

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

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



October-November 2019

Table of Contents

LAND DISPOSAL -WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM.....	2
SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (SNMP) DEVELOPMENT.....	2
NPDES PROGRAM.....	2
BASIN PLAN AND TMDL PROGRAM.....	3
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. Within Region 7, 22 landfills, two major airports, and three chrome plating facilities have received investigative orders regarding PFAS. Workplans have been received for most of these facilities. Staff have approved most of the workplans while a few were returned as needing changes. Reports have been received for some landfill locations; PFAS concentrations were generally low to below detection limits. In the near future, additional orders will be issued to wastewater treatment plants. [*Scot Stormo, EG; Jose Cortez, Senior WRCE*]

Imperial County Environmental Justice (EJ) Task Force Meeting: On October 17, 2019 staff attended the Imperial County EJ Task Force Meeting and presented an overview on the Region's implementation of the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Policy, the criteria for a project to qualify as a SEP, and the solicitation process for interested parties to successfully submit a SEP proposal to the SEP List. [*Frank Gonzalez, AEO*]

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING (SNMP)

On November 11, 2019, staff met with Division of Water Quality at our Palm Desert office to discuss and assist with implementation of the Recycled Water Policy. The meeting covered the Recycled Water Policy Implementation Plan; Salt and Nutrient Management Plans; Wastewater and Recycled Water Volumetric Reporting; and Chemicals of Emerging Concern updates. [*Frank Gonzalez, AEO; Paula Rasmussen, EO; Jose Cortez, Senior WRCE; Cathy Sanford, EG, Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

NPDES PROGRAM

The 2019 California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) Annual Conference/Training: The 3-day annual conference was held in Monterey, California on October 7-9, 2019. The training was attended by over 1,200 members of the stormwater community including local, state, and federal decision makers, stormwater program coordinators, vendors, contractors, consultants, engineers, lawyers, scientists, and planners. The 2019 CASQA conference provided several conversational sessions, training workshops, technical presentations, panels, forums, and roundtable discussions. Staff mostly attended sessions for the Municipal MS4 program, Industrial General Permit and Stormwater lectures that are related to their current duties. Summarized below are key topics that were discussed at the conference:

1. Trash Capture and Compliance:

Trash Regulation was a topic of great interest at the 2019 conference. Areas that were

covered in detail include: trash amendments, trash capture, BMP implementation, monitoring, reporting, and demonstrating compliance. It was emphasized that the California stormwater programs are facing increased pressure by the public to regulate trash. The proposed trash amendments will include five elements: (1) Water Quality Objective, (2) Prohibition of Discharge, (3) Implementation, (4) Compliance Schedule, and (5) Monitoring.

2. Municipal Stormwater Program:

The implementation of MS4 permits will cause permittees to incur significant cost. So, it was emphasized permit requirements should deliver the greatest environmental and public health benefits in a cost-effective manner.

3. Outreach and Education:

It was pointed out that an informed and knowledgeable community is crucial to the success of a stormwater management program. [*Jay Mirpour, WRCE; Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE*]

Aquatic Toxicity Testing and Application: Staff attended a 3-day training on the process of developing NPDES effluent limitations. The training was conducted at the State Water Boards main office in Sacramento from November 12 to 14. The training consisted of the various steps of the EPA's Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing process. WET testing is used to consider if a discharge will ultimately have reasonable potential to deteriorate or negatively affect water quality. The training included both a hands-on WET test for all attendees to conduct as well as several case studies and scenarios to calculate permit limits. [*Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE; Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE*]

BASIN PLAN AND TMDL PROGRAM

Environmental Health Leadership Summit: Staff attended the 10th Annual Environmental Health Leadership Summit hosted by Comite Civico del Valle and held at the Imperial Valley College campus on November 1, 2019. Staff tabled at the event and engaged with students and attendees to discuss water issues in the Region. Staff were also able to attend some of the workshops on environmental justice and pollution concerns. [*Frank Gonzalez, AEO; Emma McCorkle, ES*]

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 *\$36,000	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	4/30/19 *7/15/19		10/08/19 In settlement discussion		28
	TOTAL:		\$111,000 *\$153,000						37 *52

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (December 2019)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
5	341

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