

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



Executive Officer's Report  
June 30, 2016

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## Staff Activities

### A. Basin Planning Unit

Unit Chief: Joan Stormo, Senior Engineering Geologist, P.G.

The priority activities for the Unit continue to be working on the 2014 Triennial Review priority issues, the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Coachella Valley, and special Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) studies; and providing support for Salton Sea management activities. Following the March 10, 2016 Board meeting in Yucca Valley, Unit staff has focused its activities on:

1. Compiling the administrative record for the amendment that revised the Septic Tank Discharge Prohibition for the Town of Yucca Valley, which was adopted on March 10, 2016. On May 23, 2016, the Administrative Record was sent to the State Water Board for review and approval of the Basin Plan amendment; [*Theresa Kimsey, ES*]
2. Coordinating and getting ready for briefing Regional Water Board members on the status of the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP); [*Cathy Sanford, P.G; Joan Stormo, P.G, CHG; Abdi Haile, P.G.*]
3. Attending the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Workshop on the status of the Salton Sea Management Program, which was held in Sacramento on April 19, 2016 [*Jeff Geraci, ES*]; and
4. Coordinating the Spring 2016 SWAMP sediment and surface water sampling event. [*Jeff Geraci, ES*]

**Triennial Review**—Unit staff has completed the draft staff report regarding beneficial uses of the Imperial County wetlands, which is one of the Triennial Review priority issues. Staff also completed and sent the Triennial Review Administrative Record to the State Water Resources Control Board in May 2016. Further, staff continues working on the other Triennial Review priority issues: updating the Basin Plan’s information on the Salton Sea, investigating the water quality threat of septic systems in La Quinta Cove, continuing the fish tissue study, and performing the bioassessment study of non-perennial and intermittent surface waters. A draft report on the bioassessment study is expected in late June 2016. A draft report on the fish tissue study is expected to be ready in August 2016. [*Joan Stormo, P.G.*]

**Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV SNMP)**—Jose L. Angel, Executive Officer, met with Jim Barrett (Coachella Valley Water District General Manager), Brian Macy (Indio Water Authority General Manager), and Mark Krause (Desert Water Agency General Manager) on April 7 and May 18, 2016, to hear their perspectives on the SNMP, to reset the tone of the discussions between them and office staff, and to discuss ways to address policy and water quality concerns with their current proposed CV SNMP.

Regional Water Board staff briefed three Board members on June 1, 2016, and two Board members on June 9, 2016, about the status of the SNMP, the meetings between Mr. Angel and the above-mentioned water district Managers, and about staff’s fundamental concerns with the proposed CV SNMP. Steve Williams, District Engineer from the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water, participated in the briefings and provided his perspective on the drinking water standards for Total Dissolved Solids (i.e., the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels

(MCLs)). Tom Vandenberg, Board Counsel, also participated in the briefings. Regional Water Board staff is preparing a work plan to develop site-specific objectives for TDS for the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

**Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)**—Board staff completed its spring sampling in April 2016. Sediment and water samples were collected from five sites at the Salton Sea and were tested for selenium and pesticides. Sediment and water samples were collected for toxicity identification and evaluation in an effort to determine sources of toxicity in the Salton Sea. Finally, three constructed wetlands in Imperial Valley were sampled to evaluate their performance, and to assess the potential for bioaccumulation based on concentrations of selenium and organics, including legacy pesticides. [Jeff Geraci, ES]

**Salton Sea Management Activities**—please refer to page 10 of this report for an update on this item.

## B. Underground Storage Tank/Cleanup Unit

Unit Chief: John Carmona, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.

**USEPA Brownfields Program**—Unit staff continues to work with USEPA to identify leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) at sites that can be assessed by USEPA at no cost to the responsible party under the Program. [Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE]

**USEPA Brownfields Workshop “Back in Business: Resources for Redevelopment and Land Recycling.”** Staff attended the workshops held on April 12 and April 13. [Maria Davydova, ES; Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE; and John Carmona, Senior WRCE, P.E.]

**Department of Defense (DoD) Program**—Board staff has already exceeded target goals for the DoD Program. See table below. [Phan Le, WRCE; Robert Perdue, Supervising EG, P.G.]

Fiscal Year	Target Description	Target	Completed	% Complete
2015-16	No. of Sites New into Active Remediation	2	3	150%

The DoD Program has been reassigned to Robert Perdue, Supervising EG.

**Site Cleanup Program**—Board staff completed program target goals, see table below. [Rosalyn Fleming and Phan Le]

Fiscal Year	Target Description	Target	Completed	% Complete
2015-16	No. of Sites New into Active Remediation	2	2	100%
	No. of Sites Projected Closed	2	2	100%

**Underground Storage Tank Program**—Board staff are working towards meeting program target goals, see table below. [Rosalyn Fleming, Kola Olatunbosun, Phan Le]

Fiscal Year	Target Description	Target	Completed	% Complete
2015-16	No. of Sites New into Active Remediation	7	7	100%
	No. of Sites Closed	7	6	86%

**Low-Threat Closure Policy**—Unit staff continues to perform more extensive review of cases to identify and address impediments to case closure. [*Rosalyn Fleming, Kola Olatunbosun, and Phan Le, WRCEs*]

**UST Roundtable Meeting**—The office hosted the meeting on May 4, 2016.

**Environmental Justice**—Please refer to “Environmental Justice” Section of this report (p. 12).

### C. Total Maximum Daily Load Unit

Unit Chief: Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist, Ph.D.

