

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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

[Colorado River Basin Region Webpage](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



December 2021

Table of Contents

LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM.....	3
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (SCP).....	3
CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT.....	6
WQSS/NPS PROGRAM.....	7
NPDES PROGRAM.....	8

The Executive Officer (EO) of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) hereby provides the following report on recent staff activities in the region:

LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM

Notices of Applicability: Four (4) Notices of Applicability were issued to enrollees in the Low Threat, Small Domestic and Cannabis Cultivation General Orders.

- Notice of Applicability 2003-0003-DWQ(40) subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2003-0003-DWQ for Low Threat Discharges to Land of well development water for the installation of a groundwater production well was issued on December 1, 2020 to Suncrest Country Club, Palm Desert, Riverside County. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Notice of Applicability 97-500(103) subject to regulation by General Order 97-500 for Small Domestic Discharges to Land was issued on December 7, 2020 to Breit Palmdale Mobile Home Communities, Indio, Riverside County. *[Carlos Angulo, WRCE]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC429705, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on December 28, 2020 to FDC A&S A1, LLC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC429712 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on December 28, 2020 to Coachella Valley Growers, Coachella, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*

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

Regional Water Board staff continues to work with staff from the Department of Defense (DOD) to expedite ongoing activities at cleanup sites located at military facilities within the Colorado River Basin region. The UST and SCP staff issued correspondence reviewing technical reports, requesting site access, providing direction for site assessment, and approving remedial action plans for sites currently in the assessment and cleanup process. The following table lists the correspondence regarding UST and SCP projects issued in December 2020.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
December 3, 2020	Comments on the Well Installation and Groundwater Monitoring Report, September 21, 2020	Former USA Gasoline Service Station No. 292, 1497 Adams Avenue, El Centro, CA (CRWQCB I.D. #7T2243032, Global ID No. T0602583961)	Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
December 3, 2020	Response to Site Assessment Report, Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267 Order No. R7-2019-0055	Sidewinder Chevron, 611 Sidewinder Road, Winterhaven, CA 92283, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000014255	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 7, 2020	Approval of Site Assessment Workplan, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10, Corrective Action Requirements	Mann Company, 1313 Main Street, Brawley, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000015656	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 11, 2020	Approval of Corrective Action Plan; Above Ground Storage Tank at Pasha #1 Shop of Richard Bagdasarian, Inc.	Pasha #1 Shop, 1/2-Mile East of Pierce Street Along 59 th Avenue, Riverside County, Thermal, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000016560, Cost Recovery ID No. 2070027	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 14, 2020	Nomination for the Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant (EAR) Account Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Former USA Gas, 1979 West Ramsey Street, Banning, CA 92220 (Global ID: T0606537906)	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 14, 2020	State Water Board Review Summary Report- Additional Work, Second Review – November 2020	USA Gasoline Station #291, 104 West Main Street, Brawley, Imperial County; Global ID No. T0602553770	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
December 15, 2020	Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure	Former Chevron Station No. 9-4671, 173 West Main Street, Brawley, CA 92227, Imperial County CRWQCB-CRB Case No. 7T2227015	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
December 22, 2020	Approval of Work Plan for Site Specific Risk Assessment and Soil Gas Intrusion Investigation	Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs), SOCO Bulk Plant, 815 K Street, Brawley, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000012312	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 22, 2020	Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy; Abandonment of All Wells and Waste Materials	Riverside (RVSD) County Blythe Fleet Services Garage, 271 North Spring Street, Blythe, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500770	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 22, 2020	Approval of Additional Soil and Soil Vapor Investigation Workplan	Former Tremendez Automotive, 82980 Highway 111, Indio, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. Y0606500699	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
December 28, 2020	Approval of Work Plan for Site Characterization and Continued Groundwater Monitoring	USA Self Service/Douglas Station at 1147 Hobsonway, Blythe, CA 92225, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500889, EAR Number R19-205	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

Following is a list of the DOD Correspondence issued in December 2020.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
December 9, 2020	Comments on the Draft Work Plan Remedial Action, Installation Restoration Program Site 18	Tiffany Road Debris Area, Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California GeoTracker Global ID T10000002075	Jessica Bagley, Engineering Geologist
December 17, 2020	Identification of Wells at Underground Storage Tank	Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California	Jessica Bagley, Engineering

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
	Sites 114, 117, 144, 198, 272A, 272B, 272C, 315, 386, 409(N), 409(S) 425, and 428		Geologist

CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT

Region 7’s Prosecution team has issued three Administrative Civil Liability Complaints (Complaints) which are currently posted on our website and available for public review. All three complaints are referencing violations of the Cannabis Cultivation General Order that address waste discharges associated with cannabis cultivation activities.

