

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



October – November 2018
Executive Officer Report

Table of Contents

LAND DISPOSAL - WDR PROGRAM.....	2
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP (SCP) PROGRAMS.....	3
SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (SNMP) DEVELOPMENT.....	5
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) NOTIFICATIONS.....	5
NPDES PROGRAM.....	5
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS/NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM.....	6

LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

Cannabis Operations in Region 7: In October 2018 and November 2018, the Executive Officer issued 19 Notices of Applicability (NOAs) of coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General Order for indoor cannabis cultivation operations in Region 7. The current operations are in the Coachella Valley, the City of Needles, and Calexico. Senior Water Resources Control Engineer Eric Taxer from the Eastern California Cannabis Unit, with participation of Region 7 staff, plans to hold Cannabis Cultivation Permitting Enrollment Events in Palm Desert and Needles on December 4 and 6, 2018, respectively. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE, P.E.*]

New River Improvement Project Design Completion: In March 2018, the New River Improvement Project was awarded to Michael Baker International for the implementation of design recommendations and environmental documents for the water quality infrastructure. The design of the project consists of a trash screen, which reduces one of the carriers for pathogens and other compounds that pose a health threat; the encasement and diversion of the river to bypass the City of Calexico, which minimizes human contact with the severely polluted river; and also a pump back system, which would pump secondary treated wastewater into the existing riverbed and create wetlands in the community. The final design recommendations and environmental documents for the water quality infrastructure were completed on October 31, 2018 and will be handed off to the City of Calexico, the lead agency of the project, on December 13, 2018. [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

Earthrise Nutritionals: Construction was recently completed on a new evaporation pond (EVP-8). On November 16, 2018, the Executive Officer approved the discharger's use of the new evaporation pond. [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

Niland Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Spring Emergency: Staff continues to monitor the movement of a spring (mud volcano) that is threatening the UPRR, Highway 111 and Kinder-Morgan pipeline alignments. UPRR is leading the mitigation efforts. Discharge of the spring water is being monitored under the General Order for construction dewatering. [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

Meaders Cleaners Groundwater Cleanup in Palm Springs: An amendment to Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) 97-145 for Meaders Cleaners was prepared by staff and published as a draft for public review and comment. Comments are due by January 9, 2019 to the Regional Water Board. The CAO amendment will require a range of activities to address the down-gradient extent of the groundwater plume. A meeting with the RPs is scheduled for mid-January. [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

Land Disposal Program Roundtable: On November 7, 2018, Scot Stormo participated in the statewide Roundtable meeting in Victorville. The agenda included topics on disaster debris disposal and water quality issues, implementation of the Compost General Order, and the rewriting of the current Administrative Procedure Manual (APM). [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

Waste Discharge Requirements Program Roundtable: On November 28, 2018, Doug Wylie participated in the statewide Roundtable meeting teleconference. The agenda included topics on the Performance Measures review, the use of GeoTracker and California Integrated Water Quality Systems (CIWQS) databases for information on the Dischargers self-monitoring reporting and inspections, the development of a Dry Well General Order, and the status of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy and Recycled Water Policy. [*Doug Wylie, EG*]

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

Former EZ Serve Station, 805 N. Imperial Avenue, El Centro, Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) Meeting: On October 3, 2018, staff participated in an Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) Joint Execution Team (JET) meeting with State Board UST Cleanup Fund staff and consultants (ASTECH) for the above site. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Conceptual Site Model (CSM) and the continued presence of free product in groundwater. The CSM specifically addressed the concern that a secondary source of contamination has not been removed to the extent practicable. ASTECH was requested to submit a workplan to the Board for a grid-based step-out approach to collect soil samples. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

Redhorse/State Water Board/EPA Teleconference; Recalcitrant and Stalled UST Sites: Staff participated in a teleconference on October 3, 2018, with Michael Cosson of Redhorse Consultants, Matthew Cohen of State Water Board, and Kenneth Dixon from USEPA Region 9. The purpose of the meeting was to provide follow-up on the status of recalcitrant/stalled UST cases, discuss actions needed to move these cases toward closure, and obtain assistance with planning and implementation of the required actions. [*Phan Le, WRCE; Theresa Kimsey, ES; Cathy Sanford, PG, EG*]

USA Self Service/Douglas Station, 1147 West Hobson Way, Blythe, Recalcitrant/Stalled UST Site: On October 3, 2018, staff directed the responsible party to submit a Groundwater Monitoring Report and Corrective Action Plan pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25296.10 Corrective Action Requirements. [*Phan Le, WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

