

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER (CDO) R7-2012-0024
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
PERMIT CA0104451
ISSUED TO
NILAND SANITARY DISTRICT,
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
Niland – Imperial County

California Water Code section 13301 authorizes the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (hereinafter Regional Board) to issue a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) to require the Niland Sanitary District (hereinafter Discharger), to cease and desist from discharging waste in violation of NPDES permit requirements and to comply with the terms and conditions set forth herein. This Order supersedes CDO R7-2009-0007 and provides a revised time schedule for the Discharger to construct necessary alternative treatment facilities to comply with the Final Effluent Limitations set forth in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R7-2008-0020 (NPDES No. CA104451).

FINDINGS

The Regional Board finds the following:

1. The Discharger owns and operates a publicly owned treatment works (POTW), located at 125 West Alcott Road, Niland, Imperial County, that provides sewerage service to the town of Niland. The treatment system consists of a manual bar screen, three lined partial mix aerated stabilization ponds connected in series, and a chlorination/dechlorination system. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has a treatment capacity of 0.50 million gallons-per-day (MGD). Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to Imperial Irrigation District's "R" Drain, within the Salton Sea Watershed, which flows four miles and then discharges into the Salton Sea. The "R" Drain and the Salton Sea are waters of the United States.
2. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (Basin Plan), as amended to date, designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in the Colorado River Basin Region. The designated beneficial uses of waters in the Imperial Valley Drains, including but not limited to the "R" Drain, are as follows:
 - a. Fresh Water Replenishment of Salton Sea (FRSH)
 - b. Water Contact Recreation (REC I)^{1, 2}
 - c. Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC II)¹
 - d. Warm Water Habitat (WARM)
 - e. Wildlife Habitat (WILD)
 - f. Preservation of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species (RARE)³
3. On November 19, 2008, the Regional Board adopted WDRs Order R7-2008-0020 (NPDES Permit CA0104451) for the Discharger to regulate discharges of wastewater

¹ Unauthorized use.

² The only Rec 1 usage that is known to occur is from infrequent fishing.

³ Rare, endangered, or threatened wildlife exists in or utilizes some of these waterway(s). If the RARE beneficial use may be affected by a water quality control decision, responsibility for substantiation of the existence of rare, endangered, or threatened species on a case-by-case basis is upon the California Department of Fish and Game on its own initiative and/or at the request of the Regional Board; and such substantiation must be provided within a reasonable time frame as approved by the Regional Board.

from the WWTP. WDRs Order R7-2008-0020 specifies effluent limitations, prohibitions, specifications, and provisions necessary to protect the beneficial uses of the surface and ground waters within the Colorado River Basin Region. WDRs Order R7-2008-0020 became effective on November 19, 2008 and expires on November 19, 2013.

4. WDR Order R7-2008-0020 (p. 13, § IV.A.1.a) includes, in part, the following "Final Effluent Limitation" for copper with which the Discharger is required to maintain compliance:

Parameter	Effluent Limitations		
	Unit	Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Copper, Total Recoverable	µg/L	19	52
	lbs/day ¹	0.077	0.22

¹ The mass-based effluent limitations are based on a design capacity of 0.50 MGD.

5. Water Code section 13301 states in part:

When a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place, or threatening to take place, in violation of requirements or discharge prohibitions prescribed by the regional board or the state board, the [regional] board may issue an order to cease and desist and direct that those persons not complying with the requirements or discharge prohibitions (a) comply forthwith, (b) comply in accordance with a time schedule set by the board, or (c) in the event of a threatened violation, take appropriate remedial or preventive action.

6. On January 22, 2009, the Regional Board adopted CDO R7-2009-0007 to address chronic violations of the final effluent limitations for copper set forth in WDRs Order R7-2008-0020.

7. Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i) require the Regional Board to impose MMPs upon dischargers that violate certain effluent limitations. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3) exempts the discharge from mandatory minimum penalties "where the waste discharge is in compliance with either a cease and desist order issued pursuant to section 13301 or a time schedule order issued pursuant to section 13300, if all the [specified] requirements are met." Those requirements are summarized as follows:

- a. The effluent limitations are new;
- b. The effluent limitations have become effective after the effective date of the waste discharge requirements and after July 1, 2000.
- c. New or modified control measures are necessary in order to comply with the effluent limitations; and
- d. The new or modified control measures cannot be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days.

