

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

Office
73-720 Fred Waring Dr. #100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

WaterBoards.ca.gov/Coloradoriver/

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



February 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 January 2024 in the region:

1. LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

New River Sampling: During the month of January, the Land Disposal Unit coordinated the New River Sampling Program by preparing sample bottles, coordinating lab contracts, and assisting in record keeping. Staff from the Land Disposal Unit collected water quality samples at the New River (International Boundary) on January 16, 2024. Imperial County [*Julya Mestas*].

Binational Technical Committee: Land Disposal Unit staff attended the Binational Technical Committee meeting in Mexicali, Mexico on January 25, 2024. The meeting included a field tour in which one of the sites observed was the location of a collapsed emitter in the City’s sanitary sewer collection system. Staff observed a construction crew repairing the line that had collapsed and had been infiltrated with mud. The collapse and the repair are not expected to cause a sanitary sewer over flow to the New River. Mexicali, Mexico [*Julya Mestas, Adriana Godinez*]

Permitted Facility Inspections: During the month of January, 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
Cal Energy Region 1	01/10/2024	R7-2021-0008	Imperial	Zakary Owens
Cal Energy Region 2	01/10/2024	R7-2022-0011	Imperial	Zakary Owens
Cal Energy JJ Elmore	01/10/2024	R7-2023-0011	Imperial	Zakary Owens
Cal Energy JM Leathers	01/10/2024	R7-2023-0048	Imperial	Zakary Owens
Desert Shores WWTF	01/24/2024	R7-2014-0007	Imperial	Adriana Godinez

2. WATER QUALITY/NON-POINT SOURCE PROGRAMS

Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition Tour

On January 9, 2024, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff attended a tour of the area covered by the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands General Order (R7-2020-0026). Staff inspected fields being harvested, irrigation infrastructure, and the canal system. Coalition representatives answered questions and explained how the order has impacted farming practices. [*Ryan Culhane, ES; Emma McCorkle, SES*]

Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition Grower Meeting

On January 10, 2024, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff attended a grower

meeting for and by the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition. Regional Water Board staff presented compliance information for drinking water well monitoring and answered questions from growers. [Ryan Culhane, ES]

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 underground storage tank (UST) and site cleanup program (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 January 2024.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
January 3, 2024	Response to Petition For Review Of Underground Storage Tank Case, IR Site UST 10 (Building 1077), Intersection Of Delvalle Road and Agate Road, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County	IR Site 10 (Building 1077)	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist
January 4, 2024	Annual Estimation for Cost Recovery Program for the Palm Springs International Airport Site	Palm Springs International Airport, Riverside County, California GeoTracker Global ID No. 10000012782	Monica Aragon Guzman, Engineering Geologist
January 4, 2024	Annual Estimation for Cost Recovery Program for the Imperial County Airport Site	Imperial County Airport (Airport ID IPL), Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. 10000012781 Order No. WQ-2019-0005-DWQ	Monica Aragon Guzman, Engineering Geologist
January 5, 2024	Approval of Addendum to Revised Work Plan of Installation and Maintenance of Art System and Additional Soil Vapor Extraction in Wells SVE-1, SVE-5, SVE-7, and SVE-8	SOCO #63, 800 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County, CRWQCB File No. 7T2 231 023, GeoTracker File T0602514171, CUF #19238	Thomas Brown, Water Resource Control Engineer

