

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



May 2024

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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 for March 2024 in the region:

1. LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

New River Sampling: During the month of March, Tony Liu and Jose Figueroa-Acevedo of the NPDES, 401 Cert, and Stormwater Unit coordinated the New River Sampling Program by preparing sample bottles, coordinating lab contracts, and assisting in record keeping. Regional Water Board Staff collected water quality samples at the New River (International Boundary) on March 26, 2024. Imperial County [Julya Mestas].

Permitted Facility Inspections: During the month of March, the Land Disposal Unit conducted Complaint and Oversight inspections of Facilities regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements. The following Facilities were inspected:

Facility	Inspection Date	Board Order	County	Inspector
Lucerne Valley Waste Management Facility	03/05/2024	R7-2015-0036	San Bernardino	Bryanna Allen
Big Bear Water Management Facility	03/06/2024	R7-2013-0060	San Bernardino	Bryanna Allen
Salton City Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility	03/12/2024	R7-2012-0035	Imperial	Adriana Godinez and Adrian Lopez
Butterfield Ranch RV Park	03/12/2024	97-500	Riverside	Julya Mestas
Stagecoach Trail RV	03/12/2024	97-500	Riverside	Julya Mestas
Agua Caliente Regional Park	03/12/2024	97-500	Riverside	Julya Mestas
Needles Waste Water Treatment Plant	03/19/2024	R7-2015-0018	San Bernardino	Adrian Lopez
Armtec Defense Products	03/19/2024	R7-2013-0063	Riverside	Bryanna Allen
Earthrise Nutritionals, LLC	03/21/2024	R7-2021-0011	Imperial	Bryanna Allen
Coachella Valley Compost	03/26/2024	WQ 2020-0012-DWQ	Riverside	Bryanna Allen
Edom Hills Compost	03/26/2024	WQ 2020-0012-DWQ	Riverside	Bryanna Allen

Facility	Inspection Date	Board Order	County	Inspector
Valley View Trailer Park	03/27/2024	R7-2016-0023	Riverside	Adrian Lopez
Park West Mobile Home Park	03/27/2024	97-500	Riverside	Adrian Lopez

Approvals and Notifications: Seven Approval/Notifications were issued to Dischargers in the month of March:

- On March 6, 2024, the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources was provided with a 30-day comment period for the tentative site-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program that will be issued along with the Notice of Applicability to enroll the Mecca II Sanitary Landfill into the General Order for Closed Landfills, R7-2022-0033. The Facility is currently regulated by Order 01-142. The Facility has been closed since 2019 and closure construction was completed in January 2022. [Bryanna Allen, Riverside County]
- On March 11, 2024, the Regional Water Board issued a Response to Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Status Update and Extension Request for the Alan L. Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant that was submitted by Mission Springs Water District (Discharger) on February 1, 2024. The SEP is being completed in response to the Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2022-0045. The extension request will allow the Discharger time to receive the necessary certified payrolls, pay the SEP contractor, and ask their Board of Directors to approve the project as complete. The Regional Water Board agreed to extend the project completion date to April 1, 2024. [Adriana Godinez, Riverside County]
- On March 11, 2024, the Catellus Development Corporation (Discharger) was issued a closure approval from the Regional Water Board for the Truckhaven Geothermal Exploratory Well that is regulated by Board Order R7-2007-0043. The Discharger submitted a Closure Report, prepared by Geo-Cal Inc., on November 23, 2023. The Board Order is scheduled to be rescinded at the Regional Water Board's May 2024 Board Meeting. [Zakary Owens, Imperial County]
- On March 11, 2024, the Regional Water Board issued a response to the Revised Groundwater Investigation Work Plan and Extension Request submitted by Spreckels Sugar Company Inc., on October 6, 2023, for the Spreckels Sugar Beet Processing Facility regulated by Order R7-2023-0001. The Board Order requires the Discharger to submit a workplan to evaluate the background water quality, local groundwater elevation and gradient, if a local groundwater mound exists under the Facility, and if the facility's waste management units are discharging wastewater to groundwater. The original due date for the summary of the investigation was January 1, 2024, but a 6-month extension was approved

on September 7, 2023. The Discharger is requesting an additional extension to submit the required Summary of the completed work that was approved in the Revised Workplan. The revised due date is January 10, 2025. [Adriana Godinez, Imperial County]

