

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



November 2020

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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 Violation: 198 Notices of Violation were issued to property owners in the Mission Springs Water District Service Area for violation of the Basin Plan, Septic System Prohibition and three to Dischargers for violations of their Waste Discharge Requirements.

- Property Owners in Desert Hot Springs subject to Regional Water Board Resolution No. R7-2004-0017, Septic Tank Prohibition entitled, *Mission Creek or Desert Hot Springs Aquifers*, Chapter 4 Section II.H (Septic Systems) of the Basin Plan issued to 198 property owners on October 14, 2020. A follow up letter was issued November 18, 2020 to 14 property owners for incorrect addresses. *[Reggie Tan, WRCE]*
- Salton Community Services District, Lansing Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility, subject to Order R7-2012-0035 issued on November 19, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Salton Community Services District, Thomas R. Cannell Wastewater Treatment Facility, subject to Order R7-2018-0013 issued on November 19, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*
- Salton Community Services District, Desert Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant, subject to Order R7-2014-0007 issued on November 19, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

Notice of Termination:

- A Notice of Termination subject to regulation by General Order 97-500 for Small Domestic Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems was issued on November 18, 2020 to Warren Vista Center, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. Warren Vista Center was connected to the Mission Springs Water District's collection system on July 22, 2020. *[Adriana Godinez, WRCE]*

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 November 2020.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
November 2, 2020	Approval of the Workplan and Request for Extension for Installation of Off-Site Groundwater Monitoring Wells, MW-12 and MW-13	Antunez Autobody, 238 East Main Street, El Centro, CA (CRWQCB I.D. # 7T2 243 073, Global I.D. No. T1000007153)	Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 2, 2020	Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report (Remedial Action Plan), Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267	RD Brown, 307 and 321 North Imperial Avenue (Site) Imperial, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global Id No. T1000005261, Order No. R7-2017-0031)	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 4, 2020	Approval of Direct-Push Electrical Conductivity (EC) Logging and Groundwater Investigation Second Revised Work Plan	Former Unocal/Gemcor Geothermal Facility, 950 West Lindsey Road, Calipatria, Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T1000006199	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 6, 2020	Site Cleanup Program-Request for Extension to Submit a Technical Report Documenting Well Abandonment and Waste Removal Activities	Palo Verde Irrigation District Yard (PVID), Former Aboveground Storage Tank Release, 180 West 14 th Avenue Blythe, Riverside County (SCP No. 7T2225041, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500779)	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 18, 2020	Approval of Time Extension	Calipatria Queen Market 7788, 101 East Main Street, Calipatria,	Phan Le, Water Resource Control

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
	Request for Submittal of Technical Report, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action	Imperial County; GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000011602	Engineer
November 18, 2020	Response to Cruickshank Road Illegal Disposal Site-Clean Closure Certification Request	Cruickshank Road Illegal Disposal Site, APN 044-230-09-02, APN 044-230-06-01, El Centro, California, Imperial County	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 18, 2020	Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report	Former Circle K #1407, Blythe, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500742	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 18, 2020	Approval of Time Extension Request for Submittal of Technical Report	Former Tremendez Automotive, 82980 Highway 111, Indio, Riverside County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T0606500699	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 23, 2020	Approval of Work Plan for Additional Groundwater Monitoring Well Installations and Installation of Hydrocarbon Free-Product Recovery System	Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs), Windsor Fueling, 502 Boarts Road, Westmorland, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000012310	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 23, 2020	Review of Technical Report (Soil Gas and Soil Assessment Work	Rite Spot Market, 1201 Parker Dam Road, EARP, San Bernardino County; Global ID No. T06007100969 (APN 0661-031-	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
	Plan, Former Rite Spot Market, (EARP) Submitted Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10, Corrective Action Requirements	04-000)	
November 30, 2020	Site Cleanup Program Oversight Cost Reimbursement Account; Above Ground Storage Tank at Pusha #1 Shop, Richard Bagdasarian, Inc.	Pusha #1 Shop, ½ -Mile East of Pierce Street Along 59 th Avenue, Riverside County, Thermal, GeoTracker Global ID No. T10000016560	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
November 30, 2020	Response to Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring and Free Product Removal and Hydropunch Groundwater Investigation Reports, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action	Former California Fun Mart (Current Five Brothers Fuel Stop) 105 W. Cole Boulevard, Calexico, Imperial County, GeoTracker Global ID NO. T10000009970	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

UST Case Closure – Riverside County Road Maintenance Yard, 86199 Airport Boulevard, Thermal, CA 92274. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment was issued on November 20, 2020 for a proposed UST case closure located at the facility. This UST site is being proposed for case closure pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board) Water Quality Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Policy). Low threat is established under the Policy by demonstrating the

UST case meets the general and media-specific criteria established in the Policy, satisfies the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, and is consistent with State Water Board Resolution 92-49's requirement that cleanup goals and objectives be achieved within a reasonable time. The 60-day public comment period will end on January 19, 2021. *[Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer]*

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.

SURFACE WATER AMBIENT MONITORING PROGRAM (SWAMP)

In early November, the Regional Water Board received a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) report submitted by a member of the public. Regional Water Board staff investigated the site on November 2, 2020, in the City of El Centro, south-west from of the intersection of Hwy S29 and Kumeyaay. The water body is a large pond situated at the terminus of Wixom Drain, adjacent to Fig Lagoon. The drain enters the pond at the south west corner, discharging at the north-east corner into the New River.

During the site inspection, staff observed a green paint-like slick on the water's surface near shore. This floating scum was collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis of Cyanotoxins. The toxin microcystin was detected at a very high concentration (the highest recorded concentration in our region at 153 µg/L), triggering a 'danger' level protocol response. Staff informed the Imperial County Health Department and returned to the site to post signage warning the public of the presence and dangers associated with cyanotoxins. Follow up monitoring will continue monthly until cyanotoxin concentrations in the water body decline to safe levels.

WQSS/NPS UNIT

Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force (November 18, 2020)

The meeting was attended by Comite Civico del Valle (chairing); South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD); Coachella Valley Unified School District / Coachella Valley resident; Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians; California Air Resources Board; Cabazon Band of Mission Indians; Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office; Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians; California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR); Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (CVMVCD); City of Coachella. Regional Water Board staff gave an update on the status of the 2020 Triennial Review. SCAQMD announced its last AB 617 planning meeting in 2020, after which they will be moving into implementation. City of Coachella announced that their conservation program had launched and was well received. CDPR announced that they will be interviewing agricultural workers in Coachella Valley as part of CalEPA EJ Task Force. CVMVCD hired a bilingual community liaison, who is available to create virtual classrooms. There was some interest in pooling funds to create a 2021 calendar to promote IVAN and the agencies involved in the Task Force. During the regular Salton Sea updates, it was announced that construction started on Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) the week of 11/16/2020, which will inundate 3700 acres of exposed lakebed around the New River in a series of ponds of varying depth; DWR started treatment of 1400 acres of exposed lakebed with surface roughening. [Maria Davydova, ES]

NPDES UNIT

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 November-December 2020. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
12/8/2020	Bureau of Reclamation	Section 26 Conservation Area	7B363049001
11/12/2020 (WDRs)	SoCalGas	Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan Line 2000	7B333027001

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	*11/3/2020 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	*11/3/2020 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		*11/6/2020 In settlement discussion		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.]