

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

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California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



October 2020

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

**LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM**

**Notices of Violation:** Four Notices of Violation were issued to Dischargers for violations of their Waste Discharge Requirements.

- City of Blythe Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant subject to Order R7-2016-0013 issued on October 2, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- United States Marine Corps Mainside Wastewater Treatment Facility, subject to Order R7-2016-0032 issued on October 2, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Coachella Valley Water District Collection System, subject to State Board General Order 2006-0003-DWQ issued on October 28, 2020. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*
- Yucca Valley Senior Housing Onsite Wastewater Treatment System subject to Order R-2013-0058, issued on October 29, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

**Notices of Applicability:**

- A Notice of Applicability subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on October 13, 2020 to Detachment 5, Thousand Palms, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- A Notice of Applicability subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on October 13, 2020 to Morongo Industrial Park Building C-7, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside, County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- A Notice of Applicability subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on October 13, 2020 to Kappkush, Inc., Thousand Palms, Riverside, County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*

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

**Department of Defense Program:** Regional Water Board staff continues to work with staff from the department of defense (DOD) to expedite ongoing activities at cleanup sites located at military facilities within the Colorado River Basin region. Following is a list of correspondence issued in October pertaining to DOD facilities.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
October 26, 2020	Well Abandonment, Installation Restoration Site Underground	Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Twentynine Palms, California (GeoTracker Global	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
	Storage Tank 10 (UST Site 10)	ID No. T060719383)	
October 26, 2020	Well Abandonment, Installation Restoration Site Underground Storage Tank 8	Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Twentynine Palms, California (GeoTracker Global ID No. T060719846)	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist

The UST and SCP staff issued correspondence reviewing technical reports, requesting site access, providing direction for site assessment, and approving remedial action plans for sites currently in the assessment and cleanup process. The following table shows the correspondence regarding UST and SCP projects issued in October 2020.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
October 9, 2020	Order to Submit a Workplan Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action Requirements	Former USA Gas, 1979 West Ramsey Street, Banning, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606537906 (APN 538-150-042)	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
October 12, 2020	Response to Workplan for Site Assessment	2106 Winterhaven Drive, Winterhaven, CA, Imperial County; Global ID No. T10000013251 (APN 603-220- 038)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
October 13, 2020	Comments on the Work plan for the Site-Specific Risk Assessment	Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs), SoCo Bulk Plant, 815 K Street, Brawley, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000012312	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
October 15, 2020	General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-Situ	Big Bend Resort, 501 Parker Dam Road, EARP, San Bernardino County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0607100968;	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
	Groundwater Remediation (Order R7-2019-0016)	BLM No. CAAZCA27430	
October 19, 2020	Approval of Additional Assessment Workplan	Kirti Shah Property, 401 West Main Street, El Centro, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000009171	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
October 26, 2020	Approval for Soil Vapor Extraction Pilot Test Report Extension Request	Chevron Station No. 306573, 324 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, (CRWQCB I.D. #7T2 231 021, Global ID No. T0602520155)	Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer

### **CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT**

Region 7's Prosecution team 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 APN687-162-004-4, 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 APN0650-391-23, 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.

## **WQSS/NPS UNIT**

**Colorado River Salinity Forum Work Group Meeting (October 26-27.)** Presentations and information to be presented to the Forum members at their meeting later in the week was reviewed during this meeting. Each federal agency produced a presentation to update Forum members on activities since the last meeting in June. We also received a presentation on operations at the Yuma Area Office Operations and the Salinity Differential. The group also shared updated drafts of fact sheets for the public to highlight information about the Colorado River and the salinity program. *[Emma McCorkle, ES]*

### **Coachella Valley EJ Enforcement Task Force- October 28, 2020**

- **Attendees:** Comite Civico del Valle; resident of Coachella Valley; California Department of Pesticide Regulation; Twenty-nine Palms BMI; Cabazon BMI; South Coast AQMD; CalEPA; City of Coachella; UC Davis.
- **Comite Civico del Valle:** gave an update about its Salton Sea community engagement program through a grant with CNRA, which is on through 2022.
- **City of Coachella:** CV Water Counts has a poster content open to CV students for water saving ideas
- **South Coast AQMD:** announced that they have AB 617 meetings coming up for Eastern Coachella Valley where they will discuss emission reduction; AQMD completed its first virtual EJ conference with 800 people registered; AQMD has started a quarterly EJ newsletter, email [ejcp@aqmd.gov](mailto:ejcp@aqmd.gov) with the text "newsletter" to subscribe. *[Maria Davydova, ES]*

## **NPDES PROGRAM**

### **Seeley County Water District Wastewater Treatment Compliance Project Status**

**Update:** On February 28, 2019, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability of \$297,000.00 (Order R7-2019-0001) for Seeley County Water District (District) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The settlement allows the total penalty amount to be suspended pending the completion of a compliance project (Project). The Project includes investigating and identifying the source(s) of copper and cyanide, eliminating and/or controlling the source(s) of copper and cyanide. The District has continued its efforts to identify the source(s) of copper and cyanide by monitoring waste streams brought to its facility for disposal through sampling and analyses of dump stations and the town's collection system. Due to COVID-19, the District modified its dump station hours, with hopes to resume their normal schedule in the future. Thus far, they have collected 25 samples and are on track to meet their February 1, 2022 milestone for completion of the dump station sampling. *[Maribel Pizano, SEA; Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE]*

### **Imperial Irrigation District El Centro Generating Station Pollution Prevention Plan:**

On July 9, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Time Schedule Order (TSO) which established a compliance schedule in Order R7-2020-0006 for Imperial Irrigation District (IID) El Centro Generating Station (ECGS). The TSO allows

sufficient time for IID to bring the ECGS back into compliance with the Order R7-2020-2020 waste discharge requirements (WDRs). IID met the first milestone of the TSO by submitting a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) on October 30, 2020. The PPP includes a feasibility study to assess potential solutions to decrease concentrations of constituents in the ECGS’s effluent. Staff is reviewing the PPP and will continue discussions with IID for further actions. *[Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE; Kai Dun, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE]*

**401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements:** The following table shows the certifications and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in October-November 2020. *[Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]*

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
10/21/2020	Coachella Valley Water District	Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel Improvement Project; Ave 54 to Thermal Drop	7A333210001
10/26/2020	City of Calexico	Calexico 2nd St. Bridge Replacement	7A133164001
11/12/2020 (WDRs)	SoCalGas	Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan Line 2000	7B333027001

**Table 1: Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status**

No.	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	*11/3/2020 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	*11/3/2020 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		*11/6/2020 In settlement discussion		28
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		\$111,000 *\$162,000						37 *52

\*Revised

**Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (November 2020)**

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
7	43

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