

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

Office
73-720 Fred Waring Dr. #100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

WaterBoards.ca.gov/Coloradoriver/

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



April 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 February 2023 in the region:

1. LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

Notices of Violation/Noncompliance: One Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to a Discharger for violations of Waste Discharge Requirements and the California Water Code.

- Zivadin LLC was issued a NOV on February 15, 2023, for the Valley View Trailer Village Domestic Wastewater Treatment System (Facility). The Facility is located in Thermal, CA. It receives and treats wastewater from the surrounding community. The NOV states during an inspection of the Facility on December 2, 2022, Regional Water Board staff observed that the Discharger failed to contain the untreated/partially treated waste in the manner prescribed in the Facility's Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R7-2016-0023 (Board Order), originally issued on June 30, 2016. The Discharger is required to immediately implement corrective action to come into compliance with the Facility's Board Order and submit a written report to the Regional Water Board by March 15, 2023, that further describes the cause of the noncompliance and the steps that will be taken to come back into compliance. Also enclosed in the letter was a copy of the Facility's Board Order. Riverside County [*Reginald Tan*]

Approvals and Notifications: Four Approval/Notifications were issued to dischargers:

- On February 6, 2023, Imperial County Department of Public Works (Discharger) was issued a letter responding to an email from the Discharger dated January 31, 2023, requesting a one-month extension to submit an Application and Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to update the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Imperial County Department of Community and Economic Development's Poe Colonia (Cady Subdivision) Community Subsurface Wastewater Disposal System. The additional time was requested to finalize the missing/incomplete components of the Application/ROWD, including the waste characterization. The revised due date to submit the Application/ROWD is March 3, 2023. Imperial County [*Adrianna Godinez*]
- On February 24, 2023, Hi-Desert Water District (Discharger) was issued a letter responding to a proposal from the Discharger dated September 12, 2022, requesting approval to install four seepage pits within the existing percolation ponds of its Yucca Valley Wastewater Reclamation Plant. The request states the seepage pits are necessary to maintain the percolation ponds' performance as a preemptive measure for future flow increases associated with the Ground Water Replenishment and Reuse Project (GRRP). The proposed four seepage pits to be installed in each percolation pond will each be 30 feet deep and have a diameter of 48 inches. The Discharger is required to submit a Title 22 engineering report detailing the design of the pits along with monthly updates of the project in their regularly scheduled self-

monitoring Reporting Program associated with Board Order R7-2022-0014, originally signed on June 14, 2022. San Bernardino County [Adrianna Godinez]

- On February 24, 2023, OWB Packers, LLC (Discharger) was issued a letter responding to their Proposed Change of Sludge Disposal letter dated December 5, 2022. In the letter, the Discharger proposed to change its location of sludge disposal for the dewatered sludge generated from its wastewater treatment facility (Facility) from the South Yuma County Landfill in Yuma, Arizona to the Salton City Class III Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility, near Salton City, California. The Salton City Landfill includes a lined waste management unit that is suitable to accept the waste. Imperial County [Adrianna Godinez]
- On February 28, 2023, Southern California Gas Company (Discharger) was issued a letter confirming the Dischargers actions in response to an excessive leachate generation event that occurred on August 22, 2022, at the Blythe Compressor Station (Facility), Evaporation Pond Number 2, a Class II Surface impoundment, waste management unit (WMU) were in compliance with the requirements of the Facility's Board Order, R7-2020-0015 (Board Order). The excessive leachate generation event generated 110 gallons of leachate in a 24-hour period, and the Facility's Reporting Threshold is defined as 100 gallons in a 24-hour period in the Facility's Board Order. The excessive generation event was discovered on August 22, 2022, during a weekly system inspection. The remaining leachate was immediately pumped into an adjacent WMU, Pond 4. Subsequently, the Discharger made verbal and written notification to the Regional Water Board to satisfy the Facility's reporting requirements. On August 30, 2022, the Discharger submitted a 7-day written follow-up report stating that the liner was going to be investigated and repaired if necessary. On September 28, 2022, the Discharger submitted a Final Report detailing the repair work that occurred on Pond 2's liner system. Riverside County [Zakary Owens]

Notice of Terminations: Seven Notifications were issued to dischargers:

- Flora Holding Group LLC was issued a Notice of Termination on February 14, 2023, for cannabis cultivation activities at 1500 South Broadway, Blythe, CA. The Discharger submitted a request for termination on January 23, 2023, that stated the cultivation activities at the site were never initiated. The Discharger also submitted a Site Closure Report, dated January 24, 2023. Riverside County [Cannabis Unit]
- Detachment 5 was issued a Notice of Termination on February 14, 2023, for cannabis cultivation activities at 27600 Sierra Del Sol, Thousand Palms, CA. The Discharger submitted a request for termination on February 13, 2023, that stated the cultivation activities at the site were never initiated. The Discharger also submitted a Site Closure Report, dated February 13, 2023. Riverside County [Cannabis Unit]
- True Tissue Culture, Inc. was issued a Notice of Termination on February 15, 2023, for cannabis cultivation activities at 64125 19th Avenue #1K, Desert Hot Springs, CA.

