

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



March 2023

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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 for December 2022 – January 2023 in the region:

1. LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

Notices of Violation/Noncompliance: Two Notices of Violation (NOV) were issued to Dischargers for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements and the California Water Code.

- Palms Springs Unified School District was issued a NOV on December 13, 2022 for failure to submit Monitoring Reports for the discharge of cooling tower water blowdown to dry wells at the Rancho Mirage High School as required by Order R7-2012-0001, originally issued on January 19, 2012. The Discharger is required to come into compliance within 30 days of receipt of the NOV. Riverside County [*Adrianna Godinez*]
- San Bernardino County Department of Public Works was issued a NOV for Landers Sanitary Landfill on January 9, 2023, for failure to notify the Water Board when one of the surface impoundments exceeded its specified Action Leakage Rate during 2021-2022 and for failure to include this information in monitoring report summaries during 2021-2022. The Discharger is required to submit a workplan to investigate the potential for a leak within 30 days of receipt of the NOV. San Bernardino County [*Scot Stormo*]

Approvals and Notifications: Seventeen Approval/Notifications were issued to Dischargers:

- December 5, 2022, the Regional Water Board's Executive Officer accepted the Proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2022-0045 (Stipulated Order), entered into between the Regional Water Board and the Mission Springs Water District on October 20, 2022. The Discharger's administrative civil liability for one spill of treated wastewater in the amount of \$175,000 shall be suspended pending completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project identified in the Stipulated Order. Riverside County [*Adrianna Godinez*]
- Desert Knoll Inc., was issued a Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2006-0057-01 on December 8, 2022 (Revised MRP) for the Desert Knoll Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System, originally issued on September 20, 2006. The Revised MRP becomes effective February 1, 2023, and contains revised requirements for Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring and Effluent Monitoring. San Bernardino County [*Wendy Wyels*]
- Turtle Rock HOA, was issued a Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2006-0036-01 on December 8, 2022 (Revised MRP) for the Turtle Rock Subdivision Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System, originally issued on May 17, 2006. The Revised MRP becomes effective February 1, 2023, and contains revised requirements for Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring and Effluent Monitoring. San

Bernardino County [*Wendy Wyels*]

- Desert Vista Village LLC, was issued a Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2007-0008-01 on December 8, 2022 (Revised MRP) for the Desert Vista Village Subdivision Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System, originally issued on March 21, 2007. The Revised MRP becomes effective February 1, 2023, and contains revised requirements for Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring and Effluent Monitoring. Riverside County [*Wendy Wyels*]
- Biane Guard LLC, was issued a Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2006-0038-01 on December 8, 2022 (Revised MRP) for the Smoke Tree Villas Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System, originally issued on May 17, 2006. The Revised MRP becomes effective February 1, 2023, and contains revised requirements for Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring and Effluent Monitoring. San Bernardino County [*Wendy Wyels*]
- Two-Nine Hospitality, was issued a Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2009-0010-01 on December 8, 2022 (Revised MRP) for the Holiday Inn Express Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System, originally issued on January 22, 2009. The Revised MRP becomes effective February 1, 2023, and contains revised requirements for Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring and Effluent Monitoring. San Bernardino County [*Wendy Wyels*]
- Castle Back Twentynine Palms Owner, LLC, was issued a Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2009-0009-01 on December 8, 2022 (Revised MRP) for the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Twentynine Palms Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal System, originally issued on January 22, 2009. The Revised MRP becomes effective February 1, 2023, and contains revised requirements for Subsurface Disposal Area Monitoring and Effluent Monitoring. San Bernardino County [*Wendy Wyels*]
- Mission Springs Water District requested a six-month extension to submit Technical Reports, as required by Order R7-2020-0011, for the Regional Water Reclamation Facility, which was approved in a letter dated December 16, 2022. The Discharger's request stated that they needed the extension to coordinate an access agreement with the landowners where the wells are located to accommodate the Water Board's request for the change in sampling frequency for all groundwater monitoring wells. Riverside County [*Adriana Godinez*]
- National Community Renaissance was issued a Second Request for Updated Report of Waste Discharge information for the Yucca Valley Senior Housing Onsite Wastewater Treatment System on December 20, 2022, after not receiving any communication in response to an earlier letter sent on August 29, 2022. The Discharger is requested to return a complete application within 30 days of receipt of the letter. San Bernardino County [*Adriana Godinez*]
- The Desert Water Agency's December 1, 2022, request to extend the deadline for the required Supplemental Environmental Project associated with Settlement Agreement

