

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-22-05
May 10, 2022
NPDES No. CA0104370

**REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRS)**

REVISED PROPOSED ORDER R7-2022-0007

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment **the toxicity related sections only in a newly revised version of** proposed Order R7-2022-0007, which will serve as an NPDES permit and WDRs for the Imperial the Heber Public Utilities District's (Discharger) Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) in Imperial County. The following discharger has applied for reissuance of the current NPDES permit, Order R7-2016-0003, under section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act NPDES permit program (33 U.S.C. § 1342):

HEBER PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
1078 Dogwood Road STE 103
Heber, Imperial County

Staff of the Colorado River Basin Water Board has prepared **a** revised proposed Order R7-2022-0007 (**Revised** Proposed Order) for the above discharger containing effluent and receiving water limitations and special provisions in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, § 13000 et seq.). The public hearing to consider adoption of the **Revised** Proposed Order will be on:

Date: **June 14, 2022**
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(with virtual public participation available)

The public may participate either in person at the physical meeting location or virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. Instructions concerning how to participate virtually are available on the Regional Water Board's website. Persons desiring to receive information about changes to the format of this meeting should sign up for the Lyris e-mail list by [Subscribing to our Electronic Mailing List](#) (Select Board Meetings Agenda).

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons

wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record. Links for the meeting, a phone call option, and remote participation instructions are posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Remote Participation Instructions](#).

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures](#).

BACKGROUND

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system (Facility) that provides sewerage service to the Heber Public Utilities District, which has a service population of approximately 3,600. The current total design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is 1.2 MGD.

The wastewater treatment plant consists of influent screening, secondary treatment (i.e., oxidation ditches and an integrated fixed-film activated sludge process [IFAS] operated in parallel), secondary clarification, and ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection. Solids treatment consists of thickening, digestion, and dewatering.

Influent to the Facility undergoes preliminary treatment comprising two in-channel comminutors and one Parshall Flume with an ultra-sonic flow meter. An influent pump station consisting of a three non-clog centrifugal pumps equipped with a pressure transmitter/float control system transfer the wastewater to the headworks consisting of two parallel rotary drum screens, screening washer units, vortex grit trap, and a grit classifier. Flow from the headworks is sent to splitter box which distributes wastewater to the secondary treatment system.

The secondary treatment system consists of two oxidation ditches (each with design capacity of 0.20 MGD) and an integrated fixed film and activated sludge (IFAS) system using STM-aerators™ with a design capacity of 0.80 MGD. The IFAS system is composed of two anoxic basins and two STM-aerators™ per train. The two oxidation ditches and the IFAS unit are operated in parallel. Treated wastewater from the secondary treatment units is then directed to two secondary clarifiers. Clarified effluent is disinfected using UV disinfection prior to discharge to the receiving water. the Central Drain 3-D No. 1, an Imperial Valley Drain and tributary to the Alamo River, a water of the United States.

In addition to the liquid treatment train, the Facility possesses an emergency storage pond. In the event that influent flows to the Facility exceed the treatment capacity of its unit processes (e.g., in the event of a major storm event), operators have the option to route excess influent flow to an earthen, unlined emergency holding basin located on-site. Discharges to the emergency basin are currently regulated by Board Order R7-2013-0007, waste discharge requirements for Heber PUD WWTP emergency standby basin.

Solids collected during the treatment process are directed to a pre-thickener, followed by two aerobic digesters and a post-thickener. Thickened sludge is dewatered using a

cyclone solids-liquids separator and 13 drying beds. Treated sludge is shipped off-site to South Yuma County Landfill located in Yuma, AZ for final disposal.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a thirty (30) day public comment period, which begins **May 10, 2022**, and ends **June 8, 2022**. Written comments on the **Revised Proposed Order** must be received no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **June 8, 2022**.

Comments **will only be accepted on the revised portions of the Revised Proposed Order, which include in Section 4.A1.c. of the Order, the effluent limitation for chronic toxicity; Section 7.F, the compliance determination description for the median monthly effluent limitation; and Section 7.N., the compliance determination description for chronic toxicity. Comments will also be accepted addressing proposed changes to the Monitoring and Reporting Requirements, Section 5.A.8, the accelerated monitoring requirements for chronic toxicity. Comments will additionally be accepted on the Fact Sheet, Table F-10, and the explanation of the reasonable potential analysis; Section 4.D.5.d., Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET); and the chronic toxicity language included in paragraph 6 of Section 4.E.1. and paragraph 2 of Section 4.G.2.b. Comments addressing these changes received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record.**

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Jose Valle de Leon at the address shown below or emailed to: Jose.ValledeLeon@Waterboards.ca.gov or faxed to the office at (760) 341-6820.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The full text of the **Revised Proposed Order** is available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

If you need a hard copy of the **Revised Proposed Order** mailed to you, please contact Mary Castaneda by phone at (760) 776-8945 or e-mail at mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or via e-mail at: Hilda.Vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov

ACCESSIBILITY

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or e-mail at hilda.vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760)

776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Jose Valle de Leon** at (760) 776-8940 or via email at Jose.ValledeLeon@Waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A13 0104011 Heber PUD WWTP Order R7-2022-0007