

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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

[Colorado River Basin Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



February & March 2020

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

LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

Notices of Applicability

Issued five (5) Notices of Applicability subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2014-0153-DWQ for Small Domestic facilities:

- Calexico Border Patrol Station, Calexico, Imperial County
- Palm Springs Northern Lights Lot 33, North Palm Springs, Riverside County
- Palm Springs Northern Lights Lot 34, North Palm Springs, Riverside County
- Palm Springs Northern Lights Lot 35, North Palm Springs, Riverside County
- Palm Springs Northern Lights Lot 36, North Palm Springs, Riverside County

Issued two (2) Notices of Applicability subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation facilities:

- Kismet Organics, Coachella, Riverside County
- Marimba Weed, Blythe, Riverside County

Notices of Violation

Eight (8) Notices of Violation (NOV) were issued to Dischargers for violations of their Waste Discharge Requirements as follows:

NOV Date Issued	Discharger	Violation(s)	Board Order
2/13/202	IID, Imperial Dam OWTS	Monthly July, August, September, October, November, and Third Quarter 2019 Monitoring Reports submitted late	R7-2008-0046
2/13/2020	Yucca Valley Senior Housing OWTS	Monthly November 2019 Monitoring Report submitted late; exceeded monthly and weekly total nitrogen effluent limits October 2019	R7-2013-0058
2/13/2020	Salton Communities Services District, Lansing Ave.	Monthly October 2019 Monitoring Report submitted late; exceeded monthly BOD effluent limit October	R7-2012-0035

	WWTF	and November 2019	
2/13/2020	Salton Communities Services District, Desert Shores WWTF	Monthly October 2019 Monitoring Report submitted late; exceeded monthly BOD effluent limit November 2019	R7-2014-0007
2/13/2020	Salton Communities Services District, Thomas R. Cannell WWTF	Monthly October 2019 Monitoring Report submitted late	R7-2018-00132
2/13/2020	FedEx Ground Distribution Facility OWTS	Monthly total dissolved solids limit exceeded in October and November 2019	97-500(177)
2/13/2020	US Marine Corps, Mainside WWTF	Weekly total coliform bacteria limit exceeded twice in November 2019	R7-2016-0032
2/26/2020	Sunbeam Safety Roadside Area OWTS	Failure to submit Monitoring Reports from August 2017 to August 2019 (34 Reports not submitted)	R7-2011-0029

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

UST Case Closure - COPA, INC. Office / Former Bulk Plant, 332 West Chanslor Way Blythe, CA 92225: A Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment was issued February 14, 2020 for a proposed Underground Storage Tank (UST) case closure located at the facility. This UST site is being proposed for case closure pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Water Quality Control Policy for Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure (Low Threat Closure Policy), adopted via Resolution No. 2012-0016 on August 17, 2012. Low threat is established by demonstrating the UST case meets the general and media-specific criteria established in the Policy, satisfies the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, and is consistent with State Water Board Resolution 92-49's requirement that cleanup goals and objectives be achieved within a reasonable time. The 60-day public comment period will end on April 17, 2020. A Uniform Closure Letter will be issued if no significant comments or concerns from the public are received. [Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG; Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]

Expedited Claim Account–Joint Execution Team (ECAP-JET) Meeting for Circle K #1407, 945 East Hobsonway, Blythe: Staff participated in an ECAP-JET teleconference on

March 3, 2020, with UST Cleanup Fund staff, the consultant, and responsible party (RP) or claimant. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the above site in regards to the general and media specific criteria of the State Water Board's Low Threat Case Closure Policy. The site is no longer dispensing petroleum, and the RP is applying for a grant to remove the single walled fiberglass USTs on-site. The JET agreed that further assessment is needed for soil, soil gas, and groundwater, including additional well installations. [Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG; Phan Le, WRCE]

UST Case Closure - Meyer Dunham, 650 Oleander Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262:

A Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment was issued November 1, 2019 for a proposed UST case closure located at the above address. This UST site is being proposed for case closure pursuant to the State Water Board's Low Threat Closure Policy, adopted via Resolution No. 2012-0016 on August 17, 2012. Low threat is established by demonstrating the UST case meets the general and media-specific criteria established in the Policy, satisfies the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, and is consistent with State Water Board Resolution 92-49's requirement that cleanup goals and objectives be achieved within a reasonable time. The 60-day public comment period closed on December 31, 2019. No comments or concerns from the public were received, and a Uniform Closure Letter was issued February 27, 2020. [Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG; Theresa Kimsey, ES]

