



COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

LAND DISPOSAL UNIT FACT SHEET

PLANNED PERMITTING ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN 2025/2026



The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board), is providing the following information about planned permitting activities by the Land Disposal and Discharge to Land Programs. Waste Discharges are permitted by issuing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) that are adopted at a publicly noticed Regional Water Board meeting. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to let the public know about projects in their community which may impact their water quality, and inviting their participation in our decision-making processes.

THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD

In California, the responsibility for the protection of surface water and groundwater quality rests primarily with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards, collectively referred to as the Water Boards. The Water Boards are a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

The Regional Water Board makes water quality decisions for the Colorado River Basin Region (Region 7), which is located in the southeastern area of California. Region 7 covers approximately 22,000 square miles including all of Imperial County, and portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties.

The Regional Water Board's mission is to protect and improve the quality of our regional waters. The ways by which we carry out our mission include:

- Developing policies addressing region-wide water quality concerns within the Basin Planning process;
- Working on statewide programs and policies developed by the State Water Board;

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- Working with other agencies concerned with water quality control;
- Adopting WDRs regulating discharges to land and land disposal. These WDRs regulate discharges to unlined disposal units, such as basins and seepage pits, and discharges compliant with California regulatory requirements for landfills and other lined disposal facilities; and
- Informing and involving the public on water quality issues.

LAND DISPOSAL AND WASTE DISCHARGE TO LAND PROGRAMS

The Land Disposal Program regulates the discharge of solid waste and wastewater to lined facilities such as landfills or lined surface impoundments that preclude discharges to groundwater. The Waste Discharge to Land Program regulates wastewater discharges to groundwaters of the State. The State of California is granted authority by the California Water Code and Division 7 of the Water Code known as the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Permitting activities involve issuing and renewing WDRs, conducting inspections, reviewing monitoring reports, and taking enforcement actions against dischargers who fail to comply.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

Staff of the Land Disposal and Discharge to Land Programs plan to develop WDRs for the facilities listed below in Fiscal Year 2025/2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). Members of the public are encouraged to reach out to Regional Water Board staff regarding the development and status of these WDRs.

WDRs Renewal: Fairfield Inn and Suites Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems, City of Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County

The Fairfield Inn and Suites Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems are located at 6333 Encelia Avenue in Twentynine Palms. The treatment and disposal systems serve an 80-room hotel and include two separate wastewater treatment facilities, one to treat domestic sewage generated by the hotel and a second to treat gray water generated by the hotel's laundry facility. The main treatment and disposal system for the hotel consists of an activated sludge package treatment plant with seven seepage pits. The laundry wastewater treatment and disposal system consists of a septic tank, lint screen, and three seepage pits. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2009-0009 adopted in January 2009.

WDRs Renewal: Holiday Inn Express Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems, City of Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County

The Holiday Inn Express Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems are located at 72535 Twentynine Palms Highway in Twentynine Palms. The treatment and disposal systems serve an 84-room hotel and include two separate wastewater treatment facilities, one to treat domestic sewage generated by the hotel and a second to treat gray water generated by the hotel's laundry facility. The main treatment and disposal system for the hotel consists of an activated sludge package treatment plant with seven seepage pits. The laundry wastewater treatment and disposal system consists of a

septic tank and six seepage pits. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2009-0010 adopted in January 2009.

WDRs Renewal: Smoke Tree Villas Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System, City of Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County

The Smoke Tree Villas Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System are located at 6061 Bagley Avenue in Twentynine Palms. The collection, treatment, and disposal system serve an apartment complex with 36 units. The treatment and disposal system for the complex consists of an activated sludge package treatment plant with five seepage pits. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2006-0038 adopted in May 2006.

WDRs Renewal: Hi-Desert Medical Center Wastewater Treatment Facility, City of Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County

The Hi-Desert Medical Center Wastewater Treatment Facility is located at 6601 White Feather Road in Joshua Tree. The wastewater treatment facility serves the main hospital, an education center, and a continuing care center. The wastewater treatment facility originally consisted of septic tanks but has since been upgraded to a package plant with sixteen seepage pits. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2012-0006 adopted in January 2012.

New WDRs: Hi-Desert Medical Center Cooling Towers, City of Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County

The Hi-Desert Medical Center Cooling Towers are located at 6601 White Feather Road in Joshua Tree. The Medical Center has a cooling tower system for temperature control. The cooling towers currently discharge blowdown to two seepage pits built in 1976. The Regional Water Board intends to regulate the discharge of cooling tower wastewater. WDRs have not yet been adopted for this facility.