Blocker Transportation, 910 West 14TH Avenue, Blythe, Recalcitrant/Stalled UST Site: On October 3, 2018, staff directed the responsible party to submit a Groundwater Monitoring Report and Corrective Action Plan pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25296.10 Corrective Action Requirements. [*Phan Le, WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

Former CV Minimex, 91201 66th Avenue, Mecca, Riverside County: On October 11, 2018, staff directed the responsible party to implement a Vapor Extraction Rebound Test to verify the secondary source of petroleum hydrocarbon contamination at the site was removed to the maximum extent practicable, and to submit a technical report to the Regional Water Board. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE*]

Former CV Minimex, 91201 66th Avenue, Mecca, Riverside County: On October 11, 2018, staff directed the responsible party to conduct a post-remediation confirmatory shallow soil investigation. Data will be compared to soil cleanup levels pursuant to the LTCP. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE*]

7-Eleven Store No. 23409, 904 Imperial Avenue, Calexico: On October 18, 2018, staff directed the responsible party to conduct a Soil Vapor Assessment to evaluate vapor intrusion from residual petroleum hydrocarbon impacts to soil and groundwater. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE*]

SoCo Group Inc.: On October 30, 2018, Staff participated in a meeting with RM Environmental Inc., SC Fuels, and Anteagroup Consultants to discuss five above ground storage tank cases of the SoCo Group Inc. Three of the five cases require additional characterization and will be added to the Site Cleanup Program. [*Phan Le, WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

McDonald's USA LLC, 105 W. Main Street, Brawley: On November 16, 2018, staff participated in a teleconference with McDonald USA LLC, Ambient Environmental, Inc, and Western Technologies Inc. to discuss the appropriate remedial treatment to clean up the McDonald's property. [*Phan Le, WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

Lucerne Valley Garage, 31685 Highway 18, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County: On November 16, 2018, staff participated in a teleconference with Michael Cosson of Redhorse Consultants and the consultant for the property owners, Javad Masoudi of EMS Corp., to discuss how to move this site into closure, and to assess if the site is eligible for Site Cleanup Subaccount Program funding. This Site is a former retail fueling station and automobile repair shop, currently operating as an automobile repair shop. In March 1997, soil impacted with gasoline-range hydrocarbons was encountered in a tank excavation during removal of two 10,000 gasoline USTs. The site is not located within a public water service area and there are numerous private drinking water wells nearby that could be impacted by the on-site hydrocarbon release. The UST funds are expended for this site, yet high levels of hydrocarbons still occur in groundwater. [*Theresa Kimsey, ES*]

Former Ramon Cleaners, 409 S. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs. Water Code section 13267 Order No. R7-2018-0034 (Order): On November 19, 2018, the Executive Officer issued an order which required the responsible parties to submit a work plan and technical report to evaluate whether an unauthorized discharge of tetrachloroethene (PCE) has occurred at the facility. [*Theresa Kimsey, ES; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

Former SUN Cleaners, 611 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Suite 18, Palm Springs. Water Code section 13267 Order No. R7-2018-0035 (Order): On November 19, 2018, the Executive Officer issued an order which required the responsible parties to submit a work plan and technical report to evaluate whether an unauthorized discharge of tetrachloroethene (PCE) has occurred at the facility. [*Theresa Kimsey, ES; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

Former Thrifty Oil #426, 444 Imperial Avenue Calexico, ECAP -CSM Meeting: On November 19, 2018, staff participated in an Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) Joint Execution Team (JET) meeting with UST Cleanup Fund ECAP staff and the site consultant. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the possibility of closing the site under Category 5 Criteria of the Low Threat Closure Policy. Recent data from monitoring well MW-13, reported non-detectable concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons. Staff objected to the closure pending consultation with upper management. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

Tribal Cultural Resources Notification and Consultation Opportunity Under the California Quality Act (CEQA) for In-Situ Groundwater Remediation at Sites within the Colorado River Basin Region: On November 20, 2018, Pursuant to Tribal Cultural Resources Assembly Bill 52, staff sent a request for consultation regarding CEQA to five Tribes including: 1) Colorado River Indian Tribes; 2) San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians; 3) Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians; 4) Barona Band of Mission Indians; 5) San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; 6) Viejas Band of Kumeyey Indians. [*Phan Le WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG*]

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (SNMP) DEVELOPMENT

Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin Salt and Nutrient Management: On November 14, 2018, Staff met with Borrego Valley Groundwater Sustainability Association (GSA) stakeholders regarding the Borrego Springs Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). GSA stakeholders identified specific issues with the groundwater monitoring portion of the GSP, noting that it did not adequately assess potential nitrate impacts from unregulated agricultural run-off at the north portion of the subbasin, and the potential influence on groundwater quality. GSA stakeholders provided groundwater analytical data to support their concerns. [*Cathy Sanford PG, EG; Joan Stormo PG CHG; Senior EG*]

