

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



April 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: Six (8) Notices of Applicability were issued to enrollees in the Cannabis Cultivation General Order.

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_33CC435124 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 20, 2021 to Desert Revolutions Group, LLC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_33CC432629 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 23, 2021 to LFTG, Inc., Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_13CC434289 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 23, 2021 to Imperial Green Rush, Inc., Imperial, Imperial County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_33CC434234 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 23, 2021 to Flora Holding Group, Blythe, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_33CC434355 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 23, 2021 to Green Grow Farms, Banning, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_33CC429058 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 23, 2021 to 2BMJ MGMT, LLC, Cathedral City, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_13CC434289 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 23, 2021 to Imperial Green Rush, Inc., Imperial County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability WDID NO. 7_33CC432629 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 23, 2021 to LFTG, INC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Termination: One (1) Notice of Termination was issued to an enrollee in the Cannabis Cultivation General Order.

Notice of Termination WDID NO. 7_33CC422949 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on April 21, 2021 to Coachella Valley Growers Coachella, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Other Notification and Approvals:

Seven (7) 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 April 21, 2021, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

Notice of Applicability 2020-0012-DWQ-7001 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2020-0012-DWQ, General Order for Commercial Composting Operations was issued on April 4, 2021 to Burred Waste Industries Edom Hill Compost, Cathedral City, Riverside County. [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 DoD, UST and SCP projects issued in April 2021.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
April 9, 2021	Response To Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest Comments Regarding Draft Fall 2018 Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Report For Installation Restoration Sites 1 And 2, Naval Air Facility El Centro, Imperial County	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker I.D NOs: DoD100312800 and DoD100317400	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
April 9, 2021	Response To Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest Comments Regarding Draft Spring 2019 Semiannual Long-Term Monitoring, Landfill	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker I.D NOs: DoD100312800 and DoD100317400	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
	Inspection, And Maintenance Report For Installation Restoration Sites 1 And 2		
April 9, 2021	Draft Spring 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 I.D NOs: DoD100312800 and DoD100317400	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
April 19, 2021	Response To Request For Extension Pursuant To Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10; Corrective Action Requirements	2106 Winterhaven Drive, Winterhaven, Ca, Imperial County; Global I.D No. T10000013251 (APN 603-220-038)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
April 28, 2021	Draft Record of Decision, Munitions Response Program Site 1 Former Skeet And Trap Range	Munitions Response Program Site 1, Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker Global I.D T0602517146	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
April 29, 2021	Draft Work Plan Site Inspection For Basin-wide investigation Of Per-And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker I.D NO. DOD100308000	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
April 30, 2021	Response to Work Plan For Additional Assessment And Feasibility Testing Work Plan, Former Express Stop 82688 Indio Boulevard, Indio, Ca 92201, Ear Account No. R10-135, CRWQCB Case No. 7T2201063, Global Id T0606500696	Former Express Stop, 82668 Indio Boulevard, Indio, Ca 92201, Riverside County, Global I.D Number T0606500696	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
April 30, 2021	Underground Storage Tank Program – Extension Request Approval	Former Escher Oil Company (Currently Beck Oil, Inc.) 85-119 Avenue 50, Coachella, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global I.D No. SL0606529297, Cleanup And Abatement Order No. R7-2012-0043	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

WQS/NPS UNIT

IP Oberon Solar Project Near Desert Center

On April 13, 2021, Regional Water Board staff in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held a scoping meeting for a proposed solar energy project near Desert Center to discuss the environmental review process, and to provide agency representation, individuals, and other interested parties the opportunity to make oral comments regarding the scope of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The virtual scoping meeting was well attended. Those in attendance raised comments concerning BLMs proposal for a Land Use Plan Amendment, project impacts to microphyll woodlands and the Mojave Desert tortoise, and development on or near wildlife connectivity corridors. The Regional Water Board is the

Lead Agency responsible for environmental review of the project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). [Logan Raub, ES]

Salton Sea Monitoring Workshop

On April 14, 2021, WQSS/NPS Regional Board staff Emma McCorkle attended a workshop hosted by the consulting company ESA as part of drafting the final document for the Salton Sea Management Program's Monitoring Implementation Plan. ESA invited staff from agencies involved in Salton Sea programs to serve as subject matter experts on topics such as air quality, human health, hydrology, and water quality. The Hydrology/ Water Quality workshop was attended by a representative from the Department of Water Resources, teams from TetraTech and ESA, as well as a staff member from the Colorado River Basin Regional Board. The focus of the workshop was what should be monitored, how, where, and by what entity. Staff ensured the consultants included Water Board priorities and metrics necessary for ensuring water quality objectives will be met in the Monitoring Implementation Plan. The goals of the Monitoring Implementation Plan are to determine baseline conditions and begin tracking the status of the water bodies' tributary to the Salton Sea and the Sea itself. A draft is expected to be submitted to the State in May 2021. [Emma McCorkle, ES]

Colorado River Salinity Forum Work Group Meeting

On April 26 and 29, 2021, the state representatives that participate in the Colorado River Salinity Forum Work Group held a meeting. These meetings allow states to discuss issues or priorities that can then be brought to the federal agency partners. The group discussed the schedule for the next 3 years including what needs to be done in preparation for the 2023 Triennial Review. Subcommittee membership and scope was revisited for the Salinity Economic Impact Model and selenium subcommittees. Criteria for 2023 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) submissions and what to recommend to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was discussed. Proposals for scientific studies to be undertaken by the U.S. Geological Survey were presented with a focus on certain areas that may be hyper saline or affected by monsoons being the most debated. [Emma McCorkle, ES]

Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force

A virtual meeting of Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force was held on April 28, 2021 and was chaired by Miguel Hernandez with Comite Civico del Valle. Other attendees included representatives from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD, 6 people), Sen. Melendez Office, Audubon, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Chiriaco Summit resident, Friends of the Desert Mountains, Leadership Counsel, Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Communities for California, City of Coachella, California Air Resources Control Board (CARB), Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians, and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. SCAQMD announced their Clean Air Program for Elementary Students (CAPES) program, and that the AB 617 program was to host a community steering committee meeting on May 5 to discuss the draft amendments to the community emission reduction plan. Sen. Melendez Office is developing SB 527 for restoration of the Salton Sea. Audubon is working on biological monitoring of the Salton Sea, water quality sampling and macro-invertebrate analysis. Several Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods (IVAN)

reports have been recently submitted about illegal dumping in the Mecca area. Audubon gave a presentation on the Bombay Beach Wetland Project; Audubon received a \$700,000 grant from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for preliminary design and it is coordinating with California Natural Resources Agency, who is including it in its National Environmental Policy Act process. [Maria Davydova-Flores, ES]

NPDES 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 April 2021. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
4/13/2021	Pardee Homes	Atwell Phases III-V Development Project	7A333218001

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) phthalate	\$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 WWTP	Bacteria indicators	\$12,000	2/18/21	3/22/21	3/24/21	4/23/21	4/30/21	4
5	Heber PUD	Total Suspended Solids	\$6,000	4/5/21	4/27/21	4/29/21	5/28/21		2
	TOTAL:		\$45,000 *\$96,000						15 *30

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (May2021)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
7	36

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