

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



December 2018 – January 2019
Executive Officer Report

Table of Contents

LAND DISPOSAL - WDR PROGRAM.....	2
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP (SCP) PROGRAMS.....	2
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) NOTIFICATIONS.....	3
NPDES PROGRAM.....	3
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS/NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM.....	5

LAND DISPOSAL AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENT PROGRAMS UNIT

Cannabis Operations in Region 7: In the months of December 2018 and January 2019, the Executive Officer issued 41 Notices of Applicability (NOAs) of coverage under the State Water Resources Control General Order for cannabis cultivation to cannabis indoor cultivation operations in Region 7. There was a large influx of NOAs in December because the State Cannabis staff required ample time to process the applications for temporary licenses before the deadline of December 31, 2018.

Outreach to the industry was provided by Senior Water Resources Control Engineer (WRCE) Eric Taxer from the Eastern California Cannabis Unit. Cannabis Cultivation Permitting Enrollment Events were held in Palm Desert and Needles on December 4 and 6, 2018, respectively, with participation of Region 7 Water Resources Control Engineer (WRCE), Reggie Tan. On December 18, 2018, staff participated in the quarterly Cannabis Program Roundtable meeting via teleconference.

On January 3, 2019, the Executive Officer issued an NOA under the State Water Board's General Order for small domestic systems for the Morongo Industrial Park Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System in Desert Hot Springs. The industrial park currently under construction is primarily focused on cannabis related businesses. Groundwater monitoring requirements are included in the NOA. In addition, the discharger is required to connect to the proposed Mission Springs Water District wastewater treatment plant on Little Morongo Road within six months after it becomes available for use. [Reggie Tan, WRCE]

New River Improvement Project: On January 23, 2019, AEO Frank Gonzalez and WRCE Adriana Godinez participated with an organization dedicated to watershed restoration, River Partners, in a tour of potential wetland sites identified in the New River Strategic Plan. CalEPA staff joined with Regional Water Board staff along with Imperial Irrigation District staff with knowledge of the sites. [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

Meaders Cleaners Groundwater Cleanup in Palm Springs: An amendment to Cleanup and Abatement Order 97-145 for Meaders Cleaners was prepared by staff and published as a draft for public review and comment in December. Comments were due by January 9, 2019 to the Regional Water Board, and staff is currently responding to the received comments. The draft CAO amendment requires a range of activities to address the down-gradient extent of the groundwater plume as well as evaluating whether all of the sources of PCE have been identified. A meeting with the responsible parties was held on January 16, 2019. [Scott Stormo, Engineering Geologist]

Yucca Valley Wastewater Reclamation Plant: Doug Wylie and Adriana Godinez participated in a meeting with staff from State Water Board Division of Drinking Water and Hi-Desert Water District and their consultants on the Yucca Valley Wastewater Reclamation Plant Groundwater Recharge and Replenishment Project. The group also toured the construction of the new facilities. [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

On January 15, 2019, Doug Wylie and Zak Owens attended a California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources public scoping workshop to discuss CEQA compliance for the geothermal power operators in Imperial County. [Zak Owens, WRCE]

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

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Summit: On December 10, 2018, staff attended the Lab Tour and Field Demonstration at CLS Labs in Rancho Cordova. On December 11-12, 2018, staff participated in the UST summit in Sacramento. The State Water Resources Control Board's UST Cleanup program was hosting the UST Cleanup Summit to provide training and a forum for

discussion on a variety of topics related to the State-wide UST Cleanup program. This meeting was intended for all UST Cleanup caseworkers and supervisors from the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. [Joan Stormo, PG CHG, Senior EG; Phan Le, WRCE; Theresa Kimsey, ES; Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]

Former CV Minimex, 91201 66th Avenue, Mecca, Riverside County: On December 14, 2018, staff participated in an Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) Joint Execution Team (JET) meeting with State Water Board ECAP Fund staff and consultants. JET agrees that two additional months of remediation will be conducted to reduce benzene concentrations in MW-5A. Following the remediation event, the next semiannual groundwater monitoring and sampling event will be conducted to verify if post-remediation concentrations are stable. [Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE; Joan Stormo, PG CHG, Senior EG; Phan Le, WRCE]

Riverside County UST Cleanup sites: On December 14, 2018, staff participated in a meeting with Riverside County to discuss pathways to closure pursuant to the Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy for three UST county sites: Riverside County Road Yard (Blythe), Riverside County Garage (Blythe), and the Thermal Airport. Staff recommended additional soil and groundwater sampling for site closure. [Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE; Joan Stormo, PG CHG, Senior EG; Phan Le, WRCE]

Redhorse/State Water Board/EPA Teleconference; Recalcitrant/Stalled UST Sites: On January 10, 2018, staff participated in a teleconference with Michael Cosson (Redhorse Consultants), and State Water Board staff Matthew Cohen and Bill Brasher. The purpose of the meeting was to follow-up on the status of recalcitrant/stalled UST cases, discuss actions needed to move these cases toward closure, and obtain assistance with planning and implementation of the required actions. [Joan Stormo, PG CHG, Senior EG; Phan Le, WRCE; Theresa Kimsey, ES; Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]