New WDRs: Rancho Lucerne Wastewater Treatment Facility, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County

The Rancho Lucerne Wastewater Treatment Facility is a proposed wastewater treatment facility for a development in the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County, northeast of the intersection of Highway 18 and Highway 274. The development includes an area of 1,375 acres for residential use built around a 230-acre golf course with 30 acres of mixed-use commercial development. The plans for the development include the construction of 4,257 homes. The proposed wastewater treatment facility for the development consists of coarse screening, grit removal, a membrane aerated biofilm reactor, membrane solids separation, and ultraviolet disinfection. The development proposes to irrigate a planned golf course with recycled water generated at the wastewater treatment facility. WDRs have not yet been adopted for this facility.

WDRs Renewal: Armtec Defense Products Class II Surface Impoundments, Coachella, Riverside County

The Armtec Defense Products Class II Surface Impoundments are located at 85901 Avenue 53 in Coachella. Armtec is a government defense contractor that manufactures fiber-based ammunition components known as combustible cartridge cases or containers. Wastewater generated during the

manufacturing process is screened to remove residual solids and is recycled for further use in the manufacturing process. A portion of the wastewater is discharged to two double lined emergency/event ponds with aerators to increase evaporation. The ponds also have a leakage collection and recovery system. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2013-0063 adopted in November 2013.

WDRs Renewal: Specialty Minerals, Inc. Group “C” Mining Waste Management Facility, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County

The Specialty Minerals, Inc. Group “C” Mining Waste Management Facility is located at 6565 meridian Road in Lucerne Valley. Specialty Minerals, Inc. has a mining operation and produces precipitated calcium carbonate and ground calcium carbonate (limestone). Waste produced at the Facility includes contaminated product that has touched the ground, off spec product, or lab samples. The Waste Management Facility or Landfill is permitted for Group C mining waste products including limestone, wood, paper, and cardboard. The landfill has a total capacity of 949,500 cubic yards and is permitted for 15,000 tons per year of limestone and 15 tons per year of wood, paper, and cardboard. The total permitted acreage of the facility is 17 acres. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs 01-018 last updated in May 2001.

WDRs Renewal: Clean Harbors Waste Management Facility, Westmorland, Imperial County

The Clean Harbors Waste Management Facility is located at 5295 South Garvey Road in Westmorland. The Facility has three class I waste management units, two of which have been closed. The one remaining active unit, LC-2, is the only remaining waste unit which has not yet been certified closed by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Waste operations at LC-2 ceased in 2020 and cover construction commenced in 2023. The Discharger requests to close LC-2 and transfer the facility into a post-closure maintenance designation with a revised monitoring and reporting program. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs 94-005 last updated in January 1994.

WDRs Renewal: Desert Valley Company Monofill, Brawley, Imperial County

The Desert Valley Company Monofill is located at 3301 West Highway 86 in Brawley. The monofill is used for the disposal of wastes from geothermal facilities operated by CalEnergy in Imperial County, including geothermal drilling mud, sump material, filter cake, plastic liners, and soil contaminated with geothermal materials. The Facility is comprised of three cells, two of which are closed. Only Cell 3 is currently receiving waste. The facility has a Leachate Collection and Removal System and surface impoundments. This waste discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2016-0016 last updated in June 2016.

WDRs Renewal: South Heber Geothermal Exploration Area Heber Field Company, Heber, Imperial County

Heber Geothermal is located at 947 Dogwood Road, in Heber and consists of geothermal production and injection wells on private lands. The permit regulates the handling and disposal of drilling waste generated during geothermal well drilling, testing, and maintenance. Drilling muds and rock cuttings generated on-site are discharged to lined mud pits/sumps that temporarily contain the material prior to off-site disposal in accordance with applicable federal, state, and county regulations. Liquid wastes

and geothermal brine produced on-site are contained in portable tanks and reinjected back into the geothermal aquifer or disposed of off-site. ReInjection of geothermal brine is regulated by the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, not the Regional Water Board. The discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2016-0039 last updated in November 2016.

WDRs Renewal: Picacho Gold Recovery Project, Picacho, Imperial County

The Picacho Gold Recovery Project is located at 3475 Picacho Road Mine in Picacho, approximately 15 miles north of Winterhaven. The Facility's process involves heap leaching, an industrial mining process to extract gold from ore via a series of chemical reactions that dissolve specific minerals to disassociate them from other earth materials. The Facility is permitted to use existing Heap Leach Pad 5. The waste discharge is permitted by Order No. R7-2014-0060 with the project name G2 Bio, LLC last updated in November 2014.

WDRs Renewal: Salton Communities Service District, Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility, Salton City, Imperial County

The Salton City Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is located at 2170 Lansing Avenue in Salton City. Salton Community Services District (SCSD) owns and operates the Lansing Avenue WWTF, which consists of five unlined aeration ponds. SCSD recently requested an increased disposal capacity, however due to daylighting issues the disposal capacity will be reassessed. The waste discharge is permitted by WDRs R7-2024-0015 adopted in May 2024.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning Land Disposal and Discharge to Land permitting activities, please contact Jose Cortez at (760) 776-8963 or Jose.Cortez@WaterBoards.ca.gov.