

**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. 7-24-28  
Notice Date: October 11, 2024  
NPDES Permit CA0104426

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT  
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2024-XXXX**

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 R7-2024-XXXX (Tentative Order), which will serve as the reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number CA0104426 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the following discharger and facility:

**CITY OF EL CENTRO**  
(Discharger)

**EL CENTRO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**  
2255 N. LA BRUCHERIE ROAD  
EL CENTRO – IMPERIAL COUNTY  
(Facility)

The City of El Centro has applied for reissuance of the El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES Permit, previously issued per WDRs Order R7-2019-0002, 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:** December 10, 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Palm Desert City Hall, Council Chambers  
73510 Fred Waring Drive  
Palm Desert, California 92260  
(virtual public participation available; see below)

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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](http://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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf)).

**BACKGROUND**

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system (Facility) and provides service to a population of approximately 45,000 individuals located in the City of El Centro. The permitted maximum daily flow limitation is equal to the design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant which is 8.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The Facility is located in Section 39, T15S, R13E, SBB&M. The discharge from the Facility consists of disinfected secondary treated wastewater.

Wastewater from the community is pumped from seven lift stations to a final lift station, from which it is pumped to preliminary treatment, where solids are removed by an automatic bar screen. Manual injection of ferric chloride and polymer is added to the process at the main lift station to remove metals from the wastewater. Wastewater is then directed through the plant's primary clarifiers. Secondary treatment is achieved through biological treatment via six aeration basins and secondary clarification through four final clarifiers. The wastewater is then disinfected using ultraviolet (UV) light before being discharged to Central Main Drain.

Primary sludge generated from the primary clarifiers is pumped to anaerobic digesters. Secondary sludge generated from the secondary clarifiers is processed through a gravity belt thickener, with the de-watered sludge sent to the anaerobic digesters. Following anaerobic digestion, sludge is directed through a belt press, dried to approximately 90 percent solids in drying beds and then land-applied at locations in Arizona. The Facility maintains an emergency storage basin for use during cleaning of the UV disinfection channel or plant malfunction. This emergency storage basin is regulated under WDR Order R7-2013-0037. The emergency storage basin can be

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pumped to the primary clarifiers if necessary; however, it is typically allowed to evaporate.

Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to Central Main Drain, a water of the United States, and tributary to the Alamo River.

### SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a 30-day public comment period, which ends on **November 12, 2024**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **November 12, 2024**. 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](mailto: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 **Mary Castaneda** at (760) 776-8945 or at [Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov).

### 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](mailto: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.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Fatima Alrahem** at (760) 313-1290 or [Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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. 7A130103011, El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant, Board Order R7-2024-XXXX

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