Lucerne Valley Garage, 31685 Highway 18, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County: On January 16, 2019, staff participated in a teleconference with Michael Cosson (Redhorse Consultants), and State Water Board staff Bill Brasher and Adrian Perez, to discuss how to move this site into closure, and to assess if the site is eligible for Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP) funds. The site is a former retail fueling station and automobile repair shop, currently operating as an automobile repair shop. In March 1997, soil impacted with gasoline-range hydrocarbons was encountered during removal of two 10,000 gasoline USTs. The site is not located within a public water service area, but there are numerous private drinking water wells nearby that could be impacted by the on-site hydrocarbon release. The UST funds are expended for this site, yet high levels of hydrocarbons still occur in groundwater. [Theresa Kimsey, ES]

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) NOTIFICATIONS

Forty-six (46) OES notifications were received in December 2018 – (mid) January 2019; including four incidents involving a Train vs. Trespasser or vehicle collision that required follow-up actions, and forty-two (42) for minor spills (diesel, paint, adhesive, etc.). All spills were contained, or if released to the ground surface, soils were removed and properly disposed of. One spill notification was received from a geothermal plant near Holtville of a 900-gallon geothermal fluid spill. Staff are investigating this release. [Jose Cortez, PE, WRCE]

NPDES PROGRAM

Application for 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) Amendment - Hell's Kitchen Geothermal Exploration Project: On December 14, 2018, Staff met with the general manager of Hell's Kitchen Geothermal, Graeme Donaldson, to discuss a pending application to amend an active 401 WQC for the dredge and fill activities associated with the exploration of the geothermal resources near the Salton Sea. Mr. Donaldson outlined proposed changes to the existing 401 WQC, which include a

permanent road to access a well pad and mineral extraction from geothermal brine. The meeting was an opportunity for staff to explore issues that need to be addressed in the proposed WQC amendment. [Emma McCorkle, ES, Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]

Pre-requirement Inspection for NPDES Permit Renewal: A site visit of an NPDES facility is required prior to permit renewal to observe operations and collect additional data to develop permit limitations and requirements for waste discharge. Staff conducted one pre-requirement inspection for the Niland County Sanitation District wastewater treatment plant on January 11, 2019. Staff reviewed permit requirements, related documents and records, and walked through the facility to inspect unit processes, effluent and receiving water monitoring locations, and discharge locations. [Jose Valle de Leon, WRCE, Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]

Settlement Agreement and Stipulation Order for the Seeley County Water District Wastewater Treatment: The Seeley County Water District (Discharger) and the Colorado River Basin Water Board Prosecution Staff (Parties) entered into a tentative settlement to resolve the violations in the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACLC) Order R7-2017-0040. The settlement was noticed for a 30-day public comment period. Following the comment period and prior to the board meeting, an additional \$3,000 in mandatory minimum penalties was added to the settlement, which was inadvertently mislabeled as exempt from mandatory minimum penalties.

The Parties brought the settlement before the Colorado River Basin Water Board (Board) at the January 10, 2019 Board Meeting. The Board asked, and the Parties agreed, to revise the settlement to remove an aspect of the proposed compliance project. The Board delegated the authority to approve Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order (Stipulated Order) to its Executive Officer following a 30-day public comment period. On January 17, 2019, the Seeley County Water District (Discharger) submitted a revised Compliance Project to add an aerated holding tank or modify an existing pond to control flows into the treatment plant. A Notice of Opportunity to Comment Proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulation Order (R7-2019-0001) for Seeley County Water District was issued for a thirty (30) day public comment period, which began January 18, 2019 and ends February 17, 2019. [Maribel Jernegan, Sanitary Engineering Associate, Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]

Expedited Payment Letter (EPL) Updates

No.	Facility (Place)	Violation Description	Amount of MMPs	Settlement Offer Date	Waiver Received Date	Public Notice Issuance Date	Comment Due Date	EO Execution Date	MMPs
1	City of Westmorland WWTP	Bacteria Indicator Violations	\$3,000	10/5/18	10/24/18	10/20/18	11/29/18	12/6/18	1
2	Date Gardens MHP WWTP	Bacteria Indicator Violations	\$15,000	10/8/18	10/18/18	10/24/18	11/22/18	12/6/18	5

Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
9	191

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

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS/NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

State Water Board Approval of Region 7 Basin Plan Amendment to Update Salton Sea Language and Correct General Errors: On January 8, staff presented the Amendment at the State Water Board's public hearing for its consideration. Staff gave a 10-minute presentation to summarize the changes made by the proposed amendment and briefly addressed the public comments that were submitted during the two comment periods. The State Water Board unanimously adopted the Resolution approving the administrative amendment. [Maria Davydova, Environmental specialist, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist, Ph.D.]