

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

1.



March 2021

Table of Contents

LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM.....	3
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (SCP).....	4
CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT.....	7
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 Cannabis Cultivation General Order.

- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC430779, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on March 8, 2021 to Garnett Properties, LLC., Palm Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC403305, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on March 18, 2021 to LMG Indoor Facilities, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC433946, subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ, Conditional Waiver for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on March 22, 2021 to Andrew Lopas, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*
- Notice of Applicability 7_33CC434086 subject to regulation by State Water Board General Order WQ-2019-0001-DWQ for Cannabis Cultivation was issued on March 22, 2021 to QDGreen, USA, LLC, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County. *[Zak Owens, EG]*

Other Notification and Approvals: Sixteen (16) Extensions and/or Approvals were issued to residents and Dischargers regionwide:

- Six (6) Time Extension Approvals, to Yucca Valley Residents for Noncompliance with the Prohibition of Individual Disposal Systems for the Town of Yucca Valley were issued on March 9 and 11, 2021, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County. *[Reggie Tan, 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 DoD, UST and SCP projects issued in March 2021.

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
March 2, 2021	Draft Work Plan Remedial Action, Installation Restoration Program Site 18	Tiffany Road Debris Area, Naval Air Facility El Centro, El Centro, California, Global ID T10000002075	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
March 4, 2021	Right of Entry Form/Site Access Agreement – Site Work Conducted Under Emergency, Abandoned, Recalcitrant Account	Lucerne Valley Garage, 31685 Highway 18, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County, Global ID T0607100998	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
March 8, 2021	General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-Situ Groundwater Remediation (Order R7-2019-0016)	RD Brown, 307 and 321 North Imperial Avenue, Imperial, Imperial County; Global ID T10000005261	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 9, 2021	Review of Second 2020 Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring and Liquid Phase Hydrocarbons Removal Report Pursuant to Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R7-2012-0043	Former Escher Oil Company (Current Beck Oil, Inc.) 85-119 Avenue 50, Coachella, Riverside County, Global ID SL0606529297	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 11, 2021	Request for Access Agreement, 1111 West Hobsonway, Blythe, CA 92225, APN 836080057, the East Neighboring Property of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Case Located at 1147 West Hobsonway	USA Self Service/Douglas Station, 1147 West Hobsonway, Blythe, CA 92225, Riverside County, Global ID T0606500889, EAR R-19-205	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
March 11, 2021	Draft Proposed Plan Installation Restoration Site 14	Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, Global ID T10000004915	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
March 12, 2021	Response to Work Plan Assessment of Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air	SOCO #63, 800 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County, Global ID T0602514171)	Kola Olatunbosun, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 12, 2021	Response to Work Plan for Interim Remedial Action	Former USA Gasoline Service Station #270, 824 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County, Global ID T0602585867	Kola Olatunbosun Resource Control Engineer
March 15, 2021	Comments on the Draft Monitoring Well Destruction Report Underground Storage Tank Site 10	Twentynine Palms Marine corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, Global ID T060719383	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
March 15, 2021	Comments on the Draft Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report Underground Storage Tank Site 10	Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, Global ID T060719383	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
March 15, 2021	Closure/No Further Action Letter	Riverside (RVSD) County Blythe Fleet Service Garage, 271 North Spring Street, Blythe, 922225, Riverside County, Global ID T0606500770	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 16, 2021	Comments on the Final Closure Summary Report Underground Storage Tank Site 8	Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, Global ID T0606719846	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist

Date	Subject	Site	Staff
March 22, 2021	Approval of Work Plan for the Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy Human Health Risk Evaluation	AAA Air Conditioning, 1134 West Hobsonway, Blythe, 92225, Riverside County, Global ID T0606500888	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer
March 23, 2021	Notification Mailing List Requirements	Former Coachella Valley Minimex, 91201 66 th Avenue, Mecca, Riverside County, Global ID T0606500981	Kola Olatunbosun Resource Control Engineer
March 25, 2021	Response to Dual Phase Extraction Remediation and Second Semi-Annual 2020 Groundwater Monitoring Report	Munguia Lot, 1002 East H Street, Brawley, Imperial County, Global ID T0602564848	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
March 25, 2021	Response to Second Semi-Annual 2020 Groundwater Monitoring and Overpurge Remediation Report	USA Gasoline Station #294, 525 East Fifth Street, Holtville, Imperial County, Global ID T0602599293	Theresa Illare, Environmental Scientist
March 26, 2021	Comments on Draft-Final Corrective Action Plan, Area of Concern 2	Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Holtville, Imperial County, California, Global ID T10000002629	Jessica Bagby, Engineering Geologist
March 26, 2021	Response to the Additional Site Assessment Report, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 Corrective Action	Calipatria Queen Market 7788, 101 East Main Street, Calipatria, Imperial County, Global ID T10000011602	Phan Le, Water Resource Control Engineer

SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On March 16, 2021, a notification to the stakeholders of the Coachella Valley having groundwater wells identified as providing potentially useful data (groundwater quality based

on location and well construction criteria) was issued to inform them of the opportunity to participate in a Basin-wide shallow groundwater study. [Cathy Sanford (Engineering Geologist)]

On March 23, 2021, the Coachella Valley Water District (acting as the lead for the CV Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) stakeholder group) was notified of the approval of their requested schedule change for the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan development workplan. The requested extension was based on the need for additional time required in the development of groundwater flow models for subbasin. [Cathy Sanford, EG]

CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT

Paradise Wellness Center, Inc., Curtis Devine owns and operates an indoor cannabis cultivation facility located at 1 Ice House Road, Needles, California, in San Bernardino County. On June 5, 2020, an Administrative Liability Complaint No. R7-2020-0023 was issued to the Discharger in the amount of \$50,385.44. Paradise Wellness Center chose to waive the right to a Hearing and enter settlement discussions. The discussions resulted in a change to the penalty calculation with a final liability of \$18,885.44, The parties were unable to identify an appropriate Supplemental Environmental Project. The Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2021-0027 (proposed) was posted for public comment on March 8, 2021 and is scheduled for consideration at the May 11, 2021 Board Hearing.

Lean Green Industries-Ins, LLC operates an indoor cannabis cultivation facility located at 68721 Summit Drive in Cathedral City, California. On June 5, 2020, the Regional Water Board's Assistant Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R7-2020-0025 to the Discharger in the amount of \$237,167.10. Lean Green Industries-Ins, LLC also chose to waive the right to a Haring and enter settlement discussions. As a result of those discussions and new information provided, the Parties agreed to resolve the alleged violations with the imposition of a final liability of \$35,000. The Parties were unable to identify an appropriate Supplemental Environmental Project. The Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2021-00030 (proposed) was posted for public comment on March 29, 2021 and is scheduled for consideration at the May 11, 2021 Board Hearing.

WQS/NPS UNIT

Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force March 24, 2021

The meeting was attended by Comite Civico del Valle (chairing); CalEPA; South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD); Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) / Coachella Valley resident; Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians; Riverside County Ag Commissioner; Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians; California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR); Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (CVMVCD); Communities for California; Friends of the Desert Mountains; and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia's office. SCAQMD is holding AB 617 meetings every other week to talk about their Air Quality initiative for the community emission reduction plan in Eastern Coachella Valley. CalEPA announced that CalEnviroScreen 4.0 workshop for Coachella and Imperial valleys will be held on April 19, 2021 from 5 to 7 pm. Coachella Valley Unified

School District is looking to partner with other organizations to bring their educational programs to its afterschool program, this initiative is associated with the Next Generation Science Standards. Friends of the Desert Mountains passed a resolution to allow indigenous people to access their lands for traditional gatherings; Wildflower Festival is virtual this year. Comite Civico del Valle met with FEMA and other Environmental Justice groups plan to collaborate to get personal protective equipment out to the communities. Assemblyman Garcia’s office is working on AB 1500 to create a bond to help make California more climate resilient from wildfires, as well as to provide funding for safe drinking water and parks. The State Water Board’s April 7, 2021 workshop on the Salton Sea was announced during the meeting.

[Maria Davydova-Flores, ES]

NPDES PROGRAM

401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge or Fill Discharge): The following table shows the certifications and waste discharge requirements (WDRs) that the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued in March 2021. *[Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE]*

Issuance Date	Applicant	Project	WDID#
3/8/2021	Riverside County Facilities Management	Salton Sea North Shore Beach and Yacht Club Dredging Project	7A333224001
3/30/2021	Imperial County Public Works	Evan Hewes Highway Bridge Over Coyote Wash Repair Project	7B133045001

Table 1: Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status

Number	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	4/11/19 *12/05/19 In settlement discussion		2 *13
2	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate	\$21,000 *\$33,000	2/21/19 *9/20/19	3/18/19 *10/04/19	3/26/19	4/24/19 *10/04/19 In settlement discussion		7 *11
3	Kent SeaTech Fish Farm	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$84,000	4/5/19 *6/14/19 **1/11/21 Conditional Settlement Re-issued	4/30/19 *7/15/19 **1/11/21	**1/20/21	10/08/19 In settlement discussion **2/20/21	Adopted 3/9/21 Board Meeting	28
4	Imperial WWTP	Bacteria indicators	\$12,000	2/18/21	3/22/21	3/24/21	4/23/21		4
5	Heber PUD	Total Suspended Solids	\$6,000	4/5/21					2
	TOTAL:		\$129,000 *\$180,000						43 *58

*Revised

Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (April 2021)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
5	32

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