TMDL staff continue to implement four Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for agricultural discharges in the Bard Unit, Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and Palo Verde Valley and Mesa. Essentially, all agricultural areas in the region (99.7%) are now regulated by Conditional Waivers.

**Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**—This Waiver expires in September 2017. Staff is proposing to replace the Waiver with General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). A draft on the proposed WDRs and supporting CEQA documents are currently being reviewed by the Board’s management team. Staff is also discussing the proposal with PVID about the Coalition that was formed by PVID to implement the Waiver. Further, staff is also consulting with USEPA about the proposed WDRs to ensure they address USEPA’s concerns about DDT and Toxaphene impairments in Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon. Staff is waiting to hear from USEPA on whether the approach is acceptable. On March 10, 2016, TMDL staff gave a presentation to the Regional Water Board about the proposal. Based on Board direction, staff is also making arrangements for a Public Workshop on the proposed WDRs for July or August 2016. On March 29, 2016, the Palo Verde Valley Coalition submitted an Annual Monitoring Report for 2015 to the Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. TMDL staff is reviewing the Report. [*Francisco Costa, Ph.D., ES*]

**Imperial Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**--In January 2016, the Imperial Irrigation District submitted a draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and a draft Updated Drain Water Quality Improvement Plan (DWQIP) and Surface Water Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (SWMRP) for monitoring required by the Imperial Valley Conditional Waiver. Staff reviewed the draft QAPP and the draft Updated DWQIP/SWMRP and provided written comments on the submittals to the IID. In May 2016, the Executive Officer approved the submittals for implementation, but conditioned his approval on IID revising the submittals, as requested by staff. [*Logan Raub, ES*]

**Coachella Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**—On March 4, 2016, TMDL staff mailed a letter to approximately 300 Coachella Valley water account holders, potential Responsible Parties, notifying them of the need to take action to comply with the Conditional Waiver. Unfortunately, the list of entities and people who received the letter listed entities and people who do not need to obtain coverage under the Waiver. Also, many of the recipients of the letter did not understand the letter because they do not speak English. As a result of these inadvertent errors, on March 15, 2016, Mr. Jose L. Angel (then the Interim Executive Officer)

sent another letter in English and Spanish explaining the requirement of the Waiver, how to comply with it, and who needs obtain coverage under the Waiver. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On March 11, 2016, Mr. Angel met with Ben Olson, President of the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (Coalition); Ellen Trover from the Riverside County Farm Bureau; and Kristen Dickerson (Olson Engineering) to improve communication between staff, the Coalition, and the farming community; prevent problems like the ones caused by the March 4, 2016 letter; work more collaboratively; and ensure the Waiver is implemented successfully. On April 18, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer met with Lorrie Cooper (Coalition Manager), Ben Olson, Steve Bigley from CVWD, and Ellen Trover to follow up on the March 11, 2016 meeting and formed a Management Committee to make policy recommendations regarding the Waiver. The Committee members are Steve Bigley, Ben Olson, Lorrie Cooper, Ellen Trover, and Mr. Angel. The Committee will be meeting quarterly and one of its tasks will be providing a biannual report on the implementation of the Waiver. During the meeting, Mr. Angel discussed lessons learned from the March 4 letter and ways to improve communication at all levels and work more collaboratively with the farming community. He also informed the meeting participants that he is working with the State Water Board Office of Public Participation to schedule two informational workshops (one in Spanish and one in English) as part of an essential outreach and education effort that should take place before any additional enforcement takes place against people who need to obtain coverage under the Waiver, but have not yet obtained such coverage. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On March 18, 2016, the Coachella Valley Coalition submitted an Annual Monitoring Report for the year 2015 to the Regional Water Board. TMDL Unit staff is reviewing the Report for adequacy and compliance with the Waiver. [*Jeong-Hee Lim, Ph.D., WRCE*]

**Bard Unit Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs**—On March 10, 2016, the Bard Unit Coalition submitted an Annual Monitoring Report for the year 2015 to the Regional Water Board. TMDL Unit staff is reviewing the Report for adequacy and compliance with the Waiver. [*Francisco Costa, Ph.D., ES*]

**Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List**—TMDL staff developed and submitted a report for approval to the State Water Board and USEPA recommending the delisting of diazinon from the Region's 303(d) List for the Alamo and New Rivers. The State Water Board does not plan to modify the State's 303(d) List for Region 7 until 2018. [*Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.*]

**TMDL Implementation**—Unit staff has prepared reports to update the Regional Water Board on the status of implementation of the Coachella Stormwater Channel Bacteria TMDL and the Imperial Valley Sediment TMDL. Staff plans to present these updates to the Regional Water Board at a public informational workshop after the Board's June 30, 2016 meeting. [*Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.*]

## **D. NPDES Unit**

Unit Chief, Kai Dunn, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E., Ph.D.

