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Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-07-10
NPDES Permit No. CA0104493
February 13, 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT NO. R7-2007-0021
ISSUED TO
CITY OF COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT
FOR
DISCHARGES OF EFFLUENT THAT EXCEED THE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS
IN VIOLATION OF BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2005-0083
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0104493

Coachella Sanitary District (Discharger) owns and operates a sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant that provides service to the community of the City of Coachella in Riverside County. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is designed to treat municipal wastewater flows up to 2.4 million gallons per day. On June 29, 2005, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No R7-2005-0083 and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0104493 to regulate the discharge of treated municipal wastewater from the WWTP to the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel.

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Regional Board has issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint) No. R7-2007-0021 against the Discharger for exceedence of the effluent limits and failure to monitor as set forth in Board Order No R7-2005-0083. Complaint No. R7-2007-0021 supersedes Complaint No. R7-2006-0066, which was issued against the Discharger in November 2006, but was later withdrawn by the Assistant Executive Officer based on revised information about the alleged violations.

Pursuant to Section 13385 of the California Water Code, the complaint proposes that the Discharger pay one hundred and thirty two thousand dollars (\$132,000) in mandatory minimum penalties for the effluent violations; and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in penalties for the monitoring violations. This brings the total proposed penalty to one hundred and forty two thousand dollars (\$142,000). The Discharger may propose to spend a portion of that amount toward the implementation of a Supplemental Environmental Project that is consistent with the Water Quality Enforcement Policy (Policy). The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Policy on February 19, 2002 as Resolution No. 2002-0040, and it was approved by the Office of Administrative Law and became effective on July 30, 2002.

Unless the Discharger agrees to waive its right to a public hearing on the matter, as provided by California Water Code Section 13323(b), the Regional Board will proceed with the public hearing as follows:

Date of hearing: March 21, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: La Quinta City Council Chambers

During the hearing, the public and any other person interested in this matter can provide the Regional Board with comments on this matter.

If the Discharger waives its right to the hearing and pays the administrative civil liability in full, no hearing will be held. The settlement of this Complaint will become final 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the proposed Administrative Civil Liability Complaint or any other aspects of this matter are required to do so within 30 days of the date of this Notice so that the Regional Board may consider the comments.

Comments must be mailed to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Regional Board Office. Please contact Jose Figueroa or Jose L. Angel at (760) 346-7491 for any questions regarding this matter. Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this Regional Meeting, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 no later than 10 days before the scheduled public hearing.