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
January 8, 2024	Approval of Revised Workplan for High Vacuum Dual Phase Extraction Feasibility Testing	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
January 8, 2024	Approval of Response to 30 October 2023 Review Letter on the Twentynine Palms Water District's 2022 Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Groundwater Monitoring Report	Twentynine Palms Valley Basin, Twentynine Palms, California	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist
January 8, 2024	Review of the First Semi-Annual 2023 Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Event – Chlorinated Pesticide Contamination	Thermal Airport, Chlorinated Pesticide Contamination at Thermal Airport, 56850 Tyler Street, Thermal, California, GeoTracker Global I.D. No. SL20702103	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist
January 9, 2024	Approval of Site Investigation Work Plan	Blocker Transportation, 910 West 14 th Avenue, Blythe, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500896	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
January 17, 2024	Approval of Extension Request for Submittal of Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report	RD Brown, 307 and 321 North Imperial Avenue, Imperial, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000005261	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
January 17, 2024	Request for Work Plan for Additional Assessment, Review of Final Emergency Response Documentation and Cleanup Report, and Response to Request for Closure	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
January 17, 2024	Approval of First Semi-Annual 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
January 17, 2024	Comments on the Draft Remedial Action Plan, and Request For A Revised Report	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 17, 2024	Comments on the Plume Delineation, Well Installation, and Revised Conceptual Site Model Report and Request For a Revised Report	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 18, 2024	Approval of Second Semi-Annual 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 24, 2024	Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure	Rite Spot Market, 1201 Parker Dam Road, Earp, San Bernardino County; Global ID No. T0607100969 (APN 0661-131-04-0000)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 24, 2024	New Regional Water Board Project Manager	BNSF Railway Company, Former C.S. Griggs and Son Site, 1705 Eagle Pass Road, Needles, San Bernardino County, GeoTracker Global ID No. SL0607137045	Monica Aragon Guzman, Engineering Geologist
January 30, 2024	Site Cleanup Program Oversight Cost Reimbursement Account for Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3 Mishap Response	Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3 (HSC-3) Mishap Response Site, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Midway Mountains, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000013231	Monica Aragon Guzman, Engineering Geologist
January 30, 2024	Approval of Proposed Additional Soil Vapor Sampling Technical Memorandum (Workplan)	Imperial Irrigation District Headquarters, 333 E Barioni Boulevard, Imperial, CA, Imperial County; Global ID No. SL0602597886	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 30, 2024	Comments on the Technical Memorandum, Task 1 – Characterizing TDS/N Mass Loading to	Coachella Valley - Salt Nutrient Management Agencies	Jeff Fitzsimmons, Engineering Geologist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
	the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin		

4. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

Imperial Irrigation District Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)

On September 14, 2021, Stipulated Order No. R7-2021-0006 was adopted for a total liability of \$549,000 issued to resolve violations at the Imperial Irrigation District (Discharger) Grass Carp Hatchery and El Centro Generating Station facilities. The entire liability was suspended pending the Discharger’s funding and completion of a third party-performed supplemental environmental project (SEP) by the Imperial County Public Health Department, Division of Environmental Health (DEH): Point of Entry (POE) Pilot Project – Phase II. As of December 31, 2023, a total of 26 POEs have been installed as required by the SEP.

DEH, with assistance from the Imperial County Public Health Department Multimedia Team, collaborated to complete a demonstration video on how to maintain a POE system for participants in this program as required in the SEP. The video is available on the Public Health website and can be found using the following URL:

<https://icphd.org/poe>. Additionally, DEH is in the process of ordering magnets for each household once they exit the program. The magnet will have a logo and the URL found above so that residents have a way to remember the location of the video. *[Kai Dunn, Supervising WRCE]*

401 Water Quality Certifications (Dredge or Fill Discharge)

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

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
1/04/2024	Southern California Edison	TD1793594 Pipeline Road Deteriorated Pole Replacement Project	7A363051 001
1/04/2024	Caltrans	1J270 State Route 247 Pavement Rehab and Construct Shoulder Project	7A363045 001
1/25/2024	Audubon California	Bombay Beach Wetland Project Geotechnical Investigation Project	7A133181 001

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	\$27,000 *\$150,000	8/11/2021 *12/8/23	9/8/21 *12/27/23		*Discharger agreed to settlement discussion		9 *50
2	Niland SD	Bacteria indicator, BOD, Chlorine Residual	\$45,000	7/29/2022	8/29/22		*Discharger agreed to settlement discussion		15
	TOTAL:		\$72,000 *\$295,000						24 *65

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (January 2024)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
5	51

[Logan Raub, SES; Kai Dunn, Supervising WRCE]