

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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[Colorado River Basin Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



December 2019 – January 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

Binational Technical Committee Meeting and New River Tour: On January 23, 2020, staff attended the bimonthly New River Tour of the key sewage infrastructure rehabilitation and the Binational Technical Committee meeting. [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

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

Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) Meeting for Former C.V. Minimex 91201 66th Avenue, Mecca: On January 6, 2020, staff attended a Joint Execution Team teleconference for the Former C.V. Minimex, ECAP Site. Participants included Caryl Sheehan and Laura Shook (State Water Board ECAP staff), and Joe Frey (FREY Environmental Inc.) consultant for the Responsible Party. The meeting was conducted to determine if the site meets the closure criteria of the Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy. Participants agreed to conduct two additional rounds of groundwater monitoring due to fluctuating levels of benzene in groundwater. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE*]

Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) Meeting for Former EZ-Serve 940 Imperial Avenue, Calexico: On January 16, 2020, staff attended a Joint Execution Team teleconference for the Former EZ-Serve, ECAP Site. Participants included Caryl Sheehan and Galvin Kauffman (State Water Board ECAP staff) and Joseph Schaaf and Ryan Shaffer (EnviroServices Inc.), consultants for the Responsible Party. The meeting was conducted to discuss actions needed to meet groundwater criteria of the Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy. A Feasibility Study evaluating cost-effective remedial options will be prepared. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE*]

Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) Meeting for Circle K, # 1407 945 East Hobsonway, Blythe: On January 8, 2020, staff attended a Joint Execution Team teleconference for the Circle K, # 1407, ECAP Site. Participants included Caryl Sheehan and Adria Perez (State Water Board ECAP staff), Barret Covington (Responsible Party), and Michael Kazz (consultant). The meeting was conducted to discuss actions needed to meet groundwater criteria of the Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy. Participants agreed that further assessment of soil and groundwater is needed, including additional groundwater wells. [*Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG; Phan Le, WRCE*]

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) PROGRAM

2020 – 2022 Joint Execution Plans: In December 2019, DoD staff completed Joint Execution Plans (JEP) for years 2020-2022 for each military facility in the Region. JEPs

are facility specific, comprehensive workplans that list activities to be completed in the designated time frame. The goal is to obtain federal funding for each military cleanup site. [Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG; Jessica Bagby, EG]

Proposed Military Underground Storage Tank Closures: In January 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board issued Notices of Proposed Case Closure for 13 Underground Storage Tanks at Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro. [Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior EG; Jessica Bagby, EG]

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING (SNMP)

Twentynine Palms Water District Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Development

On December 10, 2019, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer approved and accepted the Twentynine Palms Water District Groundwater Monitoring Implementation Plan. The monitoring plan will facilitate development of a comprehensive Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for portions of the Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and Dale Groundwater Basins. [Cathy Sanford, EG]

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS UNIT

Advanced ADA Training in Sacramento: Staff attended two-day Advanced ADA Training in Sacramento on January 7-8. The training was led by industry teachers and focused on a new software available to the Water Boards, CommonLook PDF. Staff learned how to remediate PDF documents using the new software and were provided resources to use after the training concluded. The new software is an easier way to remediate documents for web posting as opposed to the current methods available. Additional trainings are planned to occur quarterly. [Emma McCorkle, ES]

2020 Triennial Review Tribal Engagement: Staff held a meeting on January 28 with local Tribes to begin fostering engagement for the 2020 Triennial Review process. The meeting focused on submission of water quality issues to be considered for inclusion on the next Triennial Review List. Representatives from five local Tribes attended the meeting and expressed interest in working with the Regional Board on issues such as designating water bodies using Tribal Beneficial Uses, groundwater regulation, and various other water quality concerns. Attendees also requested that Regional Boards R7 and R9 coordinate efforts on Tribal issues to simplify engagement for the Tribes. Staff will follow up with attendees to provide requested information and continue the dialogue between the Tribes and Regional Board. [Maria Davydova, ES; Emma McCorkle, ES]

Colorado River Basin Salinity Forum Work Group in El Segundo: Staff attended a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Forum Work Group in El Segundo on February 3-5. The Work Group meets quarterly in one of the seven basin states of the Colorado River with representatives from federal, state, and regional agencies located within those states. Representatives are technical staff that advise the Forum members on actions to be taken. The Work Group discussed the Colorado River Basin 2020 Triennial Review, updates to available funding, potential projects to fund, and status updates from federal agencies. Regional Board engagement is encouraged as the Forum

discusses/governs water quality objectives, disburses funding for studies, and makes decisions that affect water quality for the Colorado River. [*Emma McCorkle, ES*]

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. The District is continuing its efforts of identifying the source(s) of copper and cyanide by monitoring the wastes brought to the WWTP, with sampling and analyses of their dump station and the town of Seeley's collection system. The District contracted with a new laboratory on November 2019 and is currently seeking a new engineer that will assist them with preliminary improvement works for the facility's dump station. The first milestone required in the Order R7-2019-0001 for the source identification of copper and cyanide was completed by February 1, 2020. [*Maribel Pizano, SEA; Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE*]

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 (Revising penalty)	2/13/19	3/12/19	3/13/19	4/11/19 (Revising offer)		2
2	Holtville WWTP	Oil & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$12,000	2/14/19	3/13/19	3/15/19	4/14/19	6/18/19	4
3	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
4	Imperial City WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$66,000 *\$78,000	3/27/19 *8/01/19	4/18/19 *8/21/19	5/1/19	6/1/19 *9/19/19		22 *26
5	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
6	Centinela State Prison	Bacteria Indicator Violations	\$33,000	5/10/19	6/10/19	6/19/19	7/19/19	8/5/19	11
7	Valley Sanitary District WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & BOD violations	\$9,000	6/6/19	6/26/19	7/26/19	8/25/19	9/6/19	3
	TOTAL:		\$231,000 *\$285,000						77 *95

*Revised

Table 2: Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (October 2019)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
7	177

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