

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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

[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



February 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 Applicability: Four (4) Notices of Applicability were issued to enrollees in the Small Domestic and Cannabis Cultivation General Orders.

- Notice of Applicability 97-500(182) subject to regulation by General Order 97-500 for Small Domestic Discharges to Land was issued on February 9, 2021 to Dunes Edge Storage, onsite Wastewater Treatment System, Brawley, San Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC430397, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on February 23, 2021 to TBP Indoor Facilities, Inc., Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC430381, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on February 23, 2021 to Premier Greens, LLC, Palm Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Revised Notice of Applicability 7_33CC429754 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on February 23, 2021 to Royal Emerald Trading Company, Inc, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*

Notices of Violation: Six (6) Notices of Violation were issued to Dischargers for violation of their Waste Discharge Requirements.

- Salton Community Services District, Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility subject to Order R7-2012-0035 issued on February 18, 2021, Salton City, Imperial County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Salton Community Services District, Thomas R. Cannell Wastewater Treatment Facility subject to Order R7-2018-0013 issued on February 18, 2021, Salton City, Imperial County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Salton Community Services District, Desert Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant subject to Order R7-2014-0007 issued on February 18, 2021, Desert Shores, Imperial County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Yucca Valley Senior Housing, Onsite Wastewater Treatment System subject to Order 97-500(177) issued on February 18, 2021, Palm Springs, Riverside County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- FedEx Ground Distribution Facility, Onsite Wastewater Treatment System subject to Order R7-2013-0058 issued on February 18, 2021, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

- Best Western Joshua Tree Hotel, Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System subject to Order R7-2007-0025 issued on February 18, 2021, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

Other Notification and Approvals: Sixteen (16) Extensions and/or Approvals were issued to residents and Dischargers regionwide:

- Approval of Revised Final Design Technical Report to Clean Harbors Westmorland, LLC subject to Board Order 94-005 for, issued on February 4, 2021, Westmorland, Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Approval of Waste Acceptance Plan to Salton City Class III Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility, subject to Board Order R7-2013-0048, issued on February 5, 2021, Westmorland, Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Time Extension Approval, to Tramview Mobile Home Park for submittal of annual monitoring report due to delays caused by COVID-19, issued on February 11, 2021, Cathedral City, Riverside County. *[Carlos Angulo, WRCE]*
- Thirteen (13) Time Extension Approvals, to Yucca Valley Residents for Noncompliance with the Prohibition of Individual Disposal Systems for the Town of Yucca Valley were issued on February 23, 2021, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*

ADA Compliance: 21 Board Orders in the Adopted Order webpage have been remediated and made ADA compliant from July 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021. *[Zak Owens, EG; Adriana Godinez, WRCE; Reggie Tan, WRCE]*

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 UST and SCP projects issued in February 2021.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
February 1, 2021	Request for a Site Assessment Workplan	Imperial Irrigation District Headquarters, 333 E. Barioni Boulevard, Imperial, CA, Imperial County, Global ID No. SL0602597886	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
February 4, 2021	Review of Technical Report Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10: Corrective Action Requirements	Former Quail Oil Gasoline Station, 48487 Grapefruit Boulevard, Coachella, Riverside County: Global ID No. T0606500954 (APN 603-220-038)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
February 4, 2021	Site Cleanup Program – Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report Documenting Well Abandonment and Waste Removal Activities	Palo Verde Irrigation District Yard (PVID), Former Aboveground Storage Tank Release, 180 West 14 th Avenue Blythe, Riverside County (SCP No, 7T2225041, GeoTracker Global ID No. T06066500779)	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
February 8, 2021	Response to Second Semi-Annual 2020 Site Conceptual Model Report	Kirti Shah Property, 401 West Main Street, El Centro, Imperial County: GeoTracker Global ID No, T10000009171)	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
February 11, 2021	Closure / No Further Action Letter	Riverside (RVSD) County Road Maintenance Yard, 86199 Airport Blvd, Thermal, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606522324	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
February 22, 2021	Approval of Workplan for Limited Soil Vapor Assessment and Groundwater Supply Well Investigation	One Stop Shoppe, 84-051 Indio Boulevard, Indio, CA (CRWQCB I.D. 7T2 201 053, Global ID No. T0606500686)	Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer
February 22, 2021	Response to Work Plan for Additional Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) and Groundwater Extraction	SOCO #63, 800 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County, CA (CRWQCB ID 7T2 231 023 Global ID No, T0602514171)	Kola Olatunbosun Resource Control Engineer
February 23, 2021	Case Closure / No	Palo Verde Irrigation District Yard (PVID), Former	Phan Le, Water Resource Control

