

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



January 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 Low Threat, Small Domestic and Cannabis Cultivation General Orders.

- Notice of Applicability 97-500(183) subject to regulation by General Order 97-500 for Small Domestic Discharges to Land was issued on January 7, 2021 to City of Twentynine Palms, Project Phoenix, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*
- Notice of Applicability 97-500(178) subject to regulation by General Order 97-500 for Small Domestic Discharges to Land was issued on January 26, 2021 to Green Rock LLC, Desert Rocks Indoor Climbing Gym, North Palm Springs, Riverside County. *[Courtney Chin, Scientific Aide]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC429998, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on January 27, 2021 to FD Cali D1, LLC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC429931 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on January 27, 2021 to The Magic Palms, LLC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC429878 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on January 27, 2021 to Brown Dog Health and Wellness, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC429754 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on January 29, 2021 to Royal Emerald Pharmaceuticals, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*

Notices of Violation: Three (3) Notices of Violation were issued to Dischargers for violation of their Waste Discharge Requirements.

- Hi-Desert Water District, Yucca Valley Wastewater Reclamation Plant subject to Order R7-2015-0043 issued on January 5, 2021. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Imperial Valley Community College District, Imperial Valley College Wastewater Treatment Plant subject to Order R7-2013-0018 issued on January 25, 2021. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Mission Springs Water District, Alan Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant subject to Order R7-2014-0049 issued on January 29, 2021. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

Other Notification and Approvals: One (1) Extension Approval was issued to a resident of Desert Hot Springs to connect to Mission Springs Water District's sewer system.

Time Extension Approval, to Desert Hot Springs Resident for Noncompliance with the Prohibition of Individual Disposal Systems for the Mission Springs Desert Hot Springs Aquifers issued on January 8, 2021. [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

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

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 UST and SCP projects issued in January 2021.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
January 5, 2021	Approval of In-Situ Chemical Oxidation Remedial Action Plan, Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267	RED Brown, 307 and 321 North Imperial Avenue, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000005261, Order No. R7-2017-0031	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
January 19, 2021	Approval of Additional Site Assessment Workplan	USA Gasoline Station #247, 201 W. Main Street, Brawley, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T0602518829 (APN 046-192-0280)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 21, 2021	Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report Pursuant to Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R-7-2011-0006	Former UNOCAL/Geothermal Energy and Mineral Corporation (GEMCOR) Facility, 950 West Linsey Road, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000006199	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
January 21, 2021	Response to Request for Extension Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10; Corrective Action Requirements	Amigo Mini Mart, 85509 Highway 111, Coachella, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No, T0606500931 (APN 778-041-001)	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
January 22, 2021	Response to Request for Extension to Submit Soil Vapor Extraction/Air Sparge Pilot Testing and Additional Site Assessment	Former USA Service Station No. 295, 1036 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0602558699	Cathy Sanford, Engineering Geologist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
	Report		
January 26, 2021	Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy; Abandonment of All Wells and Waste Materials	Riverside (RVSD) County Road Maintenance Yard, 86199 Airport Blvd, Thermal, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606522324	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
January 29, 2021	Approval of Monitoring Well Installation Work Plan; Above Ground Storage Tank at Pasha #1 Shop of Richard Bagdasaria, Inc.	Pasha #1 Shop, ½-Mile East of Pierce Street Along 59 th Avenue, Riverside County, Thermal, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000016560, Cost Recovery ID No. 2070027	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

January 21, 2021	Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Groundwater Monitoring Plan First Annual Report	Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree and Dale Groundwater Basins	Cathy Sanford, Engineering Geologist
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CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT

Region 7's Prosecution team has issued three Administrative Civil Liability Complaints (Complaints) which are currently posted on our website and available for public review. All three complaints are referencing violations of the Cannabis Cultivation General Order that address waste discharges associated with cannabis cultivation activities.

- Lean Green Industries, LLC, 68721 Summit Drive, Cathedral City, Riverside County APN687-162-004-4, WDID No. 7_33cc403337
- NCA Management LLC, 3241 Needles Hwy, Needles, San Bernardino County APN0660-091-09, WDID No. 7_36cc403989
- Paradise Wellness Center, 1 Ice House Road, Needles, San Bernardino County APN0650-391-23, WDID No. 7_36cc401592

The Dischargers chose to waive the right to a Hearing before the Regional Board to engage the Regional Board's Prosecution Team in settlement discussions including the possibility of completing a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) and/or Compliance Projects. The Prosecution Team is currently in settlement discussions with the Dischargers.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

Seeley County Water District Wastewater Treatment Compliance Project Status Update

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. 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 has continued its efforts to identify the source(s) of copper and cyanide by monitoring waste streams brought to its facility for disposal through sampling and analyses of dump stations and the town's collection system. Due to COVID-19, the District's receiving station continues to operate under a modified schedule. Major revisions have been made to the proposed receiving station design through conversations between the District and the design engineer. The new proposal will simplify construction and installation by making use of the existing pond infrastructure. The District, its Board of Directors and their consultant engineer are aware of the February 1, 2022, compliance date to have the dump station design fully completed. *[Maribel Pizano, SEA; Kai Dunn, Ph.D., P.E., Senior WRCE]*

Imperial Irrigation District El Centro Generating Station Pollution Prevention Plan Status Update

On July 9, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Time Schedule Order R7-2020-0019 (2020 TSO) which includes compliance with Interim Effluent Limits specified for new or more stringent final effluent limitations included in Waste Discharge Requirements in Order R7-2020-0006 (2020 WDR) for Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) El Centro Generating Station. The 2020 WDRs include effluent limitations for two new compounds – lead and thallium – and more stringent effluent limits for copper, selenium, and zinc. Due to the addition of new and more stringent effluent limits, IID requested a TSO to allow sufficient time to bring the Station into compliance with the 2020 WDRs. The Colorado River Basin Water Board responded by adopting the requested TSO, Order R7-2020-0019, (2020 TSO) on July 9, 2020. IID has developed and submitted a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) that was submitted on October 30, 2020. The PPP included a plan to initiate the Feasibility Study. IID plans to initiate the study in the 1st Quarter of 2021. *[Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE; Kai Dun, 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 *\$45,000	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 **1/11/21 Conditional Settlement Re-issued	4/30/19 *7/15/19 **1/11/21	**1/20/21	10/08/19 In settlement discussion **2/20/21	**Scheduled for 3/9/21 Board Meeting	28
4	Imperial WWTP	Bacteria indicators	\$12,000	2/18/21					4
	TOTAL:		\$111,000 *\$174,000						37 *56

*Revised

**New Conditional Settlement Offer

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (Jan-Feb 2021)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
4	30

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