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) NOTIFICATIONS

Fifty-seven (57) OES notifications were received in October-November 2018; including a fuel spill in Needles, a sewage spill in Banning, and a train vs. trespasser collision that required follow-up actions, and fifty-four (54) for minor spills (diesel, paint, adhesive, etc.). All spills were contained, or if released to the ground surface, soils were removed and properly disposed of. [*Jose Cortez, PE, WRCE*]

NPDES PROGRAM

California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) Annual Conference/Training: On October 15-17, 2018, the 3-day annual conference/training was held in Riverside. The training was well attended with over 1,100 attendees from different businesses, municipalities, special districts, and several staff members from the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Board. The CASQA conference provides several training workshops, and technical presentations through different tracks. Training workshops included are training sessions for Industrial General Permit, Construction General Permit, Municipal Stormwater, Public Education, as well as many others relating

to stormwater efficiency. Staff attended sessions regarding the Industrial General Permit and municipal stormwater. [*Maribel Jernegan, SEA; Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E*]

Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Training: On November 6 and 7, 2018, the Riverside County Flood Control District organized a 2-day course for Industrial/Commercial facility inspection and Best Management Practices (BMPs) training, and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) training. Several Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittees from different cities throughout the Coachella Valley also attended the training.

The WQMP training included topics relating to MS4 redevelopment requirements, the guidance documents and templates that are available for the permittees. The Industrial/Commercial facility inspection and BMPs training covered permit requirements and the BMPs that are available for permit compliance. [*Maribel Jernegan, SEA*]

Joint inspection with Department of Conservation for Industrial General Permit (IGP) Compliance: On November 13 and 14, 2018, staff and the Department of Conservation staff conducted a joint inspection on two sites: Hi-Grade Materials at 29 Palms and Phillips Excavating at Needles. The purpose of the inspections was to observe and document site conditions and review compliance with the Industrial General Permit. The inspection for Hi-Grade Materials was prompted when potential issues with offsite drainage were noticed through aerial photos. While conducting the inspection for Phillips Excavating no signs of stormwater runoff was observed. They are not currently operating. [*Maribel Jernegan, SEA*]

Annual Report Compliance for Construction General Permit (CGP) Storm Water: Staff issued 100 Notice of Non-compliance letters for not submitting the Annual Monitoring Report (2017-2018) on November 16, 2018. Many of these facilities did not terminate permits properly upon the completion of construction projects; staff is working with the permittees to resolve such issues. [*Suhas Chakraborty, WRCE*]

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS/NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

Environmental Health Leadership Summit: The Environmental Health Leadership Summit is an annual event hosted by Comite Civico del Valle. This year the two-day event was held on October 18th and 19th with a focused workshop for environmental justice groups and community residents on the first day followed by the summit on the second day. The summit addresses environmental and health concerns in the Imperial Valley by bringing together stakeholders to discuss issues as well as solutions. Water Board staff had an information table on the second day when booths were invited. The event was attended by roughly 200 people composed of community members, high school students, agencies, and non-profit organizations. Staff handed out informational brochures, educational materials, and engaged with attendees. [*Emma McCorkle, ES*]

Conditional Waiver of WDRs for Imperial Valley Agricultural Technical Management Committee Quarterly Meeting: The Quarterly Technical Management Committee (TMC) for the Conditional Waiver of WDRs for Imperial Valley Agricultural (Conditional Waiver)

met on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at the Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB) headquarters in El Centro California. Quarterly meetings of the TMC are required by Section D.2. of the Conditional Waiver.

The Assistant Executive Officer, Water Quality Standards/Non-Point Source Unit Chief and staff from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) of the Colorado River Basin Regional Board (Region 7) met with representatives from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the ICFB.

Region 7 staff provided updates on Statewide issues including the requirements set forth in the Eastern San Joaquin Valley State Board Order and the implementation of an electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI) that is currently being developed. An update on regional ILRP issues included the status of the draft Region 7 Board Order for Palo Verde Valley irrigated lands.

IID gave a status report on their billing and record-keeping activities during the recent quarter. Annual invoices for the ILRP per-acre fees will be sent to IID irrigation water account holders near the end of November 2018. ILRP fee invoices are due for payment by February 28, 2019 and updated account data will be compiled and provided to Region 7 by the end of March 2019.

ICFB reported that a large grower not in compliance with the Conditional Waiver has joined the Coalition and enrolled approximately 2,000 acres in the program. IID and ICFB will make sure that the grower is invoiced for any fees that have not been paid going back to the adoption date of the Conditional Waiver. [*Jennie Snyder, WRCE*]