

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

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

Public Notice No. 7-24-15  
Notice Date: March 29, 2024  
NPDES Permit CA7000001

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT  
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2024-XXXX**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2024-XXXX (Tentative Order), which will serve as the reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number CA7000001 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the following discharger and facility:

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION  
(Discharger)**

**CENTINELA STATE PRISON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
2302 BROWN ROAD  
IMPERIAL – IMPERIAL COUNTY  
(Facility)**

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (Discharger) has applied for reissuance of the Centinela State Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) NPDES Permit, previously issued per WDRs Order R7-2019-0003, which is issued pursuant to section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342), and pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.).

**HEARING PARTICIPATION**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative Order at the date, time and location specified below:

**Date:** May 14, 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, California 92260  
(virtual public participation available; see below)

Centinela State Prison WWTP

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The public may participate either in person at the physical meeting location or virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. Instructions concerning how to participate virtually are available on the Regional Water Board's website. Persons desiring to receive information about changes to the format of this meeting should subscribe to the [Lyris email list](#) (Select Board Meetings Agenda).

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record. Links for the meeting, a phone call option, and [Remote Participation Instructions](#) are posted on the Board's website ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board\\_info/remote\\_meeting/#participation\\_via\\_video\\_conference](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting/#participation_via_video_conference)).

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Board's [Meeting Procedures](#) ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board\\_info/agenda/docs/bm\\_procedures.pdf](http://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 (Facility) and provides service to an inmate population of approximately 3000 individuals located at the Centinela State Prison in Imperial County. The Facility is located in the NE ½ of Section 36, T15S, R11E, SBB&M. The permitted maximum daily flow limitation is equal to the design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant which is 0.96 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge from the Facility consists of disinfected secondary treated wastewater which is discharged through Discharge Point 001 to Dixie Drain 1-C, a water of the United States and tributary to New River. The Facility was last upgraded to increase the overall treatment capacity and to improve treatment efficiency in 2009.

The current treatment system consists of an aerated lagoon system with four cells. The headworks is comprised of coarse mechanical screening with a manual bar rack in the bypass channel. Two submersible pumps equipped with variable frequency drives pump influent to the treatment system. Influent flow is metered and passed through mechanical fine screening prior to treatment through the four-cell aerated lagoon treatment system. High-efficiency aerators provide aeration to the wastewater in the cells. A transfer piping system between the cells reduces the potential for short-circuiting in the treatment process (i.e., direct pass-through from one cell to another without receiving adequate/full designed treatment in the aeration lagoons). An auxiliary levee around the perimeter of the four treatment cells provides 24 inches of freeboard above the water surface. The Discharger may add sulfuric acid to the chlorine chamber during summer months to control effluent pH concentrations from exceeding the instantaneous maximum effluent limitation of 9 standard units (s.u).

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COMMENT DEADLINE  
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Effluent treated through the four-cell aerated treatment system undergoes disinfection by chlorination, followed by dechlorination. The disinfection system uses liquid sodium hypochlorite for disinfection followed by liquid sodium bisulfite for dechlorination prior to discharge through Discharge Point 001.

Accumulated inert solids and biosolids will be dredged from the bottom of each lagoon cell annually and solar dried on two drying beds prior to being hauled off-site for disposal to either a landfill or by a contractor for composting. Solids that have accumulated on the bottom of the chlorination chamber are removed monthly and dried on the sludge drying beds. Solids are removed from the site annually.

**SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a 30-day public comment period, which ends on **April 29, 2024**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on April 29, 2024**. Comments received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of **Fatima Alrahem** at the address shown below or emailed to: [Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov) or faxed to the office at (760) 341-6820.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
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**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The Tentative Order has been posted to the Board's [Tentative Orders](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml) webpage (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board\_decisions/tentative\_orders/index.shtml).

To receive a physical copy by mail, contact **Mary Castaneda** at (760) 776-8945 or at [Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov).

**ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS**

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact **Mary Castaneda** via email at [Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov) at least 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-(800) 735-2929 or voice line at 1-(800) 735-2922.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Fatima Alrahem** at (760) 313-1290 or [Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov). Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A131337001, Centinela State Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant, Board Order R7-2024-XXXX

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