**CVWD WRP#4 WWTP** – Regional Water Board staff conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Water Reclamation Plant No. 4 in Thermal on March 8, 2016. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with

the Facility NPDES Permit, to review the receiving water and monitoring locations, and to determine the accuracy and reliability of the Discharger's self-monitoring and reporting program. The Discharger had made substantial improvements to allow easier access to the receiving water for sample collection (access to the Stormwater Channel during a storm event can be extremely hazardous). New headworks have also been installed at the Facility, with an improved odor control system now in operation. Following the inspection, Regional Water Board rated the Facility as "Satisfactory" based on the operations and processes inspected. The Facility's NPDES permit expired on May 31, 2017. A draft renewed permit is scheduled for consideration of renewal at the Board's June 30, 2016 meeting. [*Anders Wistrom/Kai Dunn*]

**City of Imperial WWTP**—Regional Water Board staff conducted a re-inspection of the City of Imperial (City) Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility) on April 15, 2016. The purpose of the Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was to inspect new wastewater conveyance facilities, which include an upgraded lift-station equipped with an odor removal system, and review progress on new headworks and sludge management facility improvements. The odor removal system is based on pure oxygen generation and injection into the main sewer conveyance line leading to the WWTP. The sludge management facility improvements have been completed and allow the Discharger to filter influent wastewaters and divert screened solids and Biochemical Oxygen Demand to the local landfill while extending the capacity of the existing biological treatment trains. The waste activated sludge (WAS) from the biological treatment is now pumped directly to mechanical dewatering, which has allowed the Discharger to abandon the old Imhoff tanks and sludge drying beds. Now, dewatered sludge is shipped directly to the landfill. The Facility's NPDES permit will expire on September 30, 2020. [*Anders Wistrom/Kai Dunn*]

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum**—The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) was formed in 1973 by the seven states within the Colorado River Basin. The Forum is preparing the upcoming 2017 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity for the Colorado River. The Forum formed a committee to review its NPDES Permit Program Policies and determine if there is a need to update, revise and/or reorganize these policies. The committee has developed a salinity questionnaire/survey to be completed by NPDES permit writers in the seven states and USEPA Regions within the Colorado River Basin. Regional Water Board staff participated in the survey in mid-April 2016. The committee will review the findings of the survey and make recommendations to the Forum at the June 2016 Regional Water Board meeting. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRC Engineer, Ph.D., P.E.*]

**Pretreatment Compliance Inspections and Pretreatment Workshop**—Regional Water Board staff and Tetra Tech (a USEPA contractor) conducted Pretreatment Compliance Inspections (PCIs) and a Pretreatment Workshop on May 31 through June 2, 2016, in Imperial County. The Workshop was held in El Centro and was designed to provide technical support to the informal Pretreatment Programs at the cities of Calexico, El Centro, and Imperial. While the general pretreatment regulations require certain publicly owned treatment works having significant non-domestic sources discharging wastewater to the sewer system to establish a Pretreatment Program, the Regional Water Board staff supports the creation of informal Pretreatment Programs as an effective tool to track non-domestic discharges and, if the opportunity arises, accommodate the establishment of new industrial dischargers.

The Pretreatment Workshop was attended by approximately 20 persons representing almost all of the POTWs in Imperial County. The topics this year focused on the new Pretreatment Toolkit and how it can be utilized to develop pretreatment procedures. Practical information, templates, and examples were provided. The Workshop also included exercises on the creation and development of a Sewer Use Ordinance, Enforcement Response Plan, Inspection Procedures,

Industrial Waste Survey, Permit Templates, Reporting and Public Notifications. Presentations at the Workshop were conducted by both Tetra Tech and Regional Water Board staff. [*Kai Dunn Senior WRCE, P.E., Ph.D.; Anders Wistrom, WRCE, P.E., Ph.D.*]

**CWA Water Quality Certifications**—The following table shows all of the Certifications that the Regional Water Board has issued since December 2015 through April 18, 2016. [*Jay Mirpour, WRC Engineer*]

<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Orders Issued/Denied</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>WDID#</b>
<a href="#"><u>04/07/2016</u></a>	In review process	Ocotillo Solar LLC	Ocotillo Wells Solar	7B133038001
<a href="#"><u>03/02/2016</u></a>	4/19/2016	County of Riverside	Avenue 66 Grade Separation Project	7A333158001
<a href="#"><u>02/02/2016</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>03/24/2016</u></a>	Union Pacific Railroad	Union Pacific Railroad - Milepost (MP) 657.99 Culvert Installation Project	7A133145001
<a href="#"><u>02/01/2016</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>03/09/2016</u></a>	Coachella Valley Water District	CVWD Whitewater Park Concrete Slope Protection	7A333155001
<a href="#"><u>12/17/2015</u></a>	4/14/2016	The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Whitewater River / Colorado River Aqueduct Siphon Scour Protection Project	7A333152001
<a href="#"><u>12/16/2015</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>02/16/2016</u></a>	Davidson Communities	Line 29 – Tahquitz Creek Storm Drain Outlet Project	7A333154001

### **E. Non-Chapter 15, Chapter 15 Unit**

Unit Chief: Doug Wylie, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.