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING (SNMP)

On February 19, 2020, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer notified the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Plan (SNMP) stakeholders that the SNMP, submitted in June 2015, did not fully satisfy the requirements of the 2009 Recycled Water Policy, and will not be approved by the Regional Water Board. In accordance with the 2019 Revised Recycled Water Policy, specific findings regarding which components of the Coachella Valley SNMP are insufficient were outlined and recommendations to develop an acceptable SNMP were provided. A meeting with the Coachella Valley SNMP stakeholders was held on March 11, 2020 to discuss restarting the SNMP development process. [Joan Stormo, PG CHG, Senior EG; Cathy Sanford, EG]

On February 21, 2020, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Indio Subbasin Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Update Public Workshop hosted by Coachella Valley Water District [CVWD], Desert Water Agency [DWA], Coachella Water Authority [CWA], and Indio Water Authority [IWA], the Indio Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). The 2010 Indio Subbasin Alternative GSP was approved under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and the Alternative GSP Update is due for completion by the end of 2021. The workshop was held at CVWD offices in Palm Desert and included an overview of SGMA, water management planning, and an overview on developing the Indio Subbasin Alternative GSP Update. [Cathy Sanford, EG]

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS UNIT

2020 Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival

Staff tabled a booth sponsored by the Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival on February 20th in Indio. Staff interacted with members of the public to discuss water quality issues, hand out informational materials, and promote the Regional Water Board's mission. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE; Jay Mirpour, WRCE; Emma McCorkle, ES; Francisco Costa, ES*]

2020 Wildflower Festival: Staff tabled a booth at the 2020 Wildflower Festival organized by the Friends of the Desert Mountains on March 7th in Palm Desert. The festival had tables and exhibitions from environmental agencies, local non-profits, and businesses. Staff engaged with the public about local water quality issues, how to participate in the Regional Water Board's process, and handed out informational materials. [*Emma McCorkle, ES; Maria Davydova, ES; Reginald Tan, WRCE*]

NPDES PROGRAM

Seeley County Water District Wastewater Treatment Compliance Project. 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. As part of the Project's 1st Milestone Report, the District has continued its efforts in identifying the source(s) of copper and cyanide, by continuing to monitor the wastes brought to the WWTP by disposal companies, with sampling and analyses of their dump station and the town of Seeley's collection system. After collecting samples and compiling the data, the District is further convinced that the operation of the dump station is responsible for the high copper and cyanide levels entering the WWTP. However, they have determined the high influent levels are not the source of their violations. The District has increased their effluent sampling effort and believe the violations could be attributed to the following: reporting errors due to false positives, incorrect Minimum Detection Limits (MDLs), and/or a collection of an unrepresentative sample due to plug flow conditions. Therefore, additional effluent monitoring for copper and cyanide and monitoring of the influent lift station continues. Additionally, the District has partnered with Hazen and Sawyer to develop a draft conceptual design for the dump station based on the Compliance Project Proposal. The Preliminary Design Report is currently in the process of being reviewed for QA/QC purposes. The District is required to submit their next quarterly status report on May 1, 2020. [*Maribel Pizano, SEA; Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE*]

Annual Date Festival. On February 20, staff joined Riverside County Flood Control District and Riverside County Department of Waste Resources in a booth at the Annual Date Festival

that was held in Indio (February 14 thru 23), where the public learned how to properly dispose of household waste. In addition, sidewalk and storm drain models were demonstrated to educate the public on watershed health and protection [Jay Mirpour, WRCE; Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE]

401 Water Quality Certification. The following table shows Certifications that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in February and March of 2020. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E., Emma McCorkle, Environmental Scientist

2020 (Feb - Mar)

Orders Issued/Denied	Applicant	Project	WDID#
3/6/2020 Amended	Coachella Flats, LLC	Coachella Flats Wind Project	7A333208001
3/6/2020 Amended	Desert Hot Springs Wind, LLC	Desert Hot Springs Wind Repowering Project	7A333206001
3/4/2020 Amended	Caltrans	Interstate 40 Regrade Median Cross Slopes	7A363027001
2/7/2020 Amended	Painted Hills Wind, LLC	Painted Hills Wind Energy Repowering Project	7A333201001
2/6/2020 Denial without Prejudice	BNSF Railway Company	BNSF Needles Third Main Track Project - Division A	7B363046001

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 *\$36,000	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 *\$153,000						37 *52

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (February 2020)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
11	240

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