Staff</b>                                     |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| August 4, 2021  | Comments on The Draft Feasibility Study, Munitions Response Program Site 4, Former Turret and Skeet Range                                   | Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID No. T10000011419   | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist             |
| August 5, 2021  | Closure/No Further Action Letter  | Former One Stop Fuel, Inc. 13207 Mesa Drive, Blythe, Ca 92225 Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606569518                    | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer         |
| August 5, 2021  | Response to "Additional Grid Based: Sampling Addendum Revised Soil and Groundwater Investigation Work plan                                  | Former E-Z Serve Station, 805 North Imperial Avenue, El Centro Imperial County, Ca (CRWQCB I.D 7T2 234 051 Global I.D. No. T0602500101) | Kola Olatunbosun Water Resource Control Engineer |
| August 6, 2021  | Draft Fall 2020 Semiannual Long-Term Monitoring, Landfill Inspection, and Maintenance Report Installation Restoration Program Sites 1 and 2 | Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID Nos: DoD100312800 and DoD100317400                                   | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist             |
| August 9, 2021  | Response to Responses to Comments Draft Work Plan Site Inspection for Basewide Investigation of Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)  | Naval Air Facility El Centro (NAF El Centro), El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID No. DoD100308000                                     | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist             |
| August 19, 2021 | Underground Storage Tank Closure Letter   | Former Coachella Valley Minimex, 91201 66th Avenue, Mecca, Riverside County, GeoTracker ID No: T0606500981                              | Kola Olatunbosun Water Resource Control Engineer |
| August 20, 2021 | Draft Work Plan Shoreline and Inspection Area Survey and Surface Removal  | Former Salton Sea Test Base, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker ID No: T10000007745  | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist             |

| <b>Date</b>     | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Site</b>  | <b>Staff</b>                             |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| August 23, 2021 | Final Spring 2019 Semiannual Long-Term Monitoring, Landfill Inspection, and Maintenance Report for Installation Restoration Sites 1 and 2                            | Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID Nos: DoD100312800 and DoD100317400  | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist     |
| August 24, 2021 | Request for Abandonment of All Wells and Waste Materials   | Former Circle K #1407, Blythe, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500742  | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer |
| August 24, 2021 | Approval of Work plan for Additional Soil and Groundwater Investigation, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action                       | Former California Fun Mart (Current Five Brothers Fuel Stop) 105 W. Cole Boulevard, Calexico, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000009970 | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer |
| August 25, 2021 | Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report (Conceptual Site Model), Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267 Order No. R7-2019-0055 | Sidewinder Chevron, 611 Sidewinder Road, Winter haven, Ca 92283, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000014255                              | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer |
| August 25, 2021 | Request for Extension - Baseline Sampling and In-Situ Chemical Oxidation   | Big Bend Resort, 501 Parker Dam Road, Earp, San Bernardino County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0607100968; BLM No. CAAZCA27430                         | Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist  |
| August 27, 2021 | Response to First Semi-Annual 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Report and Work plan for Additional Remediation  | Munguia Lot, 1002 East H Street, Brawley, Imperial County GeoTracker Global ID No. T0602564848   | Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist  |
| August 31, 2021 | Revised Report Deadline Extension Request for Additional Site Assessment   | USA Gasoline Station #247, 201 W. Main Street, Brawley, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602518829 (APN 046-192-0_28)                                | Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist  |

| Date            | Subject  | Site   | Staff                                    |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| August 31, 2021 | Approval of Work Plan for Corrective Action Activities | Former Flying Inn Motel<br>Currently Magnuson Hotel<br>Blythe<br>9232 East Hobsonway (Aka)<br>1781 East Hobsonway,<br>Blythe, Riverside County,<br>GeoTracker Global ID No.<br>T0606500754 | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer |

### **SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

On August 26, 2021 -- the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) provided comments to the 2019 Groundwater Monitoring Report, received March 8, 2021, and the 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Report received May 21, 2021 (Reports), submitted by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants on behalf of the City of Twenty-nine Palms (City) and the Twenty-nine Palms Water District (TPWD). The Reports were submitted in accordance with the scope of work proposed in the June 2014 Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Twenty-nine Palms area and subsequent Groundwater Monitoring Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan), submitted by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants on December 27, 2017 to facilitate development of the SNMP. The Regional Water Board staff noted deficiencies of the provided Reports and provided direction regarding satisfying the requirements. [*Cathy Sanford Engineering Geologist*]