and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2022-0012 until March 31, 2023, was approved on January 5, 2023. The Discharger's request stated they were continuing to have difficulty securing an easement along the wash where the project is to be located. The previous deadline was December 30, 2022. [*Reginald Tan*]

- Westwind Enterprises, LTD was issued a comment letter, dated January 6, 2023, on a recently submitted workplan to install three groundwater monitoring wells at the Rio Bend RV Resort, as required by R7-2021-0024. The comment letter stated that the proposed locations of both the single upgradient well and the two downgradient wells were poorly suited to accurately monitor the Facility's Wastewater Ponds associated with the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System. The Discharger is required to resubmit the workplan with updated monitoring well locations within 60 days of receipt of the letter. Imperial County [*Scot Stormo*]
- On January 13, 2023, Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc., was issued a letter of concurrence to perform a Demonstration Project at the Salton City Landfill to use Processed Construction and Demolition material for alternative daily cover (ADC). The approved demonstration project includes stockpiling of material, use of the material in a distinct location, monitoring of the material (stockpiled and when used for ADC), and then submittal of a final report. The final report will need to be reviewed and approved by the Imperial County Planning Department to ensure that all activities are included in the Facility's original Scope of Project for the California Environmental Quality Act. Imperial County [*Zak Owens*]
- The California Department of Transportation was reissued a Notice of Applicability to enroll in General Order 97-500 for the John Wilkie Safety Roadside Rest Area's (SRRA) Onsite Wastewater Treatment System on January 19, 2023. The facility is being remodeled to include a new facility layout and additions to the wastewater treatment system. The facility was formerly called the Fenner SRRA. San Bernardino County [*Zak Owens*]

Notice of Terminations: One Notification was issued to Dischargers:

- Med for America, Inc., and the Highroad Consulting Group were issued a Notice of Termination on December 14, 2022, for cannabis cultivation activities at 65441 Two Bunch Palms Trail in Desert Hot Springs, CA. The discharger submitted a request for termination on November 15, 2022, that stated the cultivation activities at the site ceased on June 19, 2019. The discharger also submitted a Site Closure Report, dated November 15, 2022. Riverside County [*Zak Owens and Ed Hancock*]

2. WATER QUALITY/NON-POINT SOURCE PROGRAMS

Salton Sea Nutrients and Dissolved Oxygen TMDL CEQA Scoping Meetings

On January 31, 2022, and February 2, 2023, staff held CEQA scoping meetings to address a TMDL project regarding nutrients and low dissolved oxygen in the Salton Sea. The January 31st meeting was held in-person at the Coachella Valley Water

District, followed by the virtual meeting on February 2nd. These scoping meetings were held to introduce the potential project to interested parties and receive feedback about the project. Both meetings were held after work hours, beginning at 6 PM. The in-person meeting was attended by a few members of the public, while the virtual meeting was attended by several individuals interested in the project and in plans to begin monitoring at the Salton Sea [*Hajer Dawoody, EG*]

On-Farm Drinking Water Well Notification

Regional Board staff provided an information packet to members of Bard and Palo Verde agricultural coalitions that are owners of on-farm drinking water wells on December 16, 2022. The packet contained a notification to remind the owners that they are required to monitor their wells for nitrates in accordance with Board Orders R7-2019-0030 and R7-2019-0053 and included instructions on how to comply with this requirement. The notification requested the owners of on-farm drinking water wells comply by March 31, 2023. [*Francisco Costa, ES*]

Yucca Valley Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Prohibition Enforcement

