

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-09-21
July 28, 2009
NPDES No. CA0104361

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R7-2009-0061

IN THE MATTER OF
CITY OF HOLTVILLE, OWNER/OPERATOR
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
FOR DISCHARGES OF EFFLUENT AMMONIA
OF BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2006-0050
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0104361

The City of Holtville (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates a sewage collection and treatment system that provides services to the community of Holtville. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has a total design capacity of 0.85 million gallons per day (MGD). The treatment system consists of an influent bar screen, grit chamber, three circular primary clarifiers operated in parallel, a trickling filter, three secondary clarifiers operated in parallel, effluent flow meter, three sand filters, an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system, an aerobic digester, and three sludge drying beds. The Discharger accepts septic tank and portable toilet waste and introduces the waste prior to primary treatment. Further, the City of Holtville operates a recreational vehicle (RV) dump station that services the winter residents and the resultant wastewater is brought to the Facility. This wastewater is also added to the collection system prior to primary treatment. Leachate from the sludge drying beds is returned to the plant headworks for treatment. Sludge is pumped to drying beds, dried, and is hauled away annually to Arizona for disposal.

The Discharger's WWTP is a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and discharges its effluent to the Pear Drain which flows to the Alamo River, which is a tributary to the Salton Sea. The Pear Drain, Alamo River, and Salton Sea are waters of the United States.

On May 19, 2009, Regional Board received a letter dated May 13, 2009 from the Discharger. The letter states in part: "National Pollutant Discharge Eliminating System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0104248 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the City of Holtville require compliance with the effluent limitations specified in the California Toxic Rule (CTR) by May 19, 2010. The Discharger has conducted pilot studies to evaluate treatment technologies to reduce the levels of constituents of concern to the effluent limitations. Based on the pilot studies it has not identified a treatment technology that will result in an effluent that will meet the CTR discharge limitation for ammonia. Therefore, the Discharger requests the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) from the Regional Board to provide time for the City of Holtville to comply with the NPDES."

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Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13301, tentative Cease and Desist Order No. R7-2009-0061 is proposed to be issued by the Regional Board to set forth actions that the Discharger shall take to correct or prevent discharges of waste that are in violation of Board Order No. R7-2006-0050 with respect to the effluent discharge limitation for ammonia.

A public hearing on this matter will be held as follows:

Date: September 17, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: City of Palm Desert
City Council Chambers

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

Persons wishing to file written comments on, or objections to, the tentative Cease and Desist Order are requested 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 tentative Cease and Desist Order may be obtained from the Regional Board Office. Please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 346-6585 for any questions regarding this matter. Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you think would be interested in this matter.

For any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this Regional Board hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 346-7491 no later than 10 days before the scheduled hearing date.