

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



March 2019
Executive Officer Report

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LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

Cannabis Operations in Region 7: In the month of March 2019, the Executive Officer issued two Notices of Applicability (NOAs) of coverage under the State Water Resources Control General Order for cannabis cultivation to cannabis indoor cultivation operations in Region 7. [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

New River Improvement Project: On March 19, 2019, Paula Rasmussen, EO, Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer, and Frank Gonzalez, AEO attended a State Water Board workshop in North Shore, and gave an informational presentation on water quality at the United States/Mexico International Border in Calexico. The presentation included historical problems, efforts to address pollution problems, water quality impacts, and current activities at the border. [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

On March 27, 2019, Paula Rasmussen, EO and Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer attended a California-Mexico Border Relations Council Meeting in San Diego, chaired by the CalEPA Secretary, Jared Blumenfeld. Regional Water Board staff gave an informational presentation on water issues at the Border. The update focused on border pollution, water quality, and the status of the New River Strategic Plan. [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) Water Reclamation Plant: On March 5, 2019, Doug Wylie, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer attended a Scoping Meeting held by MSWD, as the Lead Agency pursuant to CEQA, for the draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed West Valley Water Reclamation Plant. The meeting was held at the MSWD office in Desert Hot Springs. Regional Water Board staff submitted written comments on the Notice of Preparation for the draft Environmental Impact Report on March 13, 2019. [Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE]

Roundtable Meetings: On March 5, 2019, Doug Wylie, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer attended the Water Board's Emergency Response Technical Working Group (ERTWG) meeting at the Region 4 Office in Los Angeles. The Group conducted a tabletop exercise to test the draft Water Boards Emergency Response Plan. The tabletop exercise is an internal staff discussion of the Water Boards' response to a simulated emergency. The ERTWG reviewed the actions the Water Boards would take in responding to a wildfire emergency scenario, testing the draft Emergency Response Plan and the application of California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) in an informal, low-stress environment. [Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE]

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Investigative Orders: On March 20, 2019, Regional Board staff coordinated with the State Water Board Site Clean Program staff to issue Water Code section 13267 Orders to 22 landfills in the region and the Palm Springs Airport and Imperial Regional Airport for the investigation of Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The Orders were signed by the Colorado River Basin Region's Executive Officer, requesting the submittal of information about PFAS disposal at these landfills and airports. PFAS is a family of more than 3,000 man-made and mostly unregulated chemicals that have been produced since the mid-1900s. They are mobile, persistent, and bioaccumulative. They are resistant to degradation in the environment and when degradation occurs, it often results in the formation of other PFAS compounds. [Scot Stormo, EG and Jose Cortez, WRCE]

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) NOTIFICATIONS AND SPILLS

Fifteen OES notifications were received in March 2019, and include:

- a 15,000-gallon sewage spill in the town of Mecca (regulated facility, spill investigated by Land Disposal Unit),
- an 800-gallon release of water contaminated with lithium into a dry wash from fire of semi-truck transporting batteries,

- eight releases of petroleum from accidents on highways ranging from 15 to 70-gallons, and
- five minor spills (paint, gas vapor, etc.).

All spills were contained, or if released to the ground surface, soils were removed and properly disposed of. [Jose Cortez, WRCE]

NPDES PROGRAM

Confined Animal Facilities Fees Stakeholder Meeting

On February 27, 2019, Staff attended the Confined Animal Facilities (CAF) Fee Stakeholder Meeting held by the State Water Board at the Eastern Municipal Water District in Perris, California. The objective of the meeting was to inform stakeholders about the Waste Discharge Permit Fund Program expenditures and the CAF fee schedule, with proposed changes. [Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, WRCE]

Seeley County Water District Wastewater Treatment Compliance Project

On February 28, 2019, the Executive Officer signed a Stipulated Order for Seeley County Water District, which included a Compliance Project. This settlement had been heard by the Board on January 10, 2019. Settlement had been delegated to the Executive Officer. The Order requires submittal of quarterly progress reports for the Compliance Project. The first quarterly report is due on May 1, 2019. [Maribel Jernegan, Sanitary Engineering Associate, Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]

Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status

No.	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	City of Calipatria WWTP	Oil & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$12,000	10/8/18	11/8/18	11/19/18	12/18/18	3/12/19	4
2	Calexico WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$6,000	2/13/19	3/12/19	3/13/19	4/11/19		2
3	Holtville WWTP	Oil & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$12,000	2/14/19	3/13/19	3/15/19	4/14/19		4
4	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$21,000	2/21/19	3/18/19	3/26/19	4/24/19		7
			\$66,000	3/27/19					22

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (March 2019)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
11	167

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