Water Quality Standards (WQS) staff continued informal enforcement efforts to urge owners of properties who have not connected to the Hi-Desert Water Agency collection system to comply with the prohibition of discharge from onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). On December 1, 2022, WQS staff mailed 80 notices of violation for not connecting to the collection system to new property owners and other property owners that staff have not been able to contact. Subsequently, staff responded to inquiries via phone and email providing additional information. On January 6, 2023, WQS staff also sent 36 letters for 90-day extensions to property owners who requested additional time to connect due to pending financial aid applications, scheduling back-ups with arborists and contractors, as well as a permitting backlog with the Town of Yucca Valley. [*Maria Davydova-Flores, ES*]

3. UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM

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 December 2022 and January 2023.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
December 5, 2022	Draft Remedial Action Completion Report, Installation Restoration Site 18	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California GeoTracker ID No. T10000002075	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
December 6, 2022	Response to Report On Site Inspections/Geophysical Survey & Corrective Action Work Plan	Former Flying Motel, Currently Magnuson Hotel Blythe, 9232 East Hobsonway (AKA), 1781 East Hobsonway, Blythe, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500754	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 8, 2022	Response to Request for Extension Pursuant To Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10; Corrective Action Requirements	Rite Stop Market, 1201 Parker Dam Road, EARP, San Bernardino County; Global ID No. T06007100969 (APN 0661-031-04-000)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
December 12, 2022	Response To Second Revised Workplan For Additional Remediation And Pilot Test, Former USA Gasoline Station No. 294	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
December 14, 2022	Signed Record of Decision, Installation Restoration Site 14	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Twentynine Palms, California, GeoTracker ID No. T10000004915	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
December 14, 2022	Request For Revision of Work Plan For Installation of Advanced Remediation Technology System, Installation Of One Groundwater Observation Well (MW-14), And Additional Soil Vapor Extraction in Wells SVE-1, SVE-5, SVE-7, and SVE-8	SOCO #63, 800 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County, CRWQCB File No. 7T2231023, GeoTracker File T0602514171	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
December 16, 2022	Response to Work Plan For Additional Site Assessment, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 252296.10 Corrective Action	Calipatria Queen Market 7788, 101 East Main Street, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000011602	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
December 19, 2022	Draft Order R7-2023-XXXX, Amendment To Cleanup And Abatement Order No. 97-145	Former Meaders Cleaners Site, 711 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, California (GeoTracker Global ID SLT7P006115), Riverside County	Alex Valentine, Engineering Geologist
December 23, 2022	Comments on the Draft Final General Site Work Plan, Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal, Multiple Former Underground Storage Tank Locations, AOCs 2,3, and 4	Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, GeoTracker Global ID Nos: T10000002629, T10000002630, and T10000002631	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
January 5, 2023	Closure/No Further Action Letter	One Stop Shoppe, 84-051 Indio Boulevard, Indio, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500686	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
January 5, 2023	Notice of Violation For Failure To Comply With Health And Safety Code Section 25296.10; Corrective Action Order	Former Express Stop, 82668 Indio Boulevard, Indio, CA 92201, APN 611-133-009, Global ID No. T0606500696, EAR Account No. R10-135	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 25, 2023	Conditional Approval on the Response to Comments On The Draft Technical Memorandum, Low Threat Closure Evaluation For Installation Restoration Site 7	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California GeoTracker ID No. DOD100319000	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
January 31, 2023	Review of RCRA Facility Investigation and Remedial Investigation Report, PG&E Topock Compressor Station, Needles, California	PG&E Topock Compressor Station Site, I-40 and Park Moabi Road, Needles, California, San Bernardino County	Alex Valentine, Engineering Geologist

4. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

U.S. EPA and Department of the Army “Waters of the United States (WOTUS)” Final Rule Overview Webinar

