

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

Office
73-720 Fred Waring Dr. #100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



August 2020

Table of Contents

LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM.....	3
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS PROGRAM.....	4
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (SCP).....	4
COVID-19 COMPLIANCE RELIEF REQUESTS.....	5
SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING.....	5
CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT	6
NPDES PROGRAM.....	6

The Executive Officer (EO) of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region 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 have the following items to report:

Staff attended a Pacific Gas and Electric Technical Workgroup meeting on August 11 and 13, 2020 for discussion of Aquifer Test objectives to further characterize groundwater flow and solute transport pathways in high concentration areas, determine hydraulic parameters for modeling, and determine influence of pumping/injection on the Topock Compression Station. *[Scot Stormo, CEG and Zak Owens, CEG]*

New River Sampling: Land Disposal Unit staff conducted the New River Sampling at the International Boundary with Mexico. Sampling of the New River at the International Boundary is performed monthly. The Sampling event took place on August 31, 2020 (rescheduled from August 18, 2020 due to extreme heat warning). *[Reggie Tan, WRCE and Carlos Angulo, WRCE]*.

Notices of Violation: Six Notices of Violation were issued to Dischargers for violation of their Waste Discharge Requirements.

- United States Marine Corps (USMC) Twenty-nine Palms Mainside Wastewater Treatment Facility subject to Order R7-2016-0032 issued on August 6, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- FedEx Distribution Facility (FedEx) Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, Facility subject to NOA R7-97-500(177) issued on August 20, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Synthetic Genomics, Inc., Imperial Valley Bio-Products Facility, subject to Order R7-2015-0012 issued on August 20, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Yucca Valley Senior Housing Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, subject to Order R7-2013-0058, issued on August 20, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Best Western Joshua Tree Hotel Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, subject to Order R7-2007-0025, issued on August 20, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Salton Community Services District Desert Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant, subject to Order R7-2014-0007, issued on August 20, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

Notices of Applicability:

- One Notice of Applicability subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2014-0153-DWQ for Small Domestic Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems was issued on August 4, 2020 to New Green Acres, LLC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*
- One Notice of Applicability subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2016-0068-DDW for Recycled Water Reuse was issued on August 21, 2020 to Coachella Valley Water District, Wastewater Reclamation Plant 10, Palm Desert, Riverside County.

The NOA assigns Coachella Valley Water District as the Recycled Water Program Administrator. 18 recycled water use sites regulated under the Regional Water Board's 97-700 General Order are now regulated under the NOA. *[Courtney Chin, SA]*

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS PROGRAM

Coachella Valley EJ Enforcement Task Force, August 26, 2020: Staff coordinated with Comite Civico del Valle to organize and co-chair the monthly Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force. The meeting was conducted online using Zoom. Meeting participants included Coachella Valley Water Keeper, a resident of Coachella Valley, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Riverside County Planning Department, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Assemblyman Garcia's Office, Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and the Salton Sea Coalition. Regional Water Board staff gave a brief status update regarding the 2020 Triennial Review. Comite Civico del Valle reported that they are providing economic relief funds in Mecca area for undocumented immigrants who are not eligible for other COVID-19 relief funding. City of Coachella shared information about an upcoming Integrated Regional Water Management summit "Equitable Engagement in Water Planning" in October. Assemblyman Garcia's Office reported that they are working on a bill for geothermal extraction at the Salton Sea. Riverside County Ag Commissioner reported that the N95 masks that they previously had available only for pesticide applicators can now be distributed to any agricultural workers due to the smoke and ash from the fires. Salton Sea Coalition commented that they want the Regional Water Board to address the Salton Sea's water quality impairments. The meeting participants also went over some of the August 19 Salton Sea workshop highlights. *[Maria Davydova, ES]*

State Water Board Salton Sea Workshop, August 19, 2020: The State Water Board conducted its annual Salton Sea workshop online over Zoom. Regional Water Board staff gave a 15-minute presentation on the Regional Water Board's Salton Sea responsibilities and activities. Other state and federal agencies also gave presentations on their respective responsibilities concerning the Salton Sea. *[Maria Davydova, ES; Paula Rasmussen, EO]*

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (SCP)

Department of Defense Final Remedial Action Report: Regional Water Board staff reviewed the October 2019 Final Remedial Action Completion Report, Patrol Road Landfill, Naval Air Facility, El Centro Installation Restoration Site 2. The RACR documents the completion of remedial activities performed at Naval Air Facility El Centro Installation Restoration Site 2, as specified in the Record of Decision (ROD) and the Remedial Action Work Plan. The Concurrence page, signed by the Department of the Navy, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Regional Water Board, certifies that the Remedial Action Objectives have been achieved and the necessary Remedial Action is complete. In Correspondence from the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board dated August 4, 2020, staff outlines the site background and remedial activities that have occurred. Staff also concurred that the agreed upon tasks were completed successfully and the Remedial Action Objectives were achieved for Installation Restoration Site 2. On August 7, 2020 the Concurrence Page signed by the Executive Officer was issued to NAVFAC Southwest. *[Jessica Bagley, EG]*

