NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ORDER R7-2013-0053 RESCINDING
CEASE AND DESIST ORDER R7-2011-0026
IN THE MATTER OF
CITY OF IMPERIAL, OWNER AND OPERATOR
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has prepared Tentative Board Order R7-2013-0053 rescinding Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R7-2011-0026 for the City of Imperial (hereinafter Discharger), which owns and operates a water pollution control plant (WPCP) that provides services to the City of Imperial. The WPCP has a total design capacity of 2.4 million gallons per day (MGD).

The Discharger’s WPCP is a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) that discharges its effluent to the Dolson Drain, a water of the United States. The Dolson Drain conveys the discharge to the Salton Sea via Lilac Drain, Rose Drain, and Alamo River. The Dolson Drain, Lilac Drain, Alamo River, and Salton Sea are waters of the United States.

On March 17, 2011 the Regional Water Board adopted CDO R7-2011-0026 for the City of Imperial WPCP. The CDO required bi-monthly sampling to determine the source of increased copper, and the construction of WPCP Improvements by December 31, 2014. In a letter dated January 30, 2013, the Discharger has informed the Regional Board that the results of the bi-monthly samples of WPCP effluent prescribed by CDO R7-2011-0026 taken between September 2011 and July 2011 did not exceed the effluent limitations for copper and failed to approach copper levels found in the original violation that resulted in the issuance of CDO R7-2011-0026. In its letter the Discharger posited that the original single set of elevated values likely came from either a bad sample or inaccurate reporting from the testing laboratory. The Regional Board staff has reviewed the monitoring results submitted by the Discharger in compliance with CDO R7-2011-0026 and concurs with the Discharger’s results and explanation of the single set of elevated values that led to the issuance of CDO R7-2011-0026.

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

Date: May 16, 2013
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
Board Room
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
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 CDO are requested to do so within 10 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 CDO may be obtained from the Regional Board Office. Please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 776-8960 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.