8. At the time the Regional Board adopted CDO R7-2009-0007, the final effluent limitations for copper were new parameters established in WDRs Order R7-2008-0020 to reflect a change in the characterization of the receiving waters, and required by the California Toxics Rule, which superseded WDRs Order R7-2003-0049. Those effluent limitations became effective after the effective date of the waste discharge requirements and after July 1, 2000, and new or modified control measures could not be designed, installed, and put into operation within 30 calendar days of the effective date in order to comply with the effluent limitations.
9. Pursuant to Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3), compliance with CDO R7-2009-0007 exempts the Discharger from mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) for violations of the final effluent limitations for copper set forth in WDRs Order R7-2008-0020. The exemption from MMPs became effective upon the adoption of CDO R7-2009-0007.
10. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3) requires the Discharger to prepare and implement a Pollution Prevention Plan pursuant to section 13263.3 of the Water Code. Therefore, a Pollution Prevention Plan will be necessary for copper in order to effectively reduce the effluent concentrations by source control measures.
11. Water Code section 13263.3, subdivision (d)(1) states in relevant part:

 The state board, a regional board, or a POTW may require a discharger subject to its jurisdiction to complete and implement a pollution prevention plan if any of the following apply: (D) The discharger is subject to a cease and desist order issued pursuant to section 13301...
12. Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3)(C)(ii)(II) further provides that the Regional Board may extend the time schedule in a cease and desist order for an additional period not exceeding five years in length if (1) the Discharger can show at a public hearing that it is "making diligent progress toward bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitation" and (2) the Discharger demonstrates that the additional time is necessary to comply with the effluent limitation.
13. CDO R7-2009-0007 required the Discharger to take specific actions as indicated in the following time schedule to achieve compliance with all requirements of Board Order R7-2008-0020, unless the Discharger opted to submit an engineering report by June 30, 2009 that described alternative methods of treatment and disposal to phase out the discharge of waters of the United States.

Milestone	Milestone Description	Milestone Submittal	Completion Date
1	Complete Final Design of Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	Submit a technical report consisting of a copy of the Final Design Drawings to the Regional Board	December 31, 2009
2	Complete Pollution Prevention Plan	Submit technical report consisting of a copy of the Pollution Prevention Plan to the Regional Board	December 31, 2009

Milestone	Milestone Description	Milestone Submittal	Completion Date
3	Complete Construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	Submit a technical report consisting of a Summary and Verification of Construction Completion	September 30, 2010
4	Achieve full compliance with order No. 2008-0020 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104451)	Submit written certification that WWTP is in compliance with Order No. R7-2008-0020 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104451)	December 31, 2010

14. CDO R7-2009-0007 also required the Discharger to submit quarterly reports on the 15th of January, April, July, and October of year that provide the status of the preparation of the Pollution Prevention Plan and Milestones in the time schedule order.
15. Based on the foregoing, compliance with this Order exempts the Discharger from mandatory penalties for violations of effluent limitations in accordance with Water Code section 13385, subdivision (j)(3) from the date of this Order's adoption by the Regional Board.
16. Water Code section 13267, subdivision (b) states:

“In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.”

FACTUAL BASIS FOR EXTENDING TIME SCHEDULE

17. Beginning with the Discharger's April 2009 quarterly report, the Discharger reported that it actively pursued funds to pay for the preparation of a Pollution Prevention Plan or in the alternative an Engineering Report describing alternate methods of treatment and disposal to phase out the discharge of effluent to receiving waters.
18. Via letter dated June 2, 2009, the BECC informed the Discharger that it could not provide funds, at that time, for the Discharger to prepare a Pollution Prevention Plan or in the alternative an Engineering Report describing alternate methods of treatment and disposal to phase out the discharge of effluent to receiving waters.

19. On November 12, 2009, the Discharger in a letter to the Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) requested an extension of the CDO compliance schedule to delay the first milestone deadline “to December 31, 2011 to allow time to pursue and acquire funding to pay for Studies, Engineering Reports, Design, and Technical Drawings and constructions...”
20. In the Discharger’s quarterly report for January 2011 dated January 13, 2011, the Discharger reported that the Imperial County Economic Development Department had secured a grant for \$35,000 to prepare a Pollution Prevention Plan an Engineering Report describing alternate methods of treatment and disposal to phase out the discharge of effluent to receiving waters. The Discharger presented a request for proposal (RFP) to the Imperial County Economic Development Department highlighting three options: (1) installing evaporation percolation ponds, (2) pumping influent directly to the City of Calipatria Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment, and (3) land application. The grant was not awarded, however.
21. In early 2011, Imperial County and the Discharger submitted an application for WWTP improvement funding to the USEPA and Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC). In June 2011, the Discharger received notification from USEPA and BECC that the WWTP improvement project was on the priority list being considered for funding.
22. In a letter dated September 27, 2011 to Niland Sanitary District, the USEPA and BECC informed the Discharger that the project application for the WWTP Improvements “is now officially selected for EPA Region 9’s US-Mexico Border Program Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP) technical assistance funding.” The estimated construction cost was stated as \$6,262,000 (Exhibit “A”).
23. On March 1, 2012, the Discharger in a letter to the AEO requested that the schedule for the completion date be extended to August 30, 2016. The Discharger stated that it would continue to work with funding agencies in securing funding for the design and construction of the WWTP improvements required to comply with WDRs Order R7-2008-0020.
24. Water Code section 13385 (j)(3)(C)(ii)(II) states in relevant parts:

“Following a public hearing, and upon a showing that the discharger is making diligent progress toward bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the effluent limitation, the regional board may extend the time schedule for an additional period not exceeding five years in length, if the discharger demonstrates that the additional time is necessary to comply with the effluent limitation.”
25. As set forth above, the discharger was unable to secure funding for a project that would phase out the discharger of effluent to receiving waters. The completion date has been moved to December 31, 2015, the maximum extension allowed, and the city has shown it has been making diligent progress toward coming into compliance and that the additional time is necessary to comply with the effluent limitation.

26. The Discharger now has funding for construction of the improvement project, and will continue to diligently seek additional funding to comply with WDRs Order R7-2008-0020. As such, the revised time schedule is set forth in the Order.
27. The technical reports required by this Order are necessary to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order, as well as to ensure protection of waters of the state, and to public health and the environment. The burden, including costs, of the reports required by this Order bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to obtain therefrom.
28. The financial assurance required by this Order is necessary to ensure protection of waters of the state, and to public health and the environment. The Discharger's financial situation has necessitated this requirement. The burden required by this Order bears a reasonable relationship to the need for the financial assurance.
29. The Regional Board notified the Discharger and interested persons of its intent to consider adoption of this Cease and Desist Order, and published Public Notice September 7, 2012. The Regional Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments.
30. Issuance of CDO R7-2012-0024 to enforce California Water Code, Division 7, Chapter 5.5 is exempt from the provisions of CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), in accordance with section 15321, subdivision (a)(2) title 14, California Code of Regulations ("Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies").

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Water Codes sections 13301; 13385, subdivision (j)(3), and 13267, the Discharger shall comply with the terms and conditions of this Order:

1. This Order supersedes CDO R7-2009-0007, except for enforcement purposes.
2. Wastewater discharged to the "R" Drain from the Discharger's WWTP shall not exceed the following interim effluent limits for copper¹:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Average Monthly Effluent Limit</u>	<u>Daily Maximum Effluent Limit</u>
Copper, Total Recoverable	µg/L	100	100
	lbs/day	0.154	0.44

¹ The interim effluent limits are based on plant performance data, reference data from representative wastewater treatment facilities, and Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) and have been adjusted from the original order.

3. By **November 30, 2012**, the Discharger is required to prepare and implement a Pollution Prevention Plan pursuant to section 13263.3 of the Water Code. The Discharger must address all of the issues specified in section 13263.3, subdivision (d)(2).

4. The Discharger must complete the specific milestones by the completion date set forth in the following time schedule and submit quarterly progress reports as required in Ordered Paragraph 5:

Milestone	Milestone Description	Milestone Submittal	Completion Date
1	Complete WWTP Preliminary Engineering Report	Submit a Copy of Preliminary Engineering Report to the Regional Board	December 31, 2012
2	Obtain and Secure additional Funding for Design, Bidding, and Construction Costs	Submit a Copy of Funding Agency Approval Letter to Regional Board	June 28, 2013
3	Provide Financial Assurance for Operation and Maintenance of the WWTP	Provide proof of an acceptable mechanism and/or combination of Mechanisms that Demonstrate Financial Responsibility for Operation and Maintenance of WWTP ⁴	June 28, 2013
4	Complete Design of WWTP Improvement	Submit a Copy of Final Design, Drawings, Specifications, and Contract Documents to Regional Board	February 28, 2014
5	Complete Bidding and Award of WWTP Improvements	Submit a Copy of Bidding Documents to Regional Board	July 31, 2014
6	Complete Construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	Submit a Summary and Verification of Construction Completion to Regional Board	December 31, 2015
7	Achieve full compliance with order No. 2008-0020 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104451)	Submit a written certification that WWTP is in compliance with WDRs Order R7-2008-0020 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104451)	December 31, 2015

5. Beginning **January 15, 2013**, the Discharger shall submit quarterly reports, due by the 15th of January, April, July, and October of each year, on the status of the preparation and implementation of the Pollution Prevention Plan required in Ordered Paragraph 2 and the associated Milestones listed in the time schedule in Ordered Paragraph 4, above.