- Lean Green Industries, LLC, 68721 Summit Drive, Cathedral City, Riverside County APN687-162-004-4, WDID No.7_33cc403337
- NCA Management LLC, 3241 Needles Hwy, Needles, San Bernardino County APN0660-091-09, WDID No. 7_36cc403989
- Paradise Wellness Center, 1 Ice House Road, Needles, San Bernardino County APN0650-391-23, WDID No. 7_36cc401592

The Dischargers chose to waive the right to a Hearing before the Regional Board to engage the Regional Board’s Prosecution Team in settlement discussions including the possibility of completing a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) and/or Compliance Projects. The Prosecution Team is currently in settlement discussions with the Dischargers.

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On December 4, 2020 Staff submitted comments on the Groundwater Monitoring Program Work Plan, for the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. The comments requested that the Workplan include:

- The depth to water elevation measurements in relation to mean sea level for the wells include in the sampling program in the Indio and Mission Creek Subbasins.
- Sampling and reporting of dissolved salt and nutrient concentrations of the drainage waters discharged out of the southeastern Indio Subbasin semi-perched zone through agricultural drains.
- Critically consider the location of each proposed well to ensure effective evaluation of water quality in the basin.
- Include analysis of general minerals and major cations/anions when analyzing

groundwater.

- Any wells identified for sampling should have concurrence by the owner/entity; or alternatives should be included in the Workplan if access is not obtained.
- Submit groundwater data collected as part of the SNMP annual monitoring electronically in a format that is compatible with the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment information system by March 31 of the following year.

The Regional Water Board encouraged outreach to all interested stakeholders as the Workplan is developed.

WQS/NPS UNIT

Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) Engagement Committee

December 17, 2020, 2:00 -4:00 pm

This was an informational meeting over Zoom for the SSMP Engagement Committee members and it was also open to the public. Gail Sevrens with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided the following SSMP updates. Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) geotechnical work has been completed, grading began, construction is scheduled to start on Jan 11, 2021 for the project area east and west of the New River outlet; temporary dust suppression activity was completed on December 4, 2020 on 105 acres at New River East and New River West; 700 acres of dust suppression was completed in 2020; the contractor has put together a draft plan for engagement proposing up to 3000 local jobs; California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is continuing to put together National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation with Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency; the State is working on land access agreements with Imperial Irrigation District and US Bureau of Reclamation; hired a new CDFW Salton Sea Program Supervisor who will begin on Jan 4, 2021; CNRA Public Information Officer position is being re-advertised to include Information Officer I, this position requires Spanish fluency. The SSMP Draft Public Engagement Plan is being revised by SSMP Engagement Committee working group, it will be finalized by the new Information Officer. Committee members offered comments on the SSMP Engagement Committee Charter document and will have an opportunity to submit written comments by January 15, 2021. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

NPDES PROGRAM

401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements: The following table shows the certifications and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in December 2020. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE*]

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
12/8/2020	Bureau of Reclamation	Section 26 Conservation Area	7B363049001
12/23/2020 (401 Amendment)	California Natural Resources Agency	Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitats (SCH) Restoration	7A133126001

Table 1: Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status

No.	Facility	Violation Description	Assessed Penalty	Settlement Offer Date	Waiver Received Date	Public Notice Issuance Date	Comment Due Date	EO Execution Date	Number of MMPs
1	Calexico WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$6,000 *\$45,000	2/13/19 *11/06/19	3/12/19 *12/05/19	3/13/19	*12/22/2020 In settlement discussion		2 *13
2	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2- Ethylhexyl)	\$21,000 *\$33,000	2/21/19 *9/20/19	3/18/19 *10/04/19	3/26/19	*12/22/2020 In settlement discussion		7 *11
3	Kent SeaTech Fish Farm	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$84,000	4/5/19 *6/14/19	4/30/19 *7/15/19		*12/28/2020 Revising Settlement Order		28
	TOTAL:		\$111,000 *\$162,000						37 *52

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (December 2020)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
5	34

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