

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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Palm Desert, CA 92260

WaterBoards.ca.gov/Coloradoriver/

ORDER R7-2020-0021



Order Information

Dischargers: Irrigated Agricultural Lands Dischargers in Bard Valley
Coalition Group(s): Bard Unit Coalition Group
County: Imperial County
Related Order(s): R7-2019-0053

I, PAULA RASMUSSEN, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the following is a full, true, and correct copy of the order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on June 24, 2020.

Original signed by _____
PAULA RASMUSSEN
Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER R7-2020-0021

AMENDMENT TO ORDER R7-2019-0053
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
DISCHARGES OF WASTE FROM IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL LANDS FOR
DISCHARGERS THAT ARE MEMBERS OF A COALITION GROUP IN BARD VALLEY
IMPERIAL COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) hereby makes the following Findings:

1. The Colorado River Basin Water Board has authority to regulate discharges or potential discharges of waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, which includes both surface water and groundwater, pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, § 13000 et seq.) and implementing regulations.
2. On July 11, 2019, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted Order R7-2019-0053, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Agricultural Lands for Dischargers Who Are Members of a Coalition Group in Bard Valley* (Bard Agricultural General Order).
3. The Bard Agricultural General Order regulates discharges of wastes from commercial irrigated agricultural lands in the Bard Valley to prevent and address water quality impacts to waters of the state. The Bard Unit Coalition Group (Bard Coalition), managed by Bard Water District, serves as a third-party representative of dischargers enrolled in the Bard Agricultural General Order (Dischargers).
4. On October 2, 2019, the Executive Officer of the Colorado River Basin Water Board amended the Monitoring and Reporting Program, Attachment B to the Bard Agricultural General Order, pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The revisions reduced the frequency of collecting field measurements (temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity) from monthly to quarterly, as well as added semi-annual monitoring for bensulide and imidacloprid for both surface water and groundwater.
5. On April 9, 2020, the Bard Coalition requested extensions to certain deadlines in the Bard Agricultural General Order. Despite Dischargers making significant progress implementing the Bard Agricultural General Order, Dischargers were not able to meet submittal dates for reporting individual Water Quality Management Plans (Farm Plans), which also delays the submittal of the associated annual Farm Plan data (Farm Plan Summary) by the Bard Coalition, due to unforeseen contingencies.

6. This Order revises the Bard Agricultural General Order to include updated deadline dates for the reporting of individual Farm Plans by Dischargers to the Bard Coalition, and submittal of the Farm Plan Summary by the Bard Coalition to the Colorado River Basin Water Board. These extensions are appropriate to allow sufficient time for communication between the Bard Coalition and its members and to ensure the proper formatting of Farm Plans and Farm Plan Summaries.
7. Adoption of this Order does not change the CEQA findings accompanying the Bard Agricultural General Order. The programmatic Negative Declaration adopted under Resolution R7-2013-0002 continues to serve as the environmental document and no subsequent changes are required pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162. The revisions to the Bard Agricultural General Order pursuant to this Order do not have the potential to cause a significant adverse impact on the environment.
8. The Colorado River Basin Water Board has notified interested agencies and persons of its intent to adopt this Order and provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and to submit comments.
9. The Colorado River Basin Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, Order R7-2019-0053 is amended by making the modifications identified in Attachment A of this Order.

Any person aggrieved by this Colorado River Basin Water Board action may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day after the date of this Order; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the statutes and regulations applicable to filing petitions are available on the State Water Board's website and can be provided upon request.

Order Attachments

Attachment A—Revisions to Order R7-2019-0053

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN

ATTACHMENT A—REVISIONS TO ORDER R7-2019-0053

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General Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2019-0053

Revise the sentence in Provision D.2.d. on Page 18 of 32 as follows:

“Members shall submit the individual Farm Plan to the Coalition Group. An updated Farm Plan must be prepared and submitted to the Coalition Group **by March 1, 2020~~1~~** and by **March 1 annually** thereafter.”

Attachment B to Order R7-2019-0053, Monitoring and Reporting Program

Revise the first sentence in Section VI.C. on Page 10 of 15 as follows:

“By **April 1, 2020~~1~~**, and **annually** thereafter, the Coalition shall submit to the Colorado River Basin Water Board management practice implementation data from the most recently submitted Farm Plans.”