**Local Agency Management Programs (LAMP) Development**—Board staff continues to work with Riverside, Imperial, and San Bernardino County Health Department staff to collaborate on the development of their LAMPs. Staff is preparing the tentative Board resolutions, approving the Imperial and Riverside County LAMPs. In addition, staff attended the Imperial County Board of Supervisors’ meeting in El Centro on April 26, 2016, when it adopted its LAMP. *Doug Wylie, P.E., Senior WRCE; Jose Cortez, P.E., WRCE*

**Composting General Order**—The State Water Board adopted the General Order for composting activities on August 4, 2015. Board staff is coordinating with local compost companies in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys to enroll them in the General Order. Based on recommendation by the Regional Water Board staff, the Executive Officer enrolled SA Recycling into the General Order on June 9, 2016. [*Jennie Snyder, WRCE, P.E.*]

**Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II)**—On April 21, 2016, staff participated in a public meeting in Regional Water Board offices with California Energy Commission staff, the applicant, Tribal members and representatives, and other interested parties on the proposed construction of a second natural gas power plant in Blythe. The Commission approved this project's Application for Certification on December 14, 2005. The Sonoran Energy Project is a nominally rated 520 MW combined-cycle power plant. Water to operate the facility will be supplied by one additional groundwater well having the capacity to pump up to 3,000 gallons per minute. Supply and wastewater treatment systems being constructed as part of the approved Project will be duplicated from Blythe Energy Project Phase I. [*Jennie Snyder, WRCE, P.E.*]

**Earthrise Nutritionals**—Staff has determined that the facility needs to be regulated pursuant to Title 27, Division 2 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR, Title 27), which prescribes waste containment through double-lined waste management units (WMUs) and comprehensive monitoring of the discharge and integrity of the containment units, among other requirements. The proposed WDRs for the facility will be tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Board at its September 15, 2016 public meeting. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE; and Jennie Snyder, WRCE, P.E.*]

**New River Monitoring at the International Boundary**—Board staff conducted monthly monitoring of the New River at the International Boundary on April 6, May 18, and June 1, 2016. Ian James, a reporter with the Desert Sun newspaper, was present during the June 1 sampling event and interviewed staff members Logan Raub and Jose Figueroa-Acevedo during the event. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE; Logan Raub, ES*]

**New Projects for Permitting**—Staff has received numerous Reports of Waste Discharge (ROWDs) and engineering reports for proposed residential, restaurant and hotel projects in unsewered areas of Palm Springs, Yucca Valley, and Desert Center. After reviewing the ROWDs, staff will prepare the appropriate permitting for the facilities, either enrollment in a General Order or preparation of individual Waste Discharge Requirements. [*All unit staff*]

## **F. Administrative Unit**

Unit Chief: Hilda Vasquez, Staff Services Manager I

**Board Meeting Room Audio-Visual Improvement Project**— Unit staff continues to work closely with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Information Technology (DIT) staff to implement the audio/visual and related improvements to the Board meeting room. The new chairs for the Board were received, bids on the installation of the new TV screen and possible purchase of an additional wall screen (west side windows) were received. The cables/adapters for the individual monitors for Board members have been ordered, the adapter to connect additional microphones was received, and the ordering of a new dais is pending vendor availability. Due to fiscal year end, all work orders were postponed until next fiscal year

starting July 1, 2016. Upon approved budget of Fiscal Year 16/17, we will move forward with the upgrades to the Board room and Conference room. [*Mary Castañeda, AGPA*]

**Board Workshop and May 12, Board Meeting** – On April 27, 2016, the Unit completed compiling the Agenda for the May 12, 2016 Board meeting and assisted with the posting of all related Public Notices for the informational workshop held on March 3, 2016. The Unit also completed preparations for and assisted during the March 28, 2016 Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Board Workshop. Due to cancellation of the May 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, most of the Agenda items were moved to the June 30, 2016 Board Meeting Agenda. [*Mary Castañeda, AGPA*]

**Office Visitors and Public Records Act (PRA) Requests** – During the February 18, 2016 to June 10, 2016 period:

- The office had 64 visitors. [*Terry Barnes, OT*]
- The office has received and responded to 102 Public Records Act requests YTD, including a request from the Desert Sun about New River pollution. [*Soni Wells, AGPA*]

**Records Retention Project** – Unit staff continues to sort, organize, and prepare historic files for shipping to the State Records Center in Sacramento for archiving. To date, 42 boxes of Stormwater and Underground Storage Tank program files have been completed and will be shipped once the Department of General Services approval has been received. Staff is currently working on various program case files. [*Terry Barnes, OT*]

**Business Management (Property)** – Unit staff is working with the State Water Resources Control Board, which is coordinating with the Department of General Services, to facilitate the transfer of the Board's Boston whaler boat to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Unit is also working internally with technical staff to survey out (donate) all surplus field supplies and equipment currently stored in the Field Storage Room. [*Soni Wells, AGPA*]

