

**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. 7-11-30
NPDES Permit No. CA0104248
June 8, 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**SPECIAL BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2011-0043
AMENDING CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R7-2009-0049
ISSUED TO IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR
EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION
FOR DISCHARGES OF EFFLUENTS
COPPER, SELENIUM, AND FREE CYANIDE
OF BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2004-0086
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0104248**

Imperial Irrigation District (hereinafter, Discharger), P.O. Box 937, Imperial, California 92251, owns the El Centro Generating Station, which is a gas and oil-fired power plant located at 485 E. Villa Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243. The plant has a total output of 240 Megawatts (MW) and consists of two (2) steam units and one (1) combined cycle unit. The steam units are rated at 77 MW and 46 MW, and the combined cycle unit is rated at 117 MW (85 MW gas turbine and 32 MW steam turbine). All units are cooled using water circulated through unit specific cooling towers.

The El Centro Generating Station (hereafter referred to as Station) provides treatment and chlorination and dechlorination process units. Cooling tower supply water is treated with corrosion inhibitors, deposit control agents, microbial control agents and a coagulant and flocculent. In addition chlorination is used as an oxidizing biocide and sulfuric acid is added for pH control to protect cooling tower equipment. The effluent from the Station's cooling system is dechlorinated using a bisulfite based solution prior to discharge into receiving waters.

The Station is currently operates under Order No. R7-2009-0020 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104248) that rescinded Board Order R7-2004-0086 except for enforcement purposes. This Board Order allows discharge of industrial cooling water to Central Drain No. 5, which flows into the Alamo River, which flows to the Salton Sea. The Central Drain No. 5, the Alamo River and the Salton Sea are waters of the United States.

On May 21, 2009, Regional Board adopted Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R7-2009-0049 to address continuing violations of Board Order R7-2004-0086. On June 1, 2011, the Discharger, in a letter to the Executive Officer (EO), requested that the schedule for the completion date in the CDO be extend. The Discharger states that an alternative method has been selected for addressing the more stringent California Toxic Rules (CTR) Requirements to eliminate the process wastewater discharge to Central Drain Number 5.

In accordance with the requirements set forth in CWC Section 133385(j)(3)(C), the proposed Special Board Order revises CDO R7-2009-0049 to revise and extend the

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milestone and deadlines specified on page 5, Ordered paragraph No. 1. to require the Discharger to develop and implement deep well injection disposal by May 30, 2013

The Regional Board will proceed with the public hearing as follows:

Date: June 23, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: City of La Quinta
City Council Chambers
78-495 Calle Tampico
La Quinta, CA 92253

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 proposed Special Board Order or any other aspects are requested to do so within 20 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 proposed Special Board Order and CDO may be obtained from the Regional Board Office. The CDO is available via the Internet at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/orders

Please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 346-6585 for any questions regarding this matter. Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this Regional Water Board Meeting, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 346-7491 no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing.