

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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Palm Desert, CA 92260

[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



May 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: Two (2) Notices of Applicability were issued to enrollees in the Cannabis Cultivation General Order.

Notice of Applicability 7_33CC434943, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on May 3, 2021 to DHS Rose, LLC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notice of Applicability 7_33CC435367, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on May 14, 2021 to Miracle Grow Lab, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notices of Violation: One (1) Notice of Violation was issued to a Discharger for violation of its Waste Discharge Requirements.

Cushenbury Plant Landfill, subject to Order R7-2020-0016 issued on May 26, 2021, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Notifications and Approvals: Seven (7) Approvals were issued to residents and dischargers for various projects regionwide:

City of Banning Wastewater Treatment Plant was issued a letter of approval for the City's Nitrogen Removal Feasibility Study on May 3, 2021, Banning, Riverside County. [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

Salton City Class III Landfill was issued a letter of approval, after completion of a pilot project, to co-dispose mixed municipal solid waste and biosolids at a ratio of three to one, on May 4, 2021, Salton City, Imperial County. [Zak Owens, EG]

City 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 May 11, 2021, Banning, Riverside County. [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

City of Banning Wastewater Treatment Plant was issued a letter of approval for the City's Polymer Injection Pilot Study, Order R7-2016-0015, on May 13, 2021, Banning, Riverside County. [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

Allied Imperial Class III Landfill was issued a letter of approval granting a variance to accept treated wood waste, in coordination with California Department of Toxic Substances Control on May 13, 2021, Imperial, Imperial County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Western Mesquite Mine was issued a letter of approval for a revised work plan for their stormwater maintenance and enhancement optimization project, on May 18, 2021, Brawley, Imperial County. [Zak Owens, EG]

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway was issued an approval letter to start up commissioning of the newly constructed wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) at the Valley Station on May 26, 2021. The WWTF was scheduled to start operating as early as June 5, 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 May 2021.

| Date | Subject | Site | Staff |
|--------------|---|--|--|
| May 3, 2021 | Review of Technical Report and Request for Extension Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10, Corrective Action Requirements | Rite Spot Market, 6 ½ Miles South of Parker Dam, Parker Dam, San Bernardino County; Global ID No. T0607100969 | Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist |
| May 4, 2021 | Response to Soil Excavation and Monitoring Well Installation Report; Above Ground Storage Tank at Pusha #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 |
| May 11, 2021 | Requirement for Technical Report Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267, Order 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 |
| May 12, 2021 | Extension Request: Final Site Actions for Underground Storage Tanks 114, 1 | Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, GeoTracker ID Nos. T060256740, T060257785, | Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist |

| Date | Subject | Site | Staff |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| | 17,144,198, 272A/272B/272C, 315,386,409(N) and 409(S), 425,428, and 525 at Naval Air Facility El Centro | T060258702, T060252734, T060254470, T060259490, T060259550, T060251127, T060259679, T060250802, and T060250652 | |
| May 13, 2021 | Response to Work Plan for Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation, Well Maintenance and Monitoring | Former EZ Serve 100827, 899 East Main Street, Brawley, CA., Imperial County, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board Case No. 7T227002, Global ID No. T0602500005 | Cathy Sanford, Engineering Geologist |
| May 14, 2021 | Notification Mailing List | Former Circle K #1407, Blythe, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500742 | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer |
| May 17, 2021 | Approval of Work Plan for Additional Site Assessment, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action | Calipatria Queen Market 7788, 101 East Main Street, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID NO. T10000011602 | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer |
| May 18, 2021 | Comments on Fourth Quarter 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Report | Former Unocal/Geothermal Energy and Mineral Corporation (GEMCOR) Facility, 950 West Lindsey Road, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000006199 | Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer |

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Regional Water Board received the Draft Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV SNMP) on May 3, 2021. Regional Water Board staff is reviewing the Draft CV SNMP and coordinating communications with the Draft CV SNMP stakeholder's consultant (West Yost, Inc.)

WQSS/NPS PROGRAM

Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force hosted a meeting on May 26, 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), Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Comite Civico del Valle – Youth Environmental Health Internship (YEHI) participants, Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District, Coachella Valley Unified School District, Clinicas Salud del Pueblo. SCAQMD announced that nine Coachella Valley schools have been confirmed for their school outreach program. Friends of the Desert Mountains and Comite Civico del Valle have initiated meetings with Burrtec to address the illegal dumping issue in Eastern Coachella Valley; other task force members are welcome to join. YEHI students gave a presentation titled “Clean Air for Everyone.”

[Maria Davydova-Flores, ES]

NPDES PROGRAM

401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge or Fill Discharge): The following table shows the certifications and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in May 2021. *[Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]*

| Issuance Date | Applicant | Project | WDID# |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|-------------|
| 5/11/2021 | AM Wind Repower, LLC | Alta Mesa Wind Power | 7A333225001 |
| 5/11/2021 | SoCalGas | SoCal Gas Line 4000 Phase 1 Remediation Digs | 7A363030001 |
| 5/18/2021 | Caltrans | I-40 Median Regrade 0R141 | 7A363031001 |
| 5/25/2021 | Southern California Edison | Havasu Landing Whipple 66 Kilovolt Subtransmission Line Infrastructure Replacement | 7B363050001 |
| 5/26/2021 | Emory Trust | Emory Runway Extension Project | 7B333029001 |

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 |
| 5 | Heber PUD | Total Suspended Solids | \$6,000 | 4/5/21 | 4/27/21 | 4/29/21 | 5/28/21 | | 2 |
| | TOTAL: | | \$45,000 *\$96,000 | | | | | | 15 *30 |

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (June 2021)

| No. of Facilities | No. of Violations |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6 | 34 |

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