

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

RESOLUTION NO. R7-2002-0183

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT REMEDIAL EFFORTS
TO ADDRESS PERCHLORATE POLLUTION IN THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER

WHEREAS, perchlorate is a dissolution product of ammonium, potassium, and sodium perchlorate salts, used primarily by the aerospace industry as an accelerant for solid propellant mixtures; and

WHEREAS, improper handling and poor waste management practices at sites that manufacture, store, or utilize perchlorate chemicals has caused contamination to ground and surface waters, including drinking water supplies, throughout California; and

WHEREAS, uncertainties exist in the toxicological database regarding the effects of perchlorate exposure to ecosystems and human health, particularly at low levels over long periods of time; and

WHEREAS, perchlorate is very stable and mobile in aqueous systems, resists degradation, displays poor sorption to soil, persists in ground and surface waters, and poses a significant threat to water quality and beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, low levels of perchlorate occur in the Lower Colorado River from Las Vegas to the International Border, due to two perchlorate manufacturing facilities in Henderson, Nevada that released perchlorate to ground and surface waters discharging to the Las Vegas wash, a tributary to the Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River has municipal and domestic beneficial uses, and is a major source of drinking water for Southern California and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, monitoring data for ground and surface waters in the Colorado River Basin Region receiving recharge or discharge from the Lower Colorado River indicate the presence of perchlorate and consequently threatens beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has indicated that perchlorate concentrations in discharges to the Las Vegas wash from the Henderson facilities are expected to be reduced by 95% in approximately two to four years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado River Basin Regional Board requests that:

1. The United States Federal Government recognize the threat to water quality, beneficial uses, and human and ecological health, caused by perchlorate contamination in the Lower Colorado River, and waters that receive discharge or recharge from the Lower Colorado River.

2. The United States Federal Government take appropriate actions with the State of Nevada and relevant agencies, to support and facilitate remedial efforts in Henderson to alleviate and prevent perchlorate discharges to the Las Vegas wash, Lake Mead, and the Lower Colorado River, so that perchlorate is eliminated.
3. Certified copies of this resolution be sent to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the State of Nevada, the State Water Resources Control Board, Metropolitan Water District, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District and to others.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Colorado River Basin Regional Board commends the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for its timely response to the perchlorate contamination at the Henderson facilities, and requests the Division of Environmental Protection to provide periodic reports to the Regional Board regarding the progress of the remediation.

I, Phil Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on November 13, 2002.

PHIL GRUENBERG
Executive Officer