

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

Public Notice 7-15-33
NPDE Permit CA0105023
August 10, 2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SPECIAL BOARD ORDER R7-2015-0040

**AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY ORDER R7-2012-0016
ISSUED TO SELLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Seeley County Water District (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates the municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) serving the unincorporated community of Seeley. The current total design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is 0.25 MGD and is located at 1898 West Main Street, Seeley, CA 92273. The final effluent from the WWTP is discharged to the New River, a water of the United States, tributary to the Salton Sea. On September 19, 2007, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to regulate the discharge of the treated municipal wastewater to the New River. The Permit is assigned NPDES Permit CA0105023, Board Order R7-2007-0036, which was to expire on September 19, 2012. On September 20, 2012, the Regional Water Board adopted Board Order R7-2012-0011, NPDES Permit CA0105023, rescinding Board Order R7-2007-0036.

On May 7, 2012, the Regional Water Board adopted Settlement Agreement and Administrative Civil Liability Order (ACLO) R7-2012-0016 pursuant to Government Code Section 11415.60. The Order imposed ACLO R7-2012-0016 imposed one-hundred thirteen thousand three-hundred eighty dollars and thirty-five cents (\$113,380.35) in administrative civil liability against the Discharger. Of the assessed amount, the Discharger paid a total of eight thousand three hundred eighty dollars and thirty-five cents (\$8,380.35) to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, and the Regional Water Board suspended the remaining one-hundred and five thousand dollars (\$105,000) in liability upon completion of a Compliance Project (CP) as stipulated in ACLO R7-2012-0016. The CP was supposed to be completed by August 1, 2015. The Discharger proposed to construct a series of Evaporation/Percolation Ponds as its CP. On June 12, 2014, the Regional water Board extended the CP completion date to August 1, 2016.

In early 2013, the Discharger discovered that the WWTP effluent entering the Evaporation/Percolation Pond Pilot Project resulted in the destabilization of the pond's side slope along the New River Basin and transmitted wastewater directly to the New River. On October 1, 2013, the Discharger reported that the concept to dispose of the final wastewater effluent to Evaporation/Percolation Ponds was deemed unfeasible. On April 29 and July 10, 2015 the Discharger submitted letters requesting the CP be changed from the construction of Evaporation/Percolation Ponds to the installation of additional effluent filters and ultraviolet (UV) system at the WWTP. Based on the information in the Discharger's letters, the Evaporation/Percolation Pilot Test indicated that percolating water through the entire evaporation/percolation pond bottom was technically infeasible due to soil piping problem resulted in wastewater entering in New River. Additionally, the option to remove and replace the soil in the evaporation/percolation pond to allow proper percolation would be economically prohibitive.

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In accordance with the requirements set forth in CWC Section 13385(j)(3)(C), Regional Water Board staff is recommending the Regional Water Board adopt a Special Board Order that would revise ACLO R7-2012-0016 to change the CP as requested by the Discharger.

The Regional Board will proceed with the public hearing to consider the proposed Special Order as follows:

Date: September 17, 2015
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 Water Board with comments on this matter.

Persons wishing to file written comments on or objections to the proposed Special Board Order or any other aspects of this matter are required to do so prior to the public hearing, so that the Regional Water 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 Kai Dunn at (760) 776-8986 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.