The Discharger submitted a request for termination on February 13, 2023, that stated the cultivation activities at the site were never initiated. The Discharger also submitted a Site Closure Report, dated February 13, 2023. Riverside County [*Cannabis Unit*]

- GHC Ventures, LLC was issued a Notice of Termination on February 28, 2023, for cannabis cultivation activities at 48115 Harrison Street Unit P, Coachella, CA. The Discharger submitted a request for termination on February 15, 2023, that stated the cultivation activities at the site were never initiated. The Discharger also submitted a Site Closure Report, dated February 15, 2023. Riverside County [*Cannabis Unit*]
- PCC Cathedral City, LLC was issued a Notice of Termination on February 28, 2023, for cannabis cultivation activities at 68956 Perez Road Suite C, Cathedral City, CA. The Discharger submitted a request for termination on February 15, 2023, that stated the cultivation activities at the site were never initiated. The Discharger also submitted a Site Closure Report, dated February 15, 2023. Riverside County [*Cannabis Unit*]
- Black Lion Farms LLC was issued a Notice of Termination on February 28, 2023, for cannabis cultivation activities at 64125 19th Avenue Building 2C & 2D, Desert Hot Springs, CA. The Discharger submitted a request for termination on February 15, 2023, stating the facility had erroneously received duplicative coverage under the General Order. Riverside County [*Cannabis Unit*]
- Trinity 341, LLC was issued a Notice of Termination on February 28, 2023 for cannabis cultivation activities at 2421 North Enterprise Boulevard, Calexico, CA. The Discharger submitted a request for termination on February 15, 2023, that stated the cultivation activities at the site were never initiated. The Discharger also submitted a Site Closure Report, dated February 15, 2023. Imperial County [*Cannabis Unit*]

2. WATER QUALITY/NON-POINT SOURCE PROGRAMS

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group

On February 7-9, 2023, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group met in Palm Desert at the Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) office. CVWD gave a presentation on water use in the Coachella Valley and provided a field trip to the Salton Sea to see projects in progress. The Work Group went over the 2023 Triennial Review including input on salinity economic impact modeling projections. Federal agency partners, including U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), presented updates on their various salinity control projects in the Basin. Presentations on three proposed projects to be funded by the Forum were heard including a map-based product for data visualization and upper Colorado River long-term trends. Funding will be awarded after recommendation from the Science Team. [*Emma McCorkle, SES*]

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 February 2023.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
February 6, 2023	Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of First Groundwater Monitoring Report, Pursuant to Board Order No. R7-2019-0016 and Reporting Program Order No. R7-2019-0016-02	Big Bend Resort, 501 Parker Dam Road, EARP, San Bernardino County, GeoTracker ID No. T0607100968; BLM No. CAAZCA27430	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
February 7, 2023	Conditional Approval of ISCO Evaluation Report	Big Bend Resort, 501 Parker Dam Road, EARP, San Bernardino County, GeoTracker ID No. T0607100968; BLM No. CAAZCA27430	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
February 7, 2023	Review of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms Community Involvement Plan	Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, Global ID No: DOD 100399200	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
February 8, 2023	Closure/No Further Action Letter	Riverside (RVSD) County Former Mecca Fire Station No 40, 91100 Fourth Street, Mecca, California 92254, GeoTracker ID No. T0606500985	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
February 22, 2023	Comments On and Conditional Approval of Addendum To The 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

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
February 24, 2023	Conditional Approval of Revised Work Plan for Installation of And Maintenance of The Accelerated Remedial Technology System, 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. 7T2 231 023, GeoTracker File T0602514171	Thomas Browne Water Resource Control Engineer

4. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

Brawley Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)

On January 13, 2022, Stipulated Order No. R7-2021-0042 was adopted to resolve violations that occurred at the Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant. The total liability was \$48,000; \$18,950 was to be used to implement two SEPs: the Cross Connection Control and Education Program (SEP 1); and the Distribution of Low Flow Nozzles and Drought Materials Project (SEP 2). On January 28, 2022, the Discharger paid \$29,050 to the Cleanup and Abatement Account.

On February 27, 2023, the Discharger submitted a detailed Final Report for SEP 1 and SEP 2, which illustrates a summary of each completed task with accounting details of all expenditures. As indicated in the report, the Discharger purchased and distributed 500 eco-friendly tote bags containing 500 hose bib vacuum breakers and 500 low-flow showerhead nozzles, along with backflow and cross-connection control literature. The city also built a functional model that demonstrates the hazards of cross connection for both back-siphonage and back pressure. A video of the model was produced in English and Spanish and made available for viewing on social media platforms and their city website. Drought literature coloring books with crayons, water conservation magnets, and stickers were distributed at local elementary schools and various basketball games hosted at their local recreational facility. Ninety-five percent of all items purchased were distributed, and a cross-connection model was developed, the two SEPs were deemed successfully completed. *[Maribel Schiavone, SEA]*

401 Water Quality Certifications (Dredge or Fill Discharge): The following table shows the certifications that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in February 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#
02/08/2023	Southern California Gas Company	L6001 MP23.88 Recoat Project	7A133174001

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	3/21/2023	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
	TOTAL:		\$78,000 *\$126,000						26 *42

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (February 2023)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
5	37

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