## Issues of Regional Significance

### A. New River Pollution from Mexico

**New River in Calexico**—Since late March 2016, Jose L. Angel has participated in five meetings with staff from the Governor's Office, CalEPA's Executive Team, Natural Resources Agency, State Transportation Agency, and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia's office (D-Coachella) to discuss implementation of New River Improvement Project recommendations for the City of Calexico area. A draft project implementation plan for Calexico has been prepared. On April 12 and June 9, 2016, Mr. Angel met with Nick Finley, City of Calexico Interim Manager, to discuss the status of the Project. On April 19, 2016, the City authorized Mr. Finley to be a co-applicant for a Proposition 1 grant to fund the design and environmental documentation for the improvement projects for the New River in the Calexico area. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

**New River in Mexicali**—Jose Figueroa-Acevedo participated in the Binational Observation Tour of the New River in Mexicali and meeting of the Binational Technical Committee (BTC) for the Mexicali/New River Sanitation Program on April 28, 2016. The most recent BTC meeting and observation tour were held on June 23, 2016. Jose Figueroa-Acevedo represented the office at the meeting and tour. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.; Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, WRCE*]

## B. Salton Sea

**Salton Sea Management Program**—The California Natural Resources Agency is the state lead for the Salton Sea Management Program. Board staff Jeff Geraci is the office’s coordinator for Salton Sea restoration activities. He also represents the office in the Agency’s Long-Range Planning Committee. Jose L. Angel is representing the office in the Agency’s Science Committee and Maria Davydova has been designated to participate on behalf of the office in the Agency’s Outreach and Education Committee. The committees meet periodically, typically at least monthly. Board Staff is working across Units to ensure Regional Water Board staff activities and programs facilitate management and restoration of the Salton Sea a priority. Staff is also updating the Salton Sea program web page and to coordinate staff’s Salton Sea Management Program committee assignments. Staff has also been assisting the Agency with preparations for a series of community workshops designed to inform and get feedback from the public about the Agency’s Management activities for the Sea. Community Workshops have been held for Mecca (4/13/2016), North Shore (5/11/2016), Borrego Springs (5/19/2016), Palm Springs (6/2/2016), City of Calexico (6/9/2016), and City of El Centro (6/16/2016). [*Jose L. Angel, Jeff Geraci, and Maria Davydova*]

On April 11, 2016, Jose L. Angel, then-Interim Executive Officer, attended a Salton Sea Workshop in Brawley. The Workshop was sponsored by the Imperial Irrigation District. Natural resources Agency Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Bruce Wilcox, Ms. Valerie Simon, U.S. Department of Interior Salton Sea Project Manager, and Mr. Phil Rosentrater, Salton Sea Authority Executive Director, were the presenters at the Workshop. The workshop was well attended (> 100 participants). Imperial County Supervisors John Renison, Ryan Kelley, and Michael Kelley also attended the workshop. IID Directors Benson, Kuhn, Dessert, Hanks, and Galindo also attended the Workshop. On April 13, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer and Board Member Ms. Powell also attended a Salton Sea Workshop in Mecca. This Workshop was also well-attended (50+ people), but most of the attendees were community members. Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Simon were the presenters at the Workshop. During both Workshops, several community members asked the State to deal with the Salton Sea as an environmental justice issue. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*].

On April 22, 2016, Ms. Davydova and Mr. Angel met with Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Simon to discuss strategies for community engagement and environmental justice issues. The State Water Board Office of Public Participation has been assisting Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Simon to develop and implement strategies for community engagement. In May 2016, Ms. Marina Perez from the State Water Board Office of Public Participation staff completed drafting a plan for community engagement. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On April 19, 2016, Mr. Geraci attended the State Water Board Salton Sea Workshop. The purpose of the Workshop was for the State Water Board to hear about the status of proposals to implement habitat creation and dust suppression projects; and to hear about assessment of transmission options to access and facilitate renewable energy development at and around the Salton Sea regarding the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0. [*Jeff Geraci, ES*]

On May 26, 2016, Mr. Bruce Wilcox presented Phase 1 projects that complement the “Peripheral Lake” concept during a Project Committee Meeting held in Palm Desert. As part of Phase 1, the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) is focusing on a series of “opportunity areas” that line the north and south shores. These areas will host a series of saline-gradient, cascading ponds and rivers, specifically:

1. New River West, 1,043 acres, plus a 587 acre water management pond;
2. New River East, 390 acres;
3. Alamo River South, 440 acres, plus a 1,250 acre water management pond;
4. Alamo River North, 500 acres, plus a 2,500 acre water management pond;
5. Whitewater, 3,110 acres (excludes Torres-Martinez Wetland Project), and
6. A 640 acre Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) project located on IID-owned land turned over to the Department of Water Resources. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife will operate the SCH project. CEQA review and permits are currently in process, and construction is scheduled for April 2017. [Jeff Geraci, ES]