⁴ The Regional Board will accept the following, or any combination of the following mechanisms to demonstrate financial responsibility: (1) Trust Fund; (2) Enterprise Fund; (3) Government Securities; (4) Letter of Credit; (5) Surety Bond; (6) Pledge of Revenue; (7) Financial Means Test; (8) Guarantee; (9) State Approved Mechanism; (10) Insurance; and (11) any other mechanism approved by the Regional Board staff that demonstrates financial responsibility for maintenance and operation of the WWTP.

6. Prior to taking action to implement and/or construct the WWTP Improvements the Discharger shall notify the Regional Board of the proposed action and comply with any requirement that the Regional Board sets.

A. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. **Signatory Requirements.** All reports required under this Order shall be signed and certified by the Discharger or by a duly authorized representative of the Discharger and submitted to the Regional Board staff. A person is a duly authorized representative of the Discharger only if: (1) the authorization is made in writing by the Discharger and (2) the authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility of activity. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.)
2. **Certification.** Include the following signed certification with all reports submitted pursuant to this Order:

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

3. **Duty to Use Registered Professionals.** The Discharger shall provide documentation that plans and reports required under this Order are prepared under the direction of appropriately qualified professionals. California Business and Professions Code sections 675, 7835, and 7835.1 require that engineering and geologic evaluations and judgments be performed by or under the direction of registered professionals. The responsible registered professional shall sign and affix his/her registration stamp to the report, plan, or document.
4. **Report Submittals.** All monitoring and technical reports required under this Order shall be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Attn: Doug Wylie
Phone: (760) 776-8960

B. NOTIFICATIONS

1. **Regional Board Authority to Require Reports.** The information required in Ordered Paragraphs 3 and 5, above, is required to be provided pursuant to Water Code section 13267, and is necessary to ensure that the Discharger has taken appropriate action to abate the discharge of waste in violation of WDRs Order R7-2008-0020.

2. **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance.** Issuance of this Order is an enforcement action taken by a regulatory agency and is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, title 14, section 15321 subdivision (a)(2).
3. **Requesting Administrative Review by the State Water Board.** Any person aggrieved by an action of the Water Board that is subject to review as set forth in Water Code section 13320, subdivision (a), may petition the State Water Board to review the action. Any petition must be made in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition within 30 days of the date the action was taken, except that if the thirtieth day following the date the action was taken falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, then the State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulation applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publicnotices/petitions/waterquality> or will be provided upon request.
4. **Enforcement Notification.** Failure to comply with the requirements of this Order may subject the Discharger to additional enforcement action, including, but not limited to, the imposition of administrative civil liability pursuant to California Water Code sections 13268 and/or 13350, or referral to the Attorney General of the State of California for injunctive relief or civil or criminal liability. Pursuant to Water Code section 13350, \$5,000 in administrative civil liability may be imposed for each day in which the violation(s) occurs under Water Code section 13304; and pursuant to Water Code section 13268, \$1,000 in administrative civil liability may be imposed for each day in which the violation(s) occurs under Water Code section 13267.

I, Robert Perdue, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on September 20, 2012.


ROBERT PERDUE, Executive Officer

EXHIBIT "A"



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 9 – 75 HAWTHORNE STREET – SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
TOLL FREE (866)-EPA-WEST-(415) 947-8000
WWW.EPA.GOV



BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 221648-EL PASO, TX 79913
(877)277-1703 – FAX (915) 975-8280

September 27, 2011

John Almuetti
Board of Directors
P.O. Box 40
125 West Alcott Rd.
Niland, CA 92257

Subject: Selection for Project Development Assistance Program Funding

Dear Mr. Almuetti:

This letter is to inform you that the project application for the **Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements for Niland, CA** is now officially selected for EPA Region 9's US-Mexico Border Program PDAP technical assistance funding.

Imperial County and Niland Sanitary District have met the requirements to complete the pre-selection process as agreed in our meeting held on July 13th, 2011. These requirements consisted of providing the following documentation:

- County Board of Supervisors Resolution
- Niland Sanitary District Board Resolution
- Niland Sanitary District and County commitment letters

At this time, your project is selected for PDAP funding only, which is administered by the BECC. As discussed in our pre-selection meeting, PDAP funding supports project development tasks such as planning, environmental analysis, and design. When your project completes planning and design, it will be automatically considered for BEIF funding for construction and construction management, subject to available funding. It will not be necessary to reapply for BEIF funding.

