

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

RESOLUTION R7-2019-0034

**ADOPTING AN INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-SITU GROUNDWATER
REMEDICATION AT SITES WITHIN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) finds that:

1. Discharges of petroleum hydrocarbon compounds and volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, perchlorate, pesticides, and other types of contaminants have impacted groundwater at numerous sites within the Colorado River Basin Region and cause or threaten adverse impacts to existing and potential beneficial uses of groundwater. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requires those sites to clean-up the pollution and restore the beneficial uses of the groundwater. This cleanup can take many forms. A common method to cleanup groundwater pollution is *in-situ* remediation, which involves the addition of chemicals and/or other reactive materials (amendments) into soil and groundwater (*in-situ*), via chemical, biological, or physical treatment systems to promote groundwater remediation. This includes discharge of amendments directly into groundwater, as well as amendments added to extracted groundwater for groundwater treatment and recirculation systems.
2. Currently, separate site-specific waste discharge requirements (WDRs) are issued to regulate each *in-situ* groundwater remediation project in the Colorado River Basin Region. The process to develop and adopt site-specific WDRs can be lengthy and cause delays to commencement of remediation activities. Many *in-situ* treatment processes involve similar types of treatment with similar effects that can be reasonably and more efficiently regulated under General WDRs.
3. The Colorado River Basin Water Board proposes to adopt General WDRs for *in-situ* groundwater remediation at sites within the Colorado River Basin Region, Order R7-2019-0016 (Project). The Project as proposed will help expedite the cleanup process by streamlining the permitting process for these types of cleanups.
4. To obtain coverage under the proposed General WDRs, the party responsible for cleanup must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and supplemental information describing the cleanup project. The information requirements are significant as *in-situ* cleanups can be complex and require a great deal of knowledge about the cleanup site and remediation processes. Cleanup projects may require various types of construction activities, such as well installation, and cleanup project proponents must demonstrate project-specific compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) prior to receiving coverage under the General WDRs. The General WDRs require that a project-specific monitoring and reporting program (MRP) be developed expressly for each project.
5. The Colorado River Basin Water Board is the lead agency for the Project under CEQA. An Initial Study (in the format of an expanded Environmental Checklist) has been completed in accordance with the requirements specified in section 15063 of the "State CEQA Guidelines" (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 et seq.) to evaluate whether the Project could have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the Initial Study, the Colorado

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River Basin Water Board prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration that concludes that although the proposed Project could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, there will not be significant effects with mitigation incorporated.

6. On March 5, 2019, the Colorado River Basin Water Board provided a Notice of Intent (NOI) for public comment to adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15072. The Colorado River Basin Water Board considered all comments concerning the Project and the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration in a public hearing held on April 11, 2019.
7. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the Colorado River Basin Water Board's independent judgment and analysis. The Colorado River Basin Water Board finds, on the basis of the whole record before it, which includes the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, public comments received and responses to comments, that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment with mitigation measures incorporated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado River Basin Water Board:

1. Adopts the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project.
2. Directs the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination (NOD) within five days from the issuance of Project approval.

CERTIFICATION

I, Paula Rasmussen, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on April 11, 2019.

Original signed by

Paula Rasmussen
Executive Officer