

COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Land Disposal and Discharge to Land Fact Sheet



The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board), is providing the following information about planned permitting activities and the efforts of the Land Disposal programs 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 ground water 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 Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) makes water quality decisions for the Colorado River Basin Region (Region 7), which covers California’s most arid area. The ways by which we carry out our mission include:

- Developing basin-wide water quality policies;
- Supporting statewide State Water Board programs and policies;
- Coordinating with other water quality agencies;
- Issuing permits for land discharges and disposal facilities;
- Informing and engaging the public on water quality issues.

WASTE DISCHARGE TO LAND PROGRAM

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 also 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 Act. Permit activities involve issuing and renewing permits, conducting inspections, reviewing monitoring reports, and taking enforcement actions against dischargers who fail to comply.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026 AND 2027

The Land Disposal and Discharge to Land programs plan to develop permits for the facilities listed below starting in July 2026 and ending in June 2027. Members of the public are encouraged to reach out to Regional Water Board staff regarding the development and status of these permits.

Permit 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, located at 6333 Encelia Avenue in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, serve an 80-room hotel. The systems include an activated-sludge treatment plant with seven seepage pits for domestic sewage and a septic tank, lint screen, and three seepage pits for laundry gray water. Staff are updating the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements for Regional Water Board consideration in fiscal year 2026-27.

Permit Renewal-Simon Concrete and Aggregate Sand and Gravel Plant Concrete Mixer Truck Wash Facility – City of Indio; Riverside County

Simon Concrete and Aggregate operates the Simon Concrete and Aggregate Sand and Gravel Plant Concrete Mixer Truck Wash Facility at 35905 Dillon Road, Indio, Imperial County. The facility is regulated under Board Order R7-2008-0045, adopted June 25, 2008; it is located on land leased from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and owned by Superior Ready Mix. The facility may discharge up to 2,560 gallons of wastewater daily from mixer truck washing, maintenance-shop steam cleaning, and detergent- and acid-based barrel washing. Staff plan to present updated tentative Waste Discharge Requirements to the Regional Water Board during fiscal year 2026-27.

New Permit- Mainside Wastewater Treatment Facility-City of Twentynine Palms; San Bernardino County

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) Mainside Wastewater Treatment Facility is located at 6th Street and Del Valle Drive in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County. A new facility, constructed in 2026, will replace the existing plant and treat up to 2.0 million gallons per day of domestic and industrial wastewater from the Twentynine Palms military installation. It will produce tertiary-quality recycled water for irrigation and include ponds for emergency discharge. Staff plan to present updated Waste Discharge Requirements to the Regional Water Board for adoption during fiscal year 2026–27.

Permit Renewal-Castle Mountain Mine-Ivanpah; San Bernardino County

Castle Mountain Venture, a California general partnership involving Viceroy Gold Corporation, owns and operates the Castle Mountain Mine in San Bernardino County's Hart Mining District. The gold facility uses heap-leach technology and currently includes one leach pad, one event pond, two overburden stockpiles, and an Adsorption, Desorption and Refining (ADR) plant. Under the updated permit, the Discharger proposes adding a second leach pad and event pond and expanding the stockpiles. Staff plan to present revised Waste Discharge Requirements to the Regional Water Board during fiscal year 2026–27.

Permit Renewal-Specialty Minerals, Inc. Group “C” Mining Waste Management Facility-Lucerne Valley; San Bernardino County

Specialty Minerals, Inc.’s Group C Mining Waste Management Facility is located at 6565 Meridian Road in Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County. The facility processes limestone into precipitated and ground calcium carbonate and manages contaminated/off-specification products, and laboratory-sample waste. Its landfill is permitted for limestone, wood, paper, and cardboard, with a capacity of 949,500 cubic yards and annual limits of 15,000 tons of limestone and 15 tons of the other materials. The total permitted acreage of the facility is 17 acres. This waste discharge is allowed pursuant to a Waste Discharge Requirements permit last updated in May 2001. Staff are preparing updated Waste Discharge Requirements for Regional Water Board consideration during fiscal year 2026–27.

Permit Renewal- Gem 2 & 3 Ormesa Geothermal – Holtville; Imperial County

The Gem 2 & 3 Geothermal facility, located at 3300 East Evan Hewes Highway in Holtville, Imperial County, contains brine ponds and containment basins for cooling and treating process brines before reinjection. It operates under Board Order 00-101, issued in 2000. Staff are updating the Waste Discharge Requirements to reflect changes in ownership and operations and plan to present them for Regional Water Board adoption during fiscal year 2026–27.

Permit Renewal- Orita Geothermal – Imperial; Imperial County

The Orita Geothermal Exploration Project located in Imperial County includes six wells and containment basins for geothermal brine and mud. It operates under Board Order R7-2010-0008, issued in 2010. Regional Water Board staff will update the Facility’s Waste Discharge Requirements to reflect its ownership and current operations and present them for adoption during fiscal year 2026–27.

New Permit - US Gypsum Quarry – Plaster City; Imperial County

The US Gypsum Facility in Plaster City, Imperial County, includes a gypsum plant and landfill regulated by the Regional Water Board. The plant’s gypsum comes from a quarry about 20 miles north. Proposed Title 27 Waste Discharge Requirements for the quarry are scheduled for Regional Water Board consideration in fiscal year 2026–27.

Permit Renewal for Post-Closure Monitoring- Picacho Gold Recovery Project-Picacho; Imperial County

The Picacho Gold Recovery Project, located at 3475 Picacho Road in Picacho, Imperial County, approximately 15 miles north of Winterhaven, used heap leaching to extract gold from ore. The facility permitted for Heap Leach Pad 5 under Waste Discharge Requirements was adopted in November 2014. Mining operations ended in 2020, and closure and post-closure monitoring are planned. Staff are working with the mine owner on a closure plan, with updated requirements scheduled for Regional Water Board consideration during fiscal year 2026–27.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact Andrea Varela at Andrea.Varela@waterboards.ca.gov