- On March 13, 2024, Riverside County (Discharger) was issued a revised Monitoring and Reporting Program (R7-2018-0003-01) for the Blythe Airport Wastewater Treatment Plant in response to a June 9, 2023 request. The letter requested a reduction in the monitoring and reporting frequency from monthly to quarterly; the reduction in frequency has been approved. [Adriana Godinez, Riverside County]
- On March 20, 2024, the Regional Water Board requested additional information from CC Industry LLC (Discharger) regarding the C4 Indoor Cannabis Facility to determine compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Discharger's request for regulatory coverage to discharge cooling tower blowdown to the land surface. The Discharger has previously submitted a summary Notice of Determination for the Negative Declaration filed with the City of Cathedral City as well as a Category 1 exemption from the Department of Cannabis Control, however, neither document or decision included language that stated whether or not the discharge of cooling tower blowdown was also considered by a Lead Agency during the CEQA approval process. [Julya Mestas, Riverside County]
- On March 20, 2024, the Regional Water Board concurred with the technical adequacy of the Consolidation and Partial Final Closure Plan (Plan) that was submitted by Phoenix 1, LLC, for the Orita Geothermal Exploration Project (Facility) regulated by R7-2010-0008. The Plan consists of consolidating the drilling mud from the three mud sumps into a single mud sump, then closing the one mud sump (in place). The Facility will still have two active mud sumps where they are permitted to temporarily discharge drilling waste for a period of up to one year while the waste dries (and can be reclassified as a solid waste instead of a semi-solid waste). [Zakary Owens, Imperial County]

2. WATER QUALITY/NON-POINT SOURCE PROGRAMS

Colorado River Basin Salinity Forum Work Group

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Forum Work Group met March 5-7 in person in San Diego, CA and virtually on Zoom. The meeting was hosted in person by the San Diego Water Authority which opened the meeting with a welcome presentation on Colorado River water use in San Diego County and how the Salinity Forum's work benefits agriculture there. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation provided updates on project funding and the overall budget for the Salinity Forum. The Executive Director asked all state members to reach out to their congressional representatives to sponsor legislation that would adjust the contributions of the budget and maintain solvency. The Science

Team showcased four potential projects to be funded. There was also an update on a funded study to create an interactive salinity map of the Colorado River and the study on monsoonal effects on salinity loads. Other federal agency partners, U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, also provided updates on their activities. [Emma McCorkle, SES]

3. UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM

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 March 2024.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
March 5, 2024	Approval of Additional Site Assessment Work Plan Addendum for Monitoring Well Installation Activities	KC-130 Fuel Release Site – Agricultural Field, 5900 Polk Street, Thermal, Riverside County, California 92274 GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000018709	Monica Aragon Guzman, Engineering Geologist
March 5, 2024	Review of Third Quarter 2023 Oxygen Injection and Vapor Extraction System Operation and Maintenance and Corrective Action Site Status Update	Antunez Autobody, 238 E. Main St., El Centro, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000007153	Thomas Browne, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 11, 2023	Review of 2023 Annual Monitoring Report and Recommendation For Case Closure	BNSF Railway Company, Needles Rail Yard Site, Southeast of the Intersection Of “H” Street & River Street, Needles, San Bernardino County, GeoTracker Global ID No SL0607134791	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
March 12, 2024	Approval of Work Plan for Site Characterization	Former USA Gas, 1979 West Ramsey Street, Banning, CA, Riverside County, Case No. 20052133 GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606537906	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 13, 2024	Review of Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring and Liquid-Phase Hydrocarbon (LPH) Removal Report – First and Second Quarter 2023	7-Eleven Store No. 23409, 904 Imperial Ave., Calexico, GeoTracker Global I.D. T0602560028	Thomas Browne, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 13, 2024	Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment - Proposed Underground Storage Tank Case Closure	Former Tremendez Automotive, 82980 Highway 111 Indio, Riverside County; Global ID No. T0606500699	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 13, 2024	Response to Petition for Review of Underground Storage Tank	IR Site Underground Storage Tank Site 10 (Building 1077), Intersection of Devalle Road and Agate Road, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist
March 14, 2024	Concurrence with the Response to Comments Table on the Draft Work Plan Addendum, Long-Term Monitoring, Landfill Inspection, and Maintenance Report	Installation Restoration Sites 1 and 2, Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID Nos: DOD100312800 and DOD100317400	Jessie Del Mastro, Engineering Geologist
March 14, 2024	Concurrence with the Final Work Plan Landfill Cap Repair and Drainage Ditch and Culvert Repair	Installation Restoration Site 2 Patrol Road Landfill, Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker	Jessie Del Mastro, Engineering Geologist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
		Global ID No: DOD100317400	
March 14, 2024	Approval of Soil Vapor Sampling and Analysis Workplan	Calipatria Queen Market 7788, 101 East Main Street, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000011602	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 15, 2024	Summary of the Meeting on March 13, 2024, in the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board Office	Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs), SoCo Bulk Plant, 815 K Street, Brawley, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000012312	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 18, 2024	Approval of Semi-Annual Status Report, Second Half 2023	Former Chevron Station 92693, 400 Imperial Ave., Calexico, Imperial County, GeoTracker File T0602500034	Thomas Browne, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 20, 2024	Concurrence Review of Final Record of Decision, Munitions Response Program Site UXO [Unexploded Ordinance] 01	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000004231	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist
March 20, 2024	Approval of the Remedial Action Plan and Oxygen Sparging Pilot Test Report	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
March 25, 2024	Review of Background Study Work Plan	Former Unocal/Geothermal Energy and Mineral Corporation (GEMCOR) Facility, 950 West	Monica Aragon Guzman, Engineering Geologist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
		Lindsey Road, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000006199	
March 26, 2024	Approval of Request for an Extension to Submit a Workplan	Former Mecca Chevron, 99021 Highway 195 (66 th Avenue), Mecca, Riverside County; Global ID No. T0000003076	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist
March 27, 2024	Public Notice 7-24-08 Proposed Site Clean Up Case Closure Pursuant to Low-Threat Closure Policy	Arco Line 90, Essex (Ward Valley), San Bernardino County, Global ID Number T10000006013	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
March 28, 2024	Review of Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report (Fourth Quarter, 2023)	Blythe Environmental Remediation Project - Commingled Plume (CP) 6; 101, 110, 149, 200, 201, 249 E. Hobsonway and 107 W. Hobsonway, Blythe, Riverside County - Claim No. CP0019	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 28, 2024	Approval of Extension Request for the Submittal of a Work Plan	CH-53 Helo Mishap-Carrizo Impact Area, 10 Miles Northwest of Interstate 8, Plaster City, California 92251, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000013231	Monica Aragon Guzman, Engineering Geologist
March 28, 2024	Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report	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

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
March 29, 2024	Approval of Second Semi-Annual 2023 Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Event – Chlorinated Pesticide Contamination	Thermal Airport, Chlorinated Pesticide Contamination at Thermal Airport, 56850 Tyler Street, Thermal CA 92274, GeoTracker ID NO. SL20702103	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist

4. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

401 Water Quality Certifications (Dredge or Fill Discharge)

The following table shows the certifications that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in March 2024. [*Logan Raub, SES, Fatima Alrahem, WRCE*]

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
3/05/2024	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project	7B363055001
3/05/2024	F and L Partners My Place Road, LLC	Rio Del Sol Estates Boat Ramp Project	7B363056001

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	Seeley CWD	Bacteria indicator, Free Cyanide & Selenium	\$150,000	12/8/23	12/27/23		*Discharger agreed to settlement discussion		50
2	Niland SD	Bacteria indicator, BOD, Chlorine Residual	\$45,000	7/29/2022	8/29/22		*Discharger agreed to settlement discussion		15
3	Calexico WPCP	Bacteria indicator, BOD	\$78,000	2/21/2024	3/21/2024		*Discharger agreed to settlement discussion		26
4	IID Hatchery	Total Suspended Solids	\$24,000	2/21/2024	3/18/2024	03/27/2024			8
5	Brawley WWTP	Bacteria indicator, Total Copper, Total Ammonia	\$12,000	3/26/2024	4/10/2024	4/16/2024			4
	TOTAL:		\$309,000						103

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (March 2024)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
3	17

[Maribel Schiavone, SEA; Logan Raub, SES; Kai Dunn, Supervising WRCE]