

**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. 7-25-31
Notice Date: December 5, 2025
NPDES Permit CA0104477

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2026-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 R7-2026-XXXX (Tentative Order), which will serve as the reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number CA0104477 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the following discharger and facility:

VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
(Discharger)

VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
45-500 VAN BUREN STREET
INDIO – RIVERSIDE COUNTY
(Facility)

The Valley Sanitary District has applied for reissuance of the Valley Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES Permit, previously issued per WDRs Order R7-2020-0007, 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: February 10, 2026
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Colorado River Basin Water Board's Boardroom
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 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).

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).

BACKGROUND

The Discharger owns and operates the Facility, a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, and provides service to a population of approximately 94,216 individuals located in the City of Indio. The Facility is located in SW ¼ of Section 19, T5S, R8E, SBB&M. The permitted maximum daily flow limitation is equal to the design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant which is 12.5 million gallons per day (MGD).

The wastewater treatment plant consists of two separate treatment systems: 1) an activated sludge treatment system, and 2) an oxidation pond system.

Influent enters the main influent pumping station and is screened through mechanical bar screens. Screened influent is directed to the grit chamber and then to the primary clarifiers. Flow is then apportioned between the activated sludge system and the oxidation pond system.

The design capacity of the activated sludge system is 10 MGD. The activated sludge treatment system consists of anoxic selectors, aeration basins, secondary clarifiers, and a chlorine contact chamber.

The design capacity of the oxidation pond system is 2.5 MGD. The oxidation pond system consists of two oxidation ponds and two cells.

Treated effluent from each treatment system (i.e., activated sludge and oxidation pond system) is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite in separate chlorine contact tanks. The chlorinated effluent from each chlorine contact tank is then combined and dechlorinated with the addition of sodium bisulfite prior to discharge. Treated wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel.

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Screenings are removed from the influent wastewater using mechanical bar screens and are sent to a grinder for washing and compaction prior to collection in a portable dumpster. Grit removal occurs after the screening process and is placed in a portable dumpster to be combined with the screening. The screening and grit dumpster are hauled to a landfill weekly for disposal.

Excess solids from the activated sludge treatment system are pumped to a pond system for stabilization. Primary sludge from the primary clarifiers is pumped to the anaerobic digester. Solids from the anaerobic digester and oxidation ponds are pumped to a belt press for dewatering. Dewatered solids are placed on drying beds for further moisture reduction prior to disposal. Biosolids are continuously removed from the facility site and are transported to Arizona for further treatment by composting to ensure Class A requirements are met prior to land application.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a 30-day public comment period, which ends on **January 5, 2026**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on January 5, 2026**. 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 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
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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.

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 at least 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting

HEARING DATE
February 10, 2026

COMMENT DEADLINE
January 5, 2026

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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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Fatima Alrahem** at (760) 313-1290 or 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. 7A330122021, Valley Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant,
Board Order R7-2026-XXXX