

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



September 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 Violation/Noncompliance: One (1) Notice of Violation/Noncompliance was issued to a Discharger for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements.

- Yucca Valley Senior Housing, Onsite Wastewater Treatment System, subject to Order R7-2013-0053, issued on September 13, 2021, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

Notifications and Approvals: Three (3) Approvals/Notifications were issued to Dischargers for various projects region wide:

- Coachella Valley Water District was issued a letter requesting additional information for a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) on August 31, 2021. The SSO occurred on September 22, 2020, Palm Desert, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Imperial County Department of Public Works, Ocotillo Class III Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility was issued a letter of technical adequacy for their 5-year report required by Order R7-2007-0044 on September 3, 2021, Ocotillo, Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Cal Energy Operating Corporation, Region 1 Salton Sea Power Plant Units 1-5 Geothermal Facility was issued a Letter of Technical Adequacy of Financial Assurances; Sample Collection and Analysis Plan and Sampling and Spill Prevention Plan required by Order R7-2021-0008 on August 31, 2021, Calipatria, Imperial County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*

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 September 2021.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
September 1, 2021	Final Fall 2020 Semiannual Long-Term Monitoring, Landfill Inspection, and Maintenance Report for Installation Restoration Sites 1 and 2	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID Nos: DoD100312800 and DoD100317400	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
September 1, 2021	Final Spring 2020 Semiannual Long-Term Monitoring, Landfill Inspection, and Maintenance Report for Installation Restoration Sites 1 And 2	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID Nos: DoD 100312800 and DoD100317400	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
September 9, 2021	Identified Deficiencies Requiring Response – Workplan for Additional Remediation	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
September 13, 2021	Draft Spring 2020 Long-Term Monitoring Report For Installation Restoration Program Site 7	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID No: DoD100319000	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
September 13, 2021	Draft Spring 2021 Semiannual Long-Term Monitoring, Landfill Inspection, and Maintenance Report for Installation Restoration Sites 1 and 2	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID Nos: DoD100312800 and DoD100317400	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
September 17, 2021	Approval Of Time Extension Request For Submittal Of The Technical Report Documenting Well Abandonment And Waste Removal Activities	Former Circle K #1407, Blythe, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500742	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

WQS/NPS UNIT

Colorado River Salinity Control Forum Work Group Meeting

The Colorado River Salinity Work Group met September 20 in person and virtually to update and discuss relevant issues. The 2023 Triennial Review schedule was reviewed and data requested from water agencies for the salinity economic impact model that is updated each cycle. The Bureau of Reclamation brought up possible changes to the Funding Opportunity Announcements process to better incorporate habitat reconstruction into applications. The Bureau of Land Management outlined changes that will be made because of the relocating of the headquarters back to Washington, D.C. Most of the relocations will not affect the Salinity Program as it was already heavily based in the West. The Natural Resources Conservation Service announced the schedule for return to the office which will begin for most staff in January 2022. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) presented a manuscript in peer review about how climate affects salinity in the Colorado River Basin. USGS also updated the group on the project to collect water samples during the monsoon at multiple sites. The research team was able to install automatic water samplers to capture the entirety of this year’s storm events. [Emma McCorkle, 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 September 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]

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
9/3/2021	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	08-1K520 Valentine’s Day 2019 Storm Emergency Project	7A333226001
9/16/2021	Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)	Line 2000 Phase 2 Pipeline Maintenance – Anomaly Repair Project	7A333232001
9/30/2021	Western Mesquite Mines, INC.	Brownie North Exploration Project	7A133167001

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
3	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
	TOTAL:		\$54,000 *\$174,000						18 *58

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (October 2021)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
5	27

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