

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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

[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



June & July 2021

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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 Applicability:** Six (6) Notices of Applicability were issued to enrollees in the Small Domestic, Composting, Recycled Water, and Cannabis Cultivation General Orders.

- Notice of Applicability 97-500(184), subject to regulation by Regional Water Board General Order 97-500, General Waste Discharge Requirements for On-Site Subsurface Disposal Systems for Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Parks and other Similar Facilities was issued on June 21, 2021 to Storm's Crossing Mobile Home Park, Seeley, Imperial County. *[Carlos Angulo, WRCE]*
- Notice of Applicability 2020-0012-DWQ-71604, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2020-0012-DWQ, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations was issued on June 21, 2021 to Burrtec Waste Industries, Salton City Compost, Salton City, Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Revised Notice of Applicability, Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW-R7001-01, Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use was issued on June 25, 2021 to Coachella Valley Water District, Wastewater Reclamation Plant 10, Palm Desert, Riverside County. *[Cathy Sanford, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability for Enrollment in Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ (6), General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems was issued on June 29, 2021 to the City of Twentynine Palms, Project Phoenix Phase 1 and 2, Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*
- Notice of Applicability, State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, WDID 7\_33CC421309 was issued on July 1, 2021 to The Micro Buddery Inc., Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Revised Notice of Applicability, Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ-R7005, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems was issued on July 2, 2021 to Morongo Industrial Park Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*

**Notices of Violation/Noncompliance:** Four (4) Notices of Violation/Noncompliance were issued to a Discharger for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements and the Basin Plan.

- Mission Springs Water District, Alan Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant, subject to Order R7-2014-0049, was issued on June 10, 2021, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Time Extension for Notice of Noncompliance, Prohibition of Individual Disposal Systems for The Town of Yucca Valley, was issued to David J. Palacios on June 21, 2021, Town of Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*

- Time Extension for Notice of Noncompliance, Prohibition of Individual Disposal Systems for The Town of Yucca Valley was issued to Theresa R. Ruiz on June 21, 2021, Town of Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*
- Time Extension for Notice of Noncompliance, Prohibition of Individual Disposal Systems for The Town of Yucca Valley was issued to James G. Johnson on June 21, 2021, Town of Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*

**Notifications and Approvals:** Seven (7) Approvals/Notifications were issued to Dischargers for various projects region wide:

- Mission Springs Water District, West Valley Water Reclamation Facility was issued a Letter of Approval for the Groundwater Monitoring Well Network Work Plan required by Order R7-2020-0011 on June 3, 2021, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Coachella Valley Water District Water Reclamation Plants No. 7 and No. 10 were issued a Letter of Approval for the Groundwater Monitoring Proposal for Order WQ 2020-0015-DWQ for a one-time representative monitoring of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds on July 13, 2021, Palm Desert, Riverside County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*
- Desert Sun Ray, Inc. was issued a Notice of Termination of Enrollment in State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Cannabis Cultivation Activities on July 20, 2021, Cathedral City, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency was issued Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2021-0023-01 on June 24, 2021, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Western Mesquite Mine, Inc., Order R7-2014-0032 was issued a Letter of Approval to Conduct a Re-Leaching Pilot Project Using Enhanced Metal Recovery on June 29, 2021, Brawley, Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Borrego Water District, Ram's Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility was issued a letter of approval for the Groundwater Monitoring Network Work Plan required by Order R7-2019-0015 on June 21, 2021, Borrego Springs, San Diego County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Palm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant was issued a Letter of Approval for the City's Groundwater Monitoring Well Sampling and Analysis Plan for Order WQ 2020-0015-DWQ for a one-time representative monitoring of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds on June 8, 2021, Palm Springs, Riverside County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*