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
	Further Action Letter	Aboveground Storage Tank Release, 180 West 14 th Avenue Blythe, Riverside County (SCP No, 7T2225041, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500779)	Engineer
February 26, 2021	Response to Request for Extension: Submittal of Soil Vapor Extraction and Air Sparge Pilot Testing	Former USA Gasoline Service Station #292 1497 Adams Avenue, El Centro CA Imperial County, (CRWQCB ID 7t2 243 032, Global ID No. T0602583961)	Kola Olatunbosun Resource Control Engineer

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On February 2, 2021 a contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) was finalized. The State Water Board signed a \$420,000 contract with USGS on January 14, 2021, to provide services for the Colorado River Basin Region specifically for the collection, compilation, and visualization of groundwater quality data in the Indio Subbasin of the Coachella Valley. The contract is effective through March 2023. The contract focus will be on increasing the understanding of processes affecting groundwater quality in the Indio subbasin of the Coachella Valley groundwater basin. This effort will augment the USGS’s 2020 Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment-Priority Basin Project (GAMA-PBP) study in the Coachella Valley to include:

- additional data collection; and
- data analysis to meet specific informational needs.

Data collected under this Agreement will be published as:

- a USGS Data Release; and
- a fact sheet summarizing the key findings.

On February 21, 2021 Staff issued an approval of the Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan – Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Update submitted on December 23, 2020. *[Cathy Sanford, Engineering Geologist]*

CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT

Region 7’s Prosecution team has two Administrative Civil Liability Complaints (Complaints) referencing the Cannabis Cultivation General Order which are currently posted on our website and available for public review.

- Lean Green Industries, LLC, 68721 Summit Drive, Cathedral City, Riverside County APN687-162-004-4, WDID No.7_33cc403337
- Paradise Wellness Center, 1 Ice House Road, Needles, San Bernardino County APN0650-391-23, WDID No. 7_36cc401592

The Dischargers chose to waive the right to a Hearing before the Regional Water Board to engage the Regional Board's Prosecution Team in settlement discussions including the possibility of completing a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) and/or Compliance Projects. The Prosecution Team is currently in settlement discussions with the Dischargers.

NCA Management Co., LLC, (NCA) owns and operates an indoor cannabis cultivation facility in Needles California, San Bernardino County Assessor Parcel Number 0660-091-09. A Complaint was issued to NCA on June 5, 2020 and NCA also chose to waive the right to a Hearing and enter settlement discussions. NCA and the Regional Water Board's Prosecution Team concluded discussions with a Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order; Proposed Order R7-2021-0014. The proposed order includes a Supplemental Environmental Project which will benefit the City of Needles, a financial hardship community. The entire amount of the administrative civil liability \$125,000, will be used to design and partially construct the L Street Booster Station. This project will increase water pressure and reliability in the community during peak demand. The Assistant Executive Officer of the Colorado River Basin Region signed the Order on January 15, 2021 and William A. Sutman, Chief Financial Officer of NCA Management Co., LLC signed on January 18, 2021. The order was posted for public comment from January 19, 2021 through February 18, 2021. No comments were received during the public comment period. The proposed order will be considered at the March 9, 2021 Board Hearing. *[Cassandra Owens, CEA]*

WQSS/NPS UNIT

February Colorado River Salinity Forum Work Group Meeting

The Salinity Forum Work Group meeting took place over two days from February 23-24, 2021.

This meeting provided updates on current and upcoming projects within the group. The Executive Director presented the schedule for beginning the Colorado River Salinity 2023 Triennial Review process next year including ongoing modeling efforts by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Work Group Chair then presented progress on the fact sheets in development to provide information about the Colorado River Basin, the Salinity Forum and its benefits, as well as current Colorado River salinity conditions. The federal partner agencies, Bureaus of Reclamation and Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service provided updates on program funding, current salinity control projects, ongoing analysis of seismic events at the Paradox injection site, and changes at the agencies with the transition to the Biden administration. The meeting wrapped up with a request for contributions to the Forum's outside witness testimony that will be sent to relevant Congressional appropriations subcommittees for the FY2022 budget. *[Emma McCorkle, ES]*

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge or Fill Discharge): The following table shows the certifications and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in January and February 2021.
[Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
1/12/2021	Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)	SoCal Gas PSEP Line 2001W section E East of Coachella to Cactus City	7A333221001
2/9/2021	Vintage Pacific, LLC	Arrowhead Estates TTM 33540	7A333219001

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 *\$45,000	2/13/19 *11/06/19	3/12/19 *12/05/19	3/13/19	4/11/19 *12/05/19 In settlement discussion		2 *13
2	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
3	Kent SeaTech Fish Farm	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$84,000	4/5/19 *6/14/19 **1/11/21 Conditional Settlement Re-issued	4/30/19 *7/15/19 **1/11/21	**1/20/21	10/08/19 In settlement discussion **2/20/21	Adopted 3/9/21 Board Meeting	28
4	Imperial WWTP	Bacteria indicators	\$12,000	2/18/21					4
	TOTAL:		\$111,000 *\$174,000						37 *56

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (March 2021)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
4	30

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