The IID is conducting a pilot study for controlling dust emissions from exposed playa using various surface roughening designs as well as vegetation enhancement. IID has observed native plants establishing on the playa along beach ridges formed by wave action as the sea recedes. IID hopes to recreate similar conditions to accelerate the establishment of vegetation. Jessica Lovecchio presented on behalf of the IID this study at the May 26 Project Committee meeting in Palm Desert. Details of the project are available online at:

<https://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=11537>

The Salton Sea Authority (SSA) presented its Financial Feasibility Action Plan (FFAP) on June 2, 2016, at meetings held in El Centro, and again on June 9, 2016, that was hosted by the Salton Sea Action Committee Board, as a blueprint for creating a “*smaller but sustainable sea*”. The SSA will create Infrastructure Financing Districts (IFD) to fund the various restoration projects for the sea. The action plan estimates revenues generated by development attracted by recreational water and Seaside Improvements, as well as estimates for Seaside Improvement costs that can be repaid by those revenues. [Jeff Geraci, ES]

The table below shows other Salton Sea Management Program and related meetings attended by Regional Water Board staff. [Jeff Geraci, ES; Maria Davydova, ES]

Date	Meeting Title	Host	Attendance
May 20, 2016	Science Advisory committee	DFW/Mr. Wilcox	<10
May 25, 2016	Public Outreach Committee (by phone)	CRWQCB RB-7	<15
May 26, 2016	Project Committee	CVWD	>15
June 2, 2016	SSMP Workshop	Palm Springs City Hall	>30
June 2, 2016	Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting	El Centro	>20
June 9, 2016	Salton Sea Action Committee Meeting	Spotlight 29 Casino	>25
June 9, 2016	SSMP Workshop	Calexico	<12

The Executive Officer continues to periodically meet with Mr. Phil Rosentrater and Assistant Secretary Wilcox since January 2016 to discuss water quality control policy for the Salton Sea, restoration and management efforts, and opportunities to partner with the Authority and to assist the Agency to implement projects for restoration and management of the Sea. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

## C. Environmental Justice

Ms. Maria Davydova, Environmental Scientist, has been designated as the Regional Water Board's Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator. In this capacity, she is responsible for representing the office at various EJ Task Force and community events. The following paragraphs describe some of the recent Board staff activities in this area.

**Environmental Justice**—Unit staff participated in the Imperial Valley Environmental Justice Task Force's March 17 and April 21 regularly scheduled meetings. Staff also co-chaired the March 16 and April 20 Eastern Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Task Force regularly scheduled meetings. Mr. Angel also attended the May 19, 2016 Imperial Valley EJ Task Force meeting in El Centro. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

**"Polanco" Mobile Home Trailer Parks (MHTPs)**—Unit staff is regularly attending meetings with the Riverside County Economic Development Agency to help address water and sewer infrastructure problems faced by Polancos. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

## D. PG&E's Topock Compressor Station Cleanup

The PG&E Topock Compressor Station is south of Needles adjacent to the Colorado River. In the past, Hexavalent Chromium/CR+6 was discharged from the Station's cooling towers to groundwater at a time when there were no hexavalent chromium water quality standards. That discharge was discontinued in the 1960s. To effect hydraulic control to ensure the previously discharge hexavalent chromium did not continue to migrate to the adjacent Colorado River, PG&E has been using an active groundwater pump-and-treat system (a.k.a. "Intermediate Measure 3"). In addition to effecting hydraulic control, the IM-3 treatment plant also reduced the hexavalent chromium to harmless trivalent chromium. The IM-3 treatment plant has processed over 700 million gallons of groundwater and removed more than 3.5 tons of CR+6. The project is working towards implementing the Final Remedy cleanup which flushes groundwater, pushing the CR+6 Chrome plume through more oxidizing sediments, thereby converting CR+6 into the innocuous CR+3 oxidation state.

On March 16, RB7 staff participated in the Topock Technical Work Group (TWG) meeting during which PG&E's consultants presented an updated groundwater model. The updated model uses a greater number of data points (nodes) than the original and realigns boundary conditions to more closely represent the natural properties of the aquifers adjacent to the Colorado River. Additionally, the new computer generated model incorporates recently gathered groundwater data to more accurately forecast the hydraulic and chemical effects upon the CR+6 contaminant plume from operating the proposed in-situ Groundwater-flushing Final Remedy.

On April 14, the Regional Water Board received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) from PG&E to develop new WDRs, incorporating needed changes to the existing containment ponds to safely receive wastewaters generated by the Final Remedy. Additionally, Regional Water Board staff is participating in the Consultative Work Group (CWG) and the Clearinghouse Task Force (CTF), which include tribal, federal, DTSC, Arizona state, Metropolitan Water District and PG&E stakeholders along with their respective consultants and legal counsels. WDRs cannot be adopted for the remedy until outstanding CEQA issues are resolved. [*Robert E. Perdue, Supervising EG; Tom Vandenberg, OCC*]

## E. Press Contacts

Ian James from the Desert Sun is doing a story about New River pollution from Mexico. He has interviewed Regional Water Board staff Messrs. Raub, Figueroa-Acevedo, and Angel. He is reviewing Board records on New River pollution from Mexico. It is not known yet when Mr. James will be publishing his story.