On January 19, 2023, Regional Water Board staff attended a webinar hosted by the U.S. EPA and Department of the Army that provided an overview of the “Waters of the United States” Final Rule. Waters of the United States (WOTUS) is a threshold term

in the Clean Water Act that establishes the geographic scope of federal jurisdiction under the Act. The EPA and the Department of the Army have defined WOTUS by regulation since the 1970s. The agencies are interpreting WOTUS to mean the waters defined by the familiar “pre-2015” regulations, with amendments to reflect the agencies’ determination of the statutory limits on the scope of WOTUS informed by Supreme Court precedent, the best available science, and the agencies’ experience and technical expertise. The final WOTUS rule will become effective on March 20, 2023, which is 60 days after the January 18, 2023, publication of the rule in the *Federal Register*. [Fatima Alrahem, WRCE; Logan Raub, ES; and Kai Dunn, Supervising WRCE]

IID El Centro Generating Station Time Schedule Order Update

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) submitted a quarterly report on December 27, 2022, to update the Regional Water Board staff on the progress regarding Time Schedule Order (TSO) No. R7-2020-0019. The IID is required to submit quarterly updates regarding the milestones set within the TSO.

The most recent report encompasses the effort to complete the TSO’s third milestone – complete project design. Along with the quarterly update, a design report for the El Centro Generating Station was submitted to provide a high-level concept of unit processes, mechanical equipment, etc. The project design consists of water softening pretreatment, membrane filtration, the optimization of the cooling towers water chemistry, as well as the use of evaporation ponds. The facility is to recycle a large portion of its high total dissolved solids (TDS) effluent stream, and ultimately eliminate discharge to surface waters.

Submittal of the project design meets the milestones set forth in the TSO. The next steps for the wastewater mitigation project are to acquire the necessary permits and approvals to construct the treatment system and complete the fourth TSO milestone. Full implementation of the plan and compliance with final effluent guidelines must be achieved by April 1, 2025. [Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE]

Completion of New River Diversion Structure as Part of the Species Conservation Habitat Project

The New River diversion structure is a major component of the overall Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) Project. The weir will allow the New River water and saline water from the Salton Sea to mix, flow by gravity to the sedimentation basins and then to the constructed habitat ponds.

On February 9, 2023, California Natural Resources Agency hosted the New River Removal Diversion Structure Completion event located at the southern part of the Salton Sea. The event was attended by staff from MWH Consulting, Kiewit Corporation, Imperial Irrigation District, Department of Water Resources, California Natural Resources Agency, and the Regional Water Board. The diversion of the New River bypass back to the New Intake Structure took place around 9:30 a.m. Construction of the SCH Project is expected to continue through the end of 2023.

[Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, WRCE; Kai Dunn, Supervising WRCE]

401 Water Quality Certifications (Dredge or Fill Discharge): The following table shows the certifications that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in December 2022 and January 2023. The certifications listed were in addition to the waste discharge requirements adopted by the Regional Water Board. *[Logan Raub, Environmental Scientist, Fatima Alrahem, WRCE, Kai Dunn, Supervising WRCE]*

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
12/16/2022	Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR)	Union Pacific Bridge Casualty Yuma Subdivision MP 634.36 Emergency Project	7A333243001
1/18/2023	Southern California Edison	Joshua Drive Deteriorated Pole Replacement	7B363054001
1/20/2023	Caltrans	1C081 Interstate 10 Pavement Rehabilitation Project	7A333246001
1/24/2023	Department of Water Resources	Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project (2023 Amendment)	7A133126001

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 *2/15/2023	*3/17/2023		2 *29
2	Seeley CWD	Bacteria indicator & Free Cyanide	\$27,000 *\$39,000	8/11/2021 *9/2/21	9/8/21 *9/23/21		*Discharger agreed to settlement discussion		9 *13
3	Niland SD	Bacteria indicator, BOD, Chlorine Residual	\$45,000	7/29/2022	8/29/22		*Discharger agreed to settlement discussion		15
4	Imperial WWTP	Bacterial indicator	\$6,000	11/18/2022	12/08/2022	12/22/2022	1/23/2023	2/1/2023	2
5	Calipatria WWTP	TSS & Oil/Grease	\$9,000	11/18/2022	12/16/2022	12/22/2022	1/23/2023	2/1/2023	3
	TOTAL:		\$93,000 *\$126,000						31 *42

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (January 2023)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
6	35

[Maribel Schiavone, SEA, and Kai Dunn, Supervising WRCE]