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

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. 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 lists the correspondence regarding DoD, UST and SCP projects issued in June and July 2021.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
June 3, 2021	Response to Work Plan for a Site Conceptual model Former USA Gasoline Station No. 291	USA Gasoline Station #291, 104 West Main Street, Brawley, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602553770	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
June 3, 2021	Approval of Time Extension Request	Former Unocal/Geothermal Energy And Mineral Corporation (Gemcor) Facility, 950 West Lindsey Road, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000006199, Cleanup And Abatement Order (CAO) No. R7-2011-0006	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
June 3, 2021	Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment Proposed Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Pursuant to Low-Threat Closure Policy	Former One Stop Fuel, Inc. 13207 Mesa Drive Blythe, CA 92225 Riverside County GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606569518	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
June 3, 2021	Approval of Extension Request to Submit the Well Abandonment Report for Underground Storage Tank Site 8, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Twentynine Palms California, GeoTracker ID No T060719846	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
June 4, 2021	Comments on the Draft Five-Year Review Report, Installation Restoration (IR) Sites 1 And 2	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID NOs: 000100312800 And 000100317400	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
June 8, 2021	Response to Site Assessment Report Submitted Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10; Corrective Action Requirements	2106 Winterhaven Drive, Winterhaven, CA, Imperial County; Global ID No. T10000013251 (APN 603-220-038)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
June 10, 2021	Response to Remediation Progress Report Commingled Plume 6 Site A, C, and E - Mobile High Vacuum Dual Phase Extraction (HVDPCE) Event No. 8	Blythe Environmental Remediation Project - Commingled Plume 6; 101, 110, 149, 200, 201, 249 E. Hobson Way and 107 W. Hobson Way, Blythe, Riverside County- Claim No. CP0019	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
June 16, 2021	Draft Public Meeting and Public Comment Period Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis	Munitions Response Program Site 2 (Former Small Arms Range), Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker Global ID T10000011417	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
June 25, 2021	Denial of Request for Closure for Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs) Site, and Comments on the Report of Site-Specific Risk Assessment and Soil Gas Intrusion Investigation	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
June 30, 2021	Response to "Soil Vapor Extraction Pilot Test Summary Report"	Chevron Station No. 306573, 324 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, (CRWQCB I.D. # 7T2 231 021, Global I.D. No. T0602520155)	Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
July 2, 2021	Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action	Mann Company, 1313 Main Street, Brawley, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000015656	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
July 12, 2021	Response to the Groundwater Monitoring and Sampling and Corrective Action Site Status Update Second Quarter 2021, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action	Former California Fun Mart (Current Five Brothers Fuel Stop) 105 W. Cole Boulevard, Calexico, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000009970	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
July 12, 2021	Notification Requirements Upon Completion of Site Assessment Closure Request Report: Mailing List	Arco Line 90, Essex (Ward Valley), San Bernardino County, Global ID Number T10000006013	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
July 12, 2021	Comments on the Draft Final Corrective Action Plan Area of Concern Nos. 3 and 4	Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000002630 And T10000002631	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
July 22, 2021	Underground Storage Tank Program – Extension Request Approval	Former Escher Oil Company (Current Beck Oil, Inc.) 85-119 Avenues 50, Coachella, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. SL0606529297, Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R7-2012-0043	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
July 23, 2021	Response to Comments on the Draft Final Corrective Action Plan, Area of Concern 2 (AOC 2)	Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000002629	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Staff</b>
July 23, 2021	Response to Comments on the Draft Final Corrective Action Plan, Area of Concern Nos. 3 and 4 (AOC 3 & 4)	Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000002630 and T10000002631	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
July 23, 2021	Approval of Work Plan Pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) Section 13267, Order No. R7-2021-0032	Thermal Airport, Chlorinated Pesticide Contamination At Thermal Airport, 56850 Tyler Street, Thermal, Ca 92274, GeoTracker Global ID No. SL20702103	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
July 27, 2021	Notification Requirements Upon Completion of Site Assessment Closure Request Report: Mailing List	Former Quail Oil Gasoline Station, 48487 Grapefruit Boulevard, Coachella, Riverside County; Global ID No. T0606500954 (APN 603-220-038)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
July 27, 2021	Notification Requirements Upon Completion of Site Assessment Closure Request Report: Mailing List	BNSF Railway Company, Needles Rail Yard Site, Southeast of Intersection of "H" Street & River Street, Needles, San Bernardino County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000012920	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
July 27, 2021	Notification Requirements Upon Completion of Site Assessment Closure Request Report: Mailing List	Rite Spot Market, 6 ½ Miles South of Parker Dam, Parker Dam, San Bernardino County; Global ID No. T0607100969	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
July 28, 2021	Work Plan For Additional Site Assessment	IID Headquarters 333 E Barioni Boulevard, Imperial, CA, Imperial County; Global ID No. SL0602597886	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist



Date	Subject	Site	Staff
July 28, 2021	Response to Work Plan for Scope of Work #1	Lucerne Valley Garage, 31685 Highway 18, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County; Global ID No. T0607100998, APN 0451-121-15-0000	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist

**WQS/NPS UNIT**

**Colorado River Salinity Control Forum Work Group Meeting:** The Colorado River Salinity Work Group met June 4 and 7 to discuss and run through presentations for the June 9, 2021 meeting of the Colorado River Salinity Forum. Presentations were from the Bureaus of Land Management (BLM) and Reclamation (USBR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). BLM updated the group regarding ongoing research in targeted watersheds and that the agency would begin reviewing applications for funding. NRCS presented an overview of Public Law 566 Watershed Program, a source of funding for watershed restoration, flood control, or water supply projects. USBR provided an update on the drought conditions including the condition of Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Both lakes are projected to go into shortage conditions as early as next water year. USBR indicated that the shortage conditions will increase the possibility of water delivery cuts to California in 2023. *[Emma McCorkle, ES]*

