

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



May 2020

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT1
LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM2
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS PROGRAM3
NPDES PROGRAM3

The Executive Officer (EO) of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) hereby provides the following report on recent staff activities in the region:

LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

In addition to the standard workload of writing Board Orders, performing Facility Inspections, and reviewing Discharge Monitoring Reports, staff of the Land Disposal Unit completed the following tasks:

Meetings: On May 21, 2020, staff attended the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting. A presentation was provided by the City of Calexico regarding the New River Improvement Project (NRIP). The City of Calexico mentioned that the addition of the disinfection facility, which was originally a part of the NRIP but later omitted due to the price tag, is under consideration. The City of Calexico expressed their desire to take this request, through the Colorado River Basin Regional Board, to the California-Mexico Borders Relation Council in the future. [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*].

New River Monitoring: On May 19, 2020, staff assisted in the monthly water quality monitoring event for the New River at the International Boundary. [*Reginald Tan, WRCE*]

Notices of Violation: Three (3) Notice of Violations were issued to Dischargers for violations of their Waste Discharge Requirements.

1. Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial Dam Housing subject to Order R7-2008-0046, issued on May18, 2020. [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]
2. City of Blythe Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant subject to Order R7-2016-0013, issued on May18, 2020. [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]
3. United States Marine Corps, Mainside Wastewater Treatment Facility subject to Order R7-2016-0032 issued on May 18, 2020. [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

COVID-19 Emergency Extensions: Two (2) COVID-19 Emergency Relief Extensions were granted to Dischargers for extension or postponement of certain conditions of their Waste Discharge Requirements.

1. Response to Request to Delay the Centralized Septic System Connection for Businesses and Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation -Project Phoenix, City of Twentynine Palms subject to Order2014-0153-DWQ-0006, issued on May 27, 2020. [*Reginald Tan, WRCE*]
2. Partial Approval of Request to Suspend Monitoring and Reporting Due to Low Occupancy Caused by COVID-19 - Holiday Inn Express Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System subject to Order R7-2019-0010, issued on May 18, 2020. [*Abid Khalaf, WRCE*]

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS PROGRAM

Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force, May 20, 2020:

Staff coordinated with Comite Civico del Valle to organize and co-chair the monthly Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force. The meeting is typically held in Indio but is being temporarily conducted online over GoToWebinar. Meeting participants included CalEnergy, City of Coachella, South Coast AQMD, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Air Resources Board, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Chiriaco Summit. Comite Civico del Valle reported that they are focused on census work right now. 29 Palms reported that they would be opening their casinos on Friday 5/22 with health precautions. California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) will soon release an updated dust suppression action plan (DSAP) for the Salton Sea, revised from 12 to 60 pages based on public comments taken in December and January. A Salton Sea Authority meeting was announced for 5/21 to discuss the New River Improvement Project. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

NPDES PROGRAM

Pretreatment Compliance Inspection: The practice of removing pollutants from industrial and commercial wastewater before they are discharged into a municipal sewage treatment system is known as “pretreatment.” Three onsite Pretreatment Compliance inspections for NPDES facilities were conducted by the USEPA contractor State Water Board staff and Regional Water Board staff (inspection team) remotely due to the COVID 19 pandemic limitations.

On May 26, 2020, the inspection team conducted a virtual information review as part of the Pretreatment Compliance Inspection (PCI) of the City of Brawley’s formally approved pretreatment program. The following documents were reviewed during the PCI: Sewer Use Ordinance, Local Limits, Enforcement Response Plan, NPDES permit, most recent Pretreatment Program Annual Report, most recent significant noncompliance publication, and significant industrial user files. There are three significant industrial users in the program; 1) Beef Packing Plant, 2) Hospital and 3) Food Processing Plant. The inspection team will inspect the significant industrial user facilities in person after the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed. [*Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE, Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE*]

401 Water Quality Certification: The following table shows the Certifications that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in April-May 2020. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE*]

Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certifications issued in April-May 2020

Orders Issued/Denied	Applicant	Project	WDID#
4/27/2020	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Maintenance Dredging Above Imperial Dam	7B133043001
4/29/2020	Caltrans	RIV 95 Construct Concrete/RSP and Replace Culverts	7B333024001
4/29/2020	Caltrans	1G010 SR-62 Construct Concrete/RSP	7B363047001
5/28/2020	Caltrans	1C082 I-10 Rehabilitation Project	7A333215001

Table 2 - 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
1	Calexico WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$6,000 *\$36,000	2/13/19 *11/06/19	3/12/19 *12/05/19	3/13/19	4/11/19 *12/05/19 In settlement discussions	
2	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2- Ethylhexyl) phthalate	\$21,000 *\$33,000	2/21/19 *9/20/19	3/18/19 *10/04/19	3/26/19	4/24/19 10/04/19 ¹ In settlement discussions	
3	Kent SeaTech Fish Farm	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$84,000	4/5/19 *6/14/19	4/30/19 *7/15/19		10/08/19 In settlement discussions	
	TOTAL:		\$111,000 *\$153,000					

Table 3 - Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (May 2020)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
6	203

[Maribel Pizano, SEA and Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]

¹ Revised