All project development activities, including final design, must be achieved within two years from the date of this letter. In addition, the project must be developed to meet a three-year construction timeline. Activities supported by PDAP funds must be consistent with the project as defined in the Project Application, follow-up inquiries and subsequent Documentation Phase. The following is a brief description of the scope of the project selected for funding:

- ✓ **Intended Project Scope:** *The project proposes to improve the existing wastewater treatment plant to address chronic exceedances of copper, BOD, and E. Coli. Three possible alternatives have been identified for review as part of an alternative analysis: (1) upgrade the WWTP and continue current disposal method; (2) change effluent disposal*

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method to non-discharging (land application); or (3) convey the wastewater effluent to alternative treatment site (Calipatria, CA). The project will benefit a population of 1,153 inhabitants, which corresponds to 788 benefited wastewater connections. The estimated project cost is \$6,262,000 USD.

(Please refer to the attached Project Summary and Schedule for a detailed description of the project's categorization, scope and other important project information. Note that the scope of the selected project may have been revised as a result of the evaluation process and the pre-selection meeting agreements.)

BECC Project Engineer, Joel Mora, has been assigned to assist with the project development and certification. Prompt attention to the review and approval of the project summary and schedule will be important to the advancement of the project as well as to additional documentation as may be needed to support award of PDAP technical assistance funds. Delays in the project development process that could compromise the two-year project development schedule may result in the project being bypassed and a loss of funding.

We appreciate your efforts in this competitive process and your commitment to addressing health and environmental issues on the U.S.-Mexico border. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Sincerely,



Maria Elena Giner, P.E.
BECC General Manager
(877) 277-1703
mginer@cocef.org



Douglas E. Eberhardt
Chief, Infrastructure Office
EPA Region 9, Water Division
(415) 972-3420
eberhardt.doug@epa.gov

Enclosures

CC: Ralph Cordova Jr., County Executive Officer, Imperial County
Lynn Stabenfeldt, EPA Office of Wastewater Management
Michael Stahl Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs
Gerónimo Gutiérrez, Managing Director, North American Development Bank
Hector Aguirre, EPA Region 9 Border Water Infrastructure Program



Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Project Summary

Project Name: **Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements for Niland, CA.**

Conditions/problems supporting Category 2:

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) does not meet permitted standards for e-coli, BOD and metals (copper). A cease-and-desist order was issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board on January 22, 2009 to Niland for being in chronic violation of effluent discharge limitations for copper. The order required Niland to complete an alternatives analysis, final design and construct the best suited solution by December 31, 2010.

The non-compliant wastewater effluent discharges to “R” Drain surface water, which directly discharges into the Salton Sea. The elevated copper levels in the non-compliant discharge impact threatened or endangered species present in the receiving water body, including: the epifaunal mollusks and backswimmers (*Invertebrate, Physella boucardy DFG TaxonID:20601*) and the mosquito fish (*Actinopterygii, Gambusia affinis DFG TaxonID: 1632*).

Benefited Population: **1,153 inhabitants**

Benefited Connections¹: **788 residential connections**

Estimated Construction Cost²: **\$ 6,262,000 USD**

Project Description:

The proposed project intends to improve the existing wastewater treatment plant to address chronic exceedences of copper, BOD, and E. Coli. Three possible alternatives have been identified for review as part of an alternative analysis: (1) upgrade the WWTP and continue current disposal method; (2) change effluent disposal method to non-discharging (land application); or (3) convey the wastewater effluent to alternative treatment site (Calipatria, CA). No new service connections are planned as a result of this project. Treated wastewater is planned to be reused, a sustainable development element of the project.

The project sponsor shall incorporate green building practices during planning and design as well as an appropriate pretreatment program. In addition, the scope and final cost of the project will be updated based on the completed final design.

Existing studies:

¹Benefited Population/Connections as presented in the Prioritization Review Process to be verified and refined with the advancement of the project.

² Construction Cost as presented in the Project Application or as updated during the evaluation period.

The information presented in this summary reflects the most current project information and does not preclude supplemental information requirements, additional project development tasks, or modifications to the schedule or project scope, as required to maintain program eligibility and/or to achieve certification and financing approval.



Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Project Summary

- **Preliminary Engineering Report**

Project Development Needs:

- **Review institutional capacity for project implementation and long-term O&M**
- **Review potential reclassification of R Drain from saltwater to freshwater and impact on copper limit**
- **Preliminary Engineering Report update**
- **NEPA process**
- **Final design of the WWTP discharge improvements**
- **Financial Analysis and Funding Plan**
- **Public Participation Process**

The information presented in this summary reflects the most current project information and does not preclude supplemental information requirements, additional project development tasks, or modifications to the schedule or project scope, as required to maintain program eligibility and/or to achieve certification and financing approval.