

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

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

Public Notice No. 7-22-22
Notice Date: July 15, 2022
NPDES Permit CA0105181

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2022-0020**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0020 (Tentative Order), which will serve as the reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number CA 0105181 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for following discharger and facility:

KENT SEATECH, LLC
(Discharger)

KENT SEATECH CORPORATION FISH FARM
70775 BUCHANAN STREET,
MECCA – RIVERSIDE COUNTY
(Facility)

Kent SeaTech, LLC (Discharger) has applied for reissuance of the Kent SeaTech Corporation Fish Farm's (Facility) NPDES Permit, previously issued per WDRs Order R7-2016-0035, which is issued pursuant to section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342), and pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.).

HEARING PARTICIPATION

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative Order at the date, time and location specified below:

Date: September 13, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92260
(virtual public participation available; see below)

Kent SeaTech Corporation Fish Farm

Notice of Public Hearing

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 subscribe to the [Lyris email 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 Board's website (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting/#participation_via_video_conference).

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Board's [Meeting Procedures](#) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf).

BACKGROUND

The Facility consists of 50 ponds, 97 fish production tanks (one raceway, 48 circular fingerling tanks and 48 circular grow-out tanks), 60 hatchery tanks, one "Pondway" fish production system, treatment and distribution systems. Makeup water for the production tanks is currently supplied from five functional onsite groundwater wells with an extraction rate of 3,200 gallons per minute (gpm). Ground water from the wells is distributed through a piping manifold to forty-eight 24-foot diameter tanks, forty-eight 40-foot diameter tanks and one circular raceway with a capacity of approximately 500,000 gallons. Well water is used to control temperature and ammonia levels.

Each tank is supplied with oxygen and is used to grow a variety of fish at various growth rates regulated by temperature and feed rates. The hatchery and fingerling tank operations are fully closed loop systems and wastewater from these operations are routed to the facility treatment system and into the semi-closed environment. Overflow (wastewater) from the raceway and 48 grow-out production tanks consists of treated recycled water and makeup water from the groundwater wells. This overflow is either routed to the facility treatment system or to Discharge Point 001 that is controlled by an overflow weir system in the discharge channel from the tanks.

Water diverted to the treatment system flows into an open channel that is referred to as the Tilapia Channel. The Tilapia Channel serves as a biological wastewater treatment process. At this first stage of water treatment, about 20 to 40 percent of the particulate matter is consumed by tilapia and/or carp whose specific purpose is for biological solids removal. At the end of the Tilapia Channel, there are four mechanical microscreen drum filters for additional fine solids removal.

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COMMENT DEADLINE
August 15, 2022

Kent SeaTech Corporation Fish Farm

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Following the drum filters, there is a provision for water to go through the Suspended Media Ammonia Removal Technology (SMART) system, a type of oxidation ditch system, with a capacity of 750,000 gallon where water could be biologically treated to remove ammonia and nitrites.

The water is distributed through a concrete distribution canal to an earthen constructed wetland system that provides further nitrification, denitrification, fine solids polishing, alkalinity restoration, and temperature buffering. One hundred acres of wetlands out of an available 430 acres are currently utilized for treatment.

Wastewater from the production tanks that is diverted to Discharge Point 001 can be either discharged to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel or can be pumped to the facility's "Pondway" fish production system.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a 30-day public comment period, which ends on **August 15, 2022**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on August 15, 2022**. Comments received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of **Fatima Alrahem** at the address shown below or emailed to: Fatima.Alrahem@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
Palm Desert, CA 92260

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Tentative Order has been posted to the Board's [Tentative Orders](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml) webpage (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml).

To receive a physical copy by mail, contact either **Mary Castaneda** at (760) 776-8945 or Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or **CJ Jasieniecki** at (760) 346-7494 or CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov

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ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact Mary Castaneda via email at Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-(800) 735- 2929 or voice line at 1-(800) 735-2922.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Fatima Alrahem** at (760) 313-1290 or Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A335003001, Kent SeaTech Corporation Fish Farm,
Board Order R7-2022-0020

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