### **WQS/NPS UNIT**

#### **Salton Sea Monitoring and Implementation Plan Review Workshop, August 6, 2021**

A workshop to discuss the Salton Sea Monitoring and Implementation Plan (MIP) was held virtually on August 6, 2021. The MIP for projects planned as part of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Salton Sea response has been drafted and is undergoing review. The agency has contracted Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for the MIP development process. Representatives from federal and state agencies, along with consultants constituted the working group and participated in discussions targeting the different sections of the MIP by discipline (e.g., hydrology, biology). The administrative draft was shared among the working group and reviewed prior to the breakout discussions. Regional Board staff participated in the Hydrology section and stressed the importance of water quality monitoring of impairments. The MIP is intended to provide a baseline of current Salton Sea conditions and lay the groundwork for future trend monitoring. It is not intended to provide effectiveness monitoring for the various projects. Future meetings are planned for December 2021 following the science committee review. The final MIP for public release is planned for January 2022. [*Emma McCorkle, ES*]

## **Alamo River Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting, August 10, 2021**

On August 10, 2021, Regional Board staff held a virtual public meeting to address California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to provide an opportunity to discuss the proposed Alamo River Chloride, Indicator Bacteria, and Toxicity Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) project and to raise any issues. The meeting was attended by representatives from the local water district and community advocacy groups. A short discussion was held in which Regional Board staff addressed stakeholder questions and concerns. The deadline for written comments was August 24, 2021 and no written comments were received. [*Emma McCorkle, ES*]

## **Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force, August 25, 2021**

The meeting was held over Zoom and chaired by the new community chair Matthew Maldonado with Comite Civico del Valle. The former task force chair, Miguel Hernandez, has accepted a position with California Natural Resources Agency and was also present. Other attendees included representatives from South Coast Air Quality Management District, Office of State Senator Melissa Melendez. Office of State Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Communities for new California, City of Coachella, California Air Resources Control Board, Coachella Valley Unified School District, California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), Salton Sea Coalition, Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Coachella Valley Resources Conservation District, Chiriaco Summit community member, and Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. CDPR staff gave a presentation to provide background on CDPR's Fertilizing Materials Inspection program. [*Maria Davydova-Flores, ES*]

## **NPDES PROGRAM**

**401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge or Fill Discharge):** No additional certifications were issued in August 2021 other than the waste discharge requirements adopted by the Regional Water Board. [*Kai Dunn, 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<br>*\$87,000    | 2/13/19<br>*11/06/19                 | 3/12/19<br>*12/05/19 | 3/13/19                     | 4/11/19<br>*12/05/19<br>settlement discussion |                   | 2<br>*29       |
| 2      | Brawley WWTP            | Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethyl hexyl) phthalate  | \$21,000<br>*\$48,000   | 2/21/19<br>*9/20/19                  | 3/18/19<br>*10/04/19 | 3/26/19                     | 4/24/19<br>*10/04/19<br>settlement discussion |                   | 7<br>*16       |
| 6      | IID Grass Carp Hatchery | Total Suspended Solids & Selenium   | \$84,000                | 7/22/21<br>Proposed Stipulated Order | -                    | 7/29/21                     | 8/30/21                                       | 9/14/2021         | 28             |
| 7      | IID El Centro GS        | Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethyl hexyl) phthalate, Free Cyanide, Total Suspended Solids, Chlorine Residual, pH, Selenium | \$465,000               | 7/22/21<br>Proposed Stipulated Order | -                    | 7/29/21                     | 8/30/21                                       | 9/14/2021         | 155            |
|        | TOTAL:                  |   | \$576,000<br>*\$135,000 |                                      |                      |                             |   |                   | 192<br>*45     |

\*Revised

**Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (August – September 2021)**

| No. of Facilities | No. of Violations |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6                 | 42                |

[Maribel Pizano, SEA and Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]