On June 9, 2016, Mr. Angel was interviewed by Victor Baez from Univision about the Community Workshop scheduled for 6/9/2016, in Calexico, by the Natural Resources Agency regarding the Agency's Salton Sea Management Program. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

## Personnel and Administration

**March 30, 2016 All-staff meeting**—There were 25+ Board staff who attended the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by the then-Interim Assistant Executive Officer. Items discussed during the meeting included:

- The Regional Water Board February 20, 2016, Workshop on Policy Priorities;
- The Regional Water Board March 3, 2016, Information Workshop on Salton Sea, Office performance, and Outreach and Education activities;
- The Regional Water Board March 12, 2016, meeting in Yucca Valley; and
- Status of the UC Davis Leadership effort;

**May 12, 2016 All-staff meeting**—There were 21 Board staff who attended the meeting. Main issues discussed were:

- Preparations for the June 30 Board meeting;
- Overview of the SFY 16-17 Budget for the Colorado River Basin Region;
- Status of the UC Davis Leadership effort; and
- Opportunities for staff's professional development and cross-program training.

**June 16, 2016 All-staff meeting**—there were 25 Board staff members who attended the meeting. The main issues discussed during the meeting were:

- Agenda for the June 30 Board meeting;
- Update on rotational staff assignments;
- Update on the Salton Sea Project;
- Update on Assistant Executive Officer vacancy;
- Status of Unit workplans for State Fiscal Year 2016-2017; and
- Updates on Unit priorities and project.

The meeting was facilitated by Jose Cortez, WRCE.

**Management Team Meetings**—To carry out Mr. Greg Bourne's management and communication recommendations, the Board's management team meets on a weekly basis. Since March 12, 2016, to date, the Management Team has met on twelve different occasions. The then-Interim Executive Officer briefed the managers and supervisors on the key issues discussed during the March 12, 2016 Board meeting in Yucca Valley and the March 28, 2016 Coachella Valley SNMP Workshop. At the most recent Management Team meeting (6/14/2016), managers provided an update on the status of items for the June 30 Board meeting, developments about the Coachella Valley SNMP, the UC Davis effort, and impending

staff reassignments. In general, all Units are on track to meet and/or exceed workload commitments and performance targets. Two performance targets for the TMDL Unit, however, were contingent on approval from the State Water Board and USEPA (see write-up on Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa ag waiver regarding DDT and toxaphene impairments (p. 4)). [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

**Leadership Training**—The State Water Board Academy contract with UC Davis is now in place. Work with Mr. Greg Bourne from UC Davis has resumed. On June 14, 2016, Mr. Bourne provided communication training for 18 Board staff members. The following day, he met with the management team to develop and implement Project Management strategies to facilitate Salton Sea management and restoration efforts. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

**Vacancies**—The office has 34 full-time allocated positions, and has one vacancy: the Assistant Executive Officer position. The recruitment process to fill that vacancy with a Career Executive Assignment incumbent has started. Regional Water Board staff has requested an additional staff position and hiring authority to deal with New River pollution from Mexico and assist the California-Mexico Border Relations Council coordinate implementation of its Strategic Plan for the New River Improvement Project. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E., Hilda Vazquez, SSMI*]

**Personnel Reassignments**—The following staff Unit reassignments are pending State water Board approval:

- Ms. Rosalyn Fleming (WRCE) to go from the UST/Cleanup Unit to the TMDL Unit;
- Ms. Jeong-Hee Lim (WRCE, P.E., PhD) to go from the TMDL Unit to the NPDES Unit;
- Mr. Anders Wistrom (WRCE, P.E., PhD) to go from the NPDES Unit to the UST/Cleanup Unit;
- Ms. Theresa Kimsey (ES) to go from the Basin Planning Unit to the UST/Cleanup Unit; and
- Ms. Maria Davydova (ES) to go from the UST/Cleanup Unit to the Basin Planning Unit.

These reassignments are part of an office-wide effort to address the professional development of staff, shore up program needs, and provide cross-program training opportunities to staff.

## Other Issues of Importance

On March 29, 2016, Vice Chair Wright and then Interim-Executive Officer Jose L. Angel attended the Water Boards Chairs' meeting in Sacramento. The meeting focused on options and opportunities for the Water Boards to accomplish their priorities. Three main water quality areas were discussed: agricultural runoff, enforcement, and the State Water Plan. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

Ms. Jeong-Hee Lim attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> California Water Summit on June 1-3, 2016, in Sacramento. One of the key topics to be discussed during the Summit is groundwater sustainability. [*Jeong-Hee Lim, Ph.D., WRCE*]

