CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-22-23-1
March 14, 2023
NPDES No. CA0104973

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ORDER R7-2023-0013[1]

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
MID-VALLEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT NO. 4
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

On April 11, 2023, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) will conduct a public hearing on adoption of Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2023-0013 (Tentative Order), which will serve as National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Coachella Valley Water District's (Discharger) Water Reclamation Plant No.4 (Facility) in Riverside County.

The following party has applied for reissuance of the current NPDES permit, Order R7-2017-0006, under section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act NPDES permit program (33 U.S.C. § 1342):

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
WATER RECLAMATION PLANT NO.4
63-002 Fillmore Street
Thermal, CA 92274
Riverside County

Staff of the Colorado River Basin Water Board has prepared the Proposed Order for the Coachella Valley Water District's (Discharger) Water Reclamation Plant (Facility). The Proposed Order contains effluent and receiving water limitations and special provisions in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.).

[1] The Tentative Order was previously noticed for hearing and public comment as Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2022-0021. The Tentative Order has been revised based on comments received during the 30-day public comment period.

MEETING INFORMATION

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will consider adoption of the Proposed Order after a public hearing that will occur at the following date, time and location below.

Date:	April 11, 2023
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, California 92260
Remote Access:	ZOOM Videoconferencing Platform

As of the date of this notice, the public meeting is scheduled to occur **in person** at the Colorado River Basin Water Board's office located at the address above. The Board will also provide an opportunity for optional remote participation via the ZOOM videoconferencing platform.

Interested persons are invited to attend the public meeting (in person or remotely), and in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act (Gov. Code, § 11120), will be permitted to orally express their views on this matter. Please note that interested persons are not considered "designated parties" to the proceeding and will be limited to general statements of policy (i.e., no evidentiary submissions). For information on requesting "designated party" status, please refer to the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Meeting Procedures at the address below.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf

Although the timely submittal of written comments during the public comment period (see below) will not a prerequisite to speaking at the public meeting, to ensure accuracy of the record of proceedings, persons wishing to speak at the meeting are asked to email a written summary of their oral remarks to CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov, either before or during the hearing (if possible).

Links for the meeting, a phone call option, and remote participation instructions are posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: Colorado River Basin Water Board Remote Participation Instructions.

HEARING PROCEDURE

The hearing will be conducted as a formal adjudicative proceeding in accordance with the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Meeting Procedures at the address below.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf

BACKGROUND

The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system that provides sewerage service to the Coachella Valley; City of La Quinta, Mecca, Palm Desert, and Thousand Palms with a service population of approximately 63,000. The wastewater treatment plant has a treatment (design) capacity of 9.9 million gallons per day (MGD).

The Facility consists of two treatment systems running in parallel: a lagoon treatment system rated at 7.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and a Biolac® activated sludge treatment system rated at 2.9 MGD. The headworks system two automatic bar screens, conveyor, two grinder-washer compactors, a grit channel, grit pump, grit cyclone separator, and influent pump dry well with three influent pumps. All headworks buildings are equipped with fresh air ventilation and foul air odor scrubbers. The influent flow from the headworks is distributed to five treatment modules. Four of the treatment modules are part of the lagoon treatment system and one treatment module is part of the Biolac® activated sludge treatment system. Each of the four lagoon treatment modules are comprise of four lined aerated lagoons and two lined polishing ponds (a total of 16 aeration lagoons and 8 polishing ponds). All lagoons are lined with a synthetic membrane liner. The activated sludge treatment system consists of two activated sludge basins, two secondary clarifiers and sludge handling facilities (including a gravity belt thickener and gravity belt filter press). Combined secondary effluent from each lagoon system module and the Biolac® system is conveyed to the chlorine contact basin to be disinfected and de-chlorinated prior to discharge into the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel, using a chemical induction unit which employs a vacuum and gas system capable of dispersing the chlorine and sulfur dioxide gas with an airfoil design propeller.

Screening solids removed from the headworks system are routed to a grinder washer/compactor unit where the soft organics are separated from the screenings and returned to the process flow stream. The screenings are grinded, washed and then compacted and transferred to a roll off dumpster. Subsequently, the screenings are hauled off site for disposal at a County of Riverside landfill. A liquid bleach disinfectant is manually applied to the screenings in the dumpster.

The polishing ponds in the aeration lagoon system are dredged to remove accumulated solids at a rate of approximately one pond per year. Dredged solids are deposited in unlined drying beds (8 total). The solids are periodically transferred to a storage area for continued drying before transport off site by a private hauler for composting.

Waste activated sludge is pumped from the two secondary clarifiers to a single 1.5 meter gravity belt thickener. The thickened waste activated sludge flows to a single 2 meter gravity belt filter press where it is dewatered. The dewatered sludge is discharged into a truck trailer before being hauled off site by a private hauler for composting.

Approximately 760 dry metric tons of sewage sludge is generated on site per year, which includes sludge removed from the aeration lagoons and activated sludge treatment system. The Discharger stockpiles the sludge removed from the lagoons to dry it to at least 90 percent solids. Sludge removed from the activated sludge treatment system is removed from the facility on a frequent basis (e.g. multiple times per month) after processing in the gravity belt filter press unit. Currently, sludge from the facility has been hauled away to the Synagro Arizona Soils Composting facility in Vicksburg, AZ.

Final effluent is discharged through Discharge Point 001 at Latitude 33° 35' 33" North and Longitude 116° 07' 13" West, to the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel, tributary to the Salton Sea, waters of the US. The permitted maximum daily flow limitation is equal to the design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant, which is 9.9 MGD. The discharge consists of secondary treated wastewater.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Per Water Code section 13167.5, the Colorado River Basin Water Board posted the Tentative Order (previously noticed as WDRs Order R7-2022-0021) for a 30-day public comment period that ended on November 17, 2022. No further written comments are being accepted at this time, though oral comments will be considered at the hearing.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Proposed Order is available for review via the Tentative Orders page on the Colorado River Basin Water Board website (at the address below):

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

If you need a hard copy of these orders mailed to you, please contact **Mary Castaneda** by phone at (760) 776-8945 or e-mail at mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or **CJ Jasieniecki** at (760) 346-7494 or via e-mail at: CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov.

The Facility's public file is also available for public review at the Colorado River Basin Water Board's office at 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, California 92260. Please email or call ahead to schedule an appointment for file review.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or e-mail at hilda.vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760)

776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or CJ Jasieniecki at (760) 346-7494 or via e-mail at: CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Jose Valle de Leon** at (760) 776-8940 or via email at Jose.ValledeLeon@Waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A 33 0105 091, CVWD Mid-Valley WRP4, Board Order R7-2023-0013