No Further Action Determination –Former Aboveground Storage Tank Release:

The former Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) area at the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) is located 180 West 14th Avenue in Blythe. Since 1987, PVID has investigated and remediated petroleum impacted soil and groundwater at the site caused by inadvertent releases of hydrocarbon fuel from underground storage tanks (USTs) and two 5000-gallon ASTs. Fuel releases from the former USTs have been separately addressed under the UST program. On August 24, 2020 correspondence was issued providing a Notice of Opportunity to Comment on the Proposed No Further Action Determination. The notice includes background information about the site and the cleanup, a brief summary of the data and the basis for the No Further Action Determination. The deadline for comments is September 21, 2020. *[Phan Le, WRCE]*

In addition to the correspondence described above the UST and SCP issued correspondence reviewing technical reports, evaluating requests for UST closures, providing direction for site assessment, and approving remedial action plans for sites currently in the assessment and cleanup process.

COVID-19 COMPLIANCE RELIEF REQUESTS

It is the position of the State of California that protection of the public health and the environment are essential functions during the COVID-19 emergency. By extension, compliance with Regional Water Board requirements is also an essential function. The State and Regional Water Boards recognize the challenges faced by the regulated community during this crisis and the need to adjust in response.

Permittees and/or responsible parties requesting compliance relief have each received responses from Regional Water Board staff. Following is a list of responses to requests for COVID-19 compliance relief issued in August 2020.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
August 19, 2020	Approval of Second Time Extension Request for Installation of One Off-Site Groundwater Monitoring Well and Submittal of a Well Installation Report – Deadline October 15, 2020	Antunez Auto body, 238 East Main Street, El Centro, CA	Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

On August 6, 2020 staff participated in the Kickoff Meeting for the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Development. Attendees at the meeting included stakeholder representatives from the City of Palm Springs, Coachella Valley Water District, Coachella Water Authority and Sanitary District, Desert Water Agency, Indio Water Authority, Mission Springs Water District, Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company, and Valley Sanitary District, as well as representatives from Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. (WEI), the consultant hired by the stakeholders to write the work plan to develop the SNMP and the groundwater monitoring plan.

WEI summarized the background of the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) development and purpose and identified the Regional Water Boards' concerns with the 2015 Coachella SNMP. Subsequently, the approach to develop the SNMP and the components they plan to include in the groundwater monitoring plan were discussed. Regional Water Board staff committed to promptly review and respond to interim SNMP work plans including methods to evaluate the existing water quality, to estimate the salt and nutrient loading, project changes to water quality and to determine the assimilative capacity of the aquifer to receive salts and nutrients. Staff will also receive and review a draft groundwater monitoring plan.

CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT

Region 7 has issued three Administrative Civil Liability Complaints (Complaints) which are currently posted on our website and available for public review. All three complaints are referencing violations of the Cannabis Cultivation General Order that address waste discharges associated with cannabis cultivation activities.

Lean Green Industries, LLC, 68721 Summit Drive, Cathedral City, Riverside County APN 687-162-004-4, WDID No.7_33cc403337

NCA Management LLC, 3241 Needles Hwy, Needles San Bernardino County APN0660-091-09, WDID No. 7_36cc403989

Paradise Wellness Center, 1 Ice House Road, Needles San Bernardino County APN 0650-391-23, WDID No. 7_36cc401592

The Dischargers chose to waive the right to a Hearing before the Regional Board to engage the Regional Board's Prosecution Team in settlement discussions including the possibility of completing a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) and/or Compliance Projects. The Prosecution Team is currently in settlement discussions with the Dischargers.

NPDES PROGRAM

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

401 Water Quality Certification issued in August 2020

Certification Issued	Applicant	Project	WDID#
8/11/2020	BNSF Railway Company	BNSF Needles Third Main Track Project	7B363046001
8/17/2020	City of Indio	Avenue 44 Low-Flow Crossing Replacement Project	7A333217001

Table 1: 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	Number of MMPs
1	Calexico WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$6,000 *\$45,000	2/13/19 *11/06/19	3/12/19 *12/05/19	3/13/19	4/11/19 *12/05/19 In settlement discussion		2 *13
2	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$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 In settlement discussion		7 *11
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 discussion		28
	TOTAL:		\$111,000 *\$162,000						37 *52

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (August 2020)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
7	43

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