**2021 National CWA 303(d) and Data Management Training Workshop:** This workshop was organized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environmental Law Institute and took place over four days from June 7 - 10, 2021.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide state and tribal water quality program staff with an opportunity to learn strategies for improving the process and outcomes of Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listing and TMDL programs. One of the objectives of this workshop was to learn about and contribute to the ideas and methods for better incorporating environmental justice and climate change considerations into water quality data management, assessment, and restoration and protection activities. Another objective was to learn and contribute to the process for developing the next iteration of the CWA 303(d) Program Vision. The workshop was organized in breakout sessions with several training presentations followed by discussions. Topics covered were a) techniques for collaborating across jurisdictional boundaries and with other programs, agencies, and organizations, b) develop technical skills in information management, c) learn about tools and approaches for communicating water quality information, d) alternative restoration plans (ARP) and category 5-Alt. *[Francisco Costa, ES]*

**Colorado River Salinity Control Forum Work Group Subcommittee Meetings:** A subcommittee for updating the Salinity Economic Impact Model for the 2023 Triennial Review was created and held an inaugural meeting on June 15. A follow-up meeting was held July 19. The purpose of the subcommittee is to gather data and projections from agencies for use in updating the Salinity Economic Impact Model used in determining budget and program achievements. [*Emma McCorkle, ES*]

**Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force, June 23, 2021:** The meeting was chaired over Zoom by Miguel Hernandez with Comite Civico del Valle. Other attendees included representatives from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Sen. Melendez Office, Friends of the Desert Mountains, Communities for new California, City of Coachella, California Air Resources Control Board (CARB), Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Coachella Valley Unified School District, California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), Salton Sea Action Committee, Coachella Valley Water keeper, Leadership Counsel, Coachella Valley Resources Conservation District, and Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. CDPR staff gave a presentation to provide background on CDPR's Groundwater Protection Program regulatory sampling programs and provide information on the pilot project for passive sampling of pesticides in groundwater. [*Maria Davydova-Flores, ES*]

**Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) Community Engagement Committee, June 29, 2021:** Evon Wilhoff with California Department of Water Resources provided an update on the committee charter by going over the revised document. Committee members provided input and comments. Due to limited time, members were given additional time after the meeting to submit their comments by email. Arturo Delgado, CNRA Assistant Secretary for the Salton Sea, went over the SSMP timeline and upcoming NEPA meetings.

**Salton Sea Monitoring and Implementation Plan Review Kick-off Meeting:** The Monitoring and Implementation Plan (MIP) for projects planned as part of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is currently being drafted. The agency has contracted Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for the MIP development process. A kick-off meeting was held virtually on July 13 hosted by ESA consultants. An administrative draft has been shared among the review working group which includes federal, local, and state agency representatives as well as community advocacy groups. The group will meet over the next few months to discuss any comments or revisions that should be included to satisfy all stakeholders. The MIP is intended to provide a baseline of current Salton Sea conditions and lay the groundwork for future trend monitoring. It is not intended to provide effectiveness monitoring for the various projects. The first working group meeting is tentatively scheduled for August with meetings in December following the science committee review. The final MIP for public release is planned for January 2022. [*Emma McCorkle, ES*]

**Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force, July 28, 2021:** The meeting was chaired over Zoom by Miguel Hernandez with Comite Civico del Valle. Miguel announced that this is his last time chairing the meeting and introduced his replacement, Matthew Maldonado, who is an air monitoring technician with Comite Civico del Valle. Other attendees included representatives from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Sen. Melendez Office, Friends of the Desert Mountains, California Air Resources Control Board (CARB), Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Riverside

County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District, Coachella Valley Unified School District, Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Coachella Valley Water keeper, and California Natural Resources Agency. Moises Moreno-Rivera introduced himself as the new CNRA Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice. CNRA announced a series of upcoming workshops and Secretary speaker series. *[Maria Davydova-Flores, ES]*

**NPDES PROGRAM**

**401 Water Quality Certifications (Dredge or Fill Discharge):** The following table shows the certifications that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in June and July 2021. The certifications listed were in addition to the waste discharge requirements adopted by the Regional Water Board. *[Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Logan Raub, Environmental Scientist]*

<b>Issuance Date</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>WDID#</b>
<b>6/17/2021</b>	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Exposed Barrels Repair Project - Station 9434	7A333228001
<b>6/17/2021</b>	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Exposed Barrels Repair Project- Station 9977	7A333229001
<b>6/17/2021</b>	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Exposed Barrels Repair Project- Station 10101	7A333230001

**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 *\$87,000	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 *29
2	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate	\$21,000 *\$48,000	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 *16
5	Heber PUD	Total Suspended Solids	\$6,000	4/5/21	4/27/21	4/29/21	5/28/21	7/20/21	2
6	IID Grass Carp Hatchery	Total Suspended Solids & Selenium	\$84,000	7/22/21 Proposed Stipulated Order	-	7/29/21	8/30/21		28
7	IID EI Centro GS	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate, Free Cyanide, Total Suspended Solids, Chlorine Residual, pH, Selenium	\$465,000	7/22/21 Proposed Stipulated Order	-	7/29/21	8/30/21		155
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		\$582,000 *\$135,000						194 *45

\*Revised

**Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (July2021)**

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
6	35

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