Jose L. Angel was the key speaker at the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) competition event held at the Imperial Valley Community College on April 16, 2016. The competition included design, construction, and project presentation of model road bridges, robotic arms, and airplanes. Over 200 students from various southern California high schools and colleges participated in the event. Mr. Angel is also a graduate of Fresno State's MESA Program. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On March 24, 2016, at approximately 8:45 am, Board staff reported a gas smell coming from the office field storage room area. Mr. Angel ordered the staff to immediately evacuate the office and stay away from the office until further notice. The staff next door at the California Department of Rehabilitation also had to evacuate the building. The City of Palm Desert (City) property manager (Tom Metz) was contacted regarding the smell. The City called the police and fire teams regarding this situation. The police and fireman arrived to search and investigate the potential gas leak. The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (Haz Mat response team) was called to further investigate the situation. They found it was leaking bottles of sulfuric acid and asked that they be removed from the building. The bottles were boxed and temporarily placed in the region's boat located in our gated parking lot. Riverside County requested the bottles be disposed of properly. Mike Walling (part of the Haz Mat response team) received approval from his supervisor to transport and store the bottles in their Moreno Valley storage for disposal at the end of April (monthly disposal). Mr. Walling also found/removed additional bottles from the field storage room due to the same smell. The office was not cleared for occupancy until 2 pm that day. The office resumed normal operations on the following day (3/25/2016). The County will invoice the office for the cost of disposal. Board staff is working with SWRCB Procurement to approve payment of the invoice. On a related matter, Mike Gugino from the State Water Board Health & Safety Office assisted with the cleanup of the Board's Field Storage Room, which contained an excessive amount of sampling containers and equipment that was no longer needed. As of April 22, 2016, all unnecessary sampling containers were properly disposed of. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE; Hilda Vasquez, SSM*]

On March 25, 2016, Mr. Angel held a meeting with the office supervisors to go over the incident (what worked well and what needs improvement). During the meeting, he also directed the supervisors to complete the following tasks as a matter of priority:

1. Prepare an inventory of the items in the field storage room, and sort the items into:
  - a. Things needed for our sampling and surveillance activities (i.e., things needed to do our job),
  - b. Things needed to be disposed of (as in trash, through an appropriate contractor if they are hazardous, or just discarded); and
  - c. Things needed to be surveyed out.
2. Assist Ms. Vasquez and her staff to properly dispose of unneeded/undesired equipment/materials.
3. Prepare a yearly written roster/schedule identifying a Senior Supervisor who will be responsible for making sure the storage room is in order and ensuring rank-and-file staff gets approval from the Senior before bringing new materials and equipment (e.g., sampling bottles, sampling equipment, chemicals, etc.) into the room. The roster needs also to identify the rank-and-file staff who will be assisting the Senior to keep the room organized.
4. Talk to their staff about how staff needs to manage the room and not to bring contaminated equipment into the room or to bring any other chemicals or sampling supplies without the express written consent of the Senior in charge of the room (see Item 2, above).

Staff has worked closely with Mike Gugino, State Water Board Industrial Hygienist, to take care of Items 1 through 4. All items have been accomplished. Staff has provided to the City of Palm Desert a list of chemicals and other items that are stored in that room. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E*]

## Regional Water Board Action Items

The following table shows the status of requests made by Regional Water Board Members.

Item	Requested by	Date Requested	Status
Monitors/video screens for the back of Board Meeting Room	Board Members	11/19/2015	Progress is ongoing. Please see write up on Board Meeting Room Audio-Visual Improvement Project (p. 8) [ <i>Hilda Vasquez, Mary Castaneda</i> ]
Topock Tour and Cleanup Project Update	Board Members	11/19/2015	It had been scheduled for November 10, 2016. At the March 2016 Board meeting, the Board directed staff to reschedule it to another date TBD [ <i>Robert Perdue</i> ]
Board Workshops for Informational Items	Board Members	1/14/2016	Ongoing; Three workshops have been held to date (2/20, 3/3, and 3/28/2016), including a policy prioritization workshop.
Policy Prioritization Board Workshop	Board Members	1/14/2016	Was conducted on 2/20/2016. A report briefing the Board on what is being done on its priorities is being prepared and will be presented at the September 2016 Board meeting.
Board member would like to accompany staff on an inspection of a Wastewater Treatment Plant to see what the inspection entails	Board Member Crites	2/20/2016	Arrangements have been made for a typical Wastewater Treatment Plant inspection in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys for July 2016. Field Awareness Training for Board members is also now available and can be taken by Board members who wish to participate in field activities.
Triennial Review progress updates	Board Members	9/17/2015	Ongoing. Updates included in the Interim EO Report (please see p. 2 and p.9)
Imperial Valley Wetlands Tour	Vice Chair Wright	2/20/2016	Arrangements have been made with Desert Wildlife Unlimited to have a tour for Board members after the summer months.
Proposed General Waste Discharge	Former Chair Way and Board	3/12/2016	Staff is making arrangements to have a workshop on the

Item	Requested by	Date Requested	Status
Requirements for Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa	member Ms. Powell		proposed General WDRs after the June Board meeting.
Presentation to WQCC on Region 7's perspective and experience in Increasing "Effectiveness and Efficiency" and "Connecting your Constituencies"	Vice Chair Wright	6/8/2016	Staff is preparing a presentation for the October 2016 WQCC Meeting.