

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

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Public Notice 7-16-41
December 9, 2016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

**BOARD ORDER R7-2017-0002
FOR
RESCISSION OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDER R7-2008-0008, AS AMENDED
CITY OF BRAWLEY, OWNER/OPERATOR
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS
IMPERIAL COUNTY**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has prepared Special Board Order R7-2017-0002 to rescind Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R7-2008-0008, as amended. R7-2008-0008 was issued to City of Brawley for chronic noncompliance with its Waste Discharge Requirements, Board Order No. R7-2005-0021, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA 0104523, (NPDES Permit) for its Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Colorado River Basin Water Board will consider adopting Special Board Order R7-2017-0002 during a Public Hearing that will commence at the time and place indicated:

Date: January 19, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: City of Brawley
Council Chambers
383 W. Main Street
Brawley, CA 92227

Background

The City of Brawley, California (Discharger), owns and operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at 1550 Best Road, Brawley, California 92227. The WWTP services the City of Brawley. The WWTP is a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) with a design treatment capacity of 5.9 million gallons per day (MGD). Effluent from the WWTP is discharged into the New River, which is tributary to the Salton Sea. The New River and the Salton Sea are waters of the United States.

The Discharger had historic compliance problems with its NPDES Permit, mainly noncompliance with ammonia limitations and failure to develop and implement an approved Pretreatment Program to control industrial users discharging into the POTW. Consequently, on March 19, 2008, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted CDO R7-2008-0008 to require the Discharger to cease and desist discharging wastes in violation of its NPDES Permit and to implement corrective actions in accordance with specified tasks and time schedules, including completion of proposed WWTP upgrades, and to prepare and submit a Pretreatment Program for Board approval and implement the approved Program.

On November 19, 2008, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted Special Board Order R7-2008-0069, which amended CDO R7-2008-0008 by establishing interim effluent limits for ammonia in accordance with California Water Code (CWC) section 13385(j)(3)(C)(iii)(I). On January 21, 2010, at the request of the Discharger, the Colorado River Basin Water Board also adopted Special Board Order R7-2010-0003. This Special Board Order further amended CDO R7-2008-0008 by extending the compliance deadline from December 31, 2010 to June 30, 2012 to complete the new WWTP upgrades and to fully comply with Colorado River Basin Water Board requirements.

The Discharger completed its WWTP upgrade in late 2011, and the upgraded POTW has been operating since January 2012. The Discharger submitted its final proposed Pretreatment Program on December 23, 2013. The Colorado River Basin Water Board approved the proposed Pretreatment Program on March 20, 2014. The Discharger has been implementing its approved Pretreatment Program and is in compliance with the applicable effluent limitations for ammonia. Based on the foregoing, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff is recommending the Board rescinds the CDO R7-2008-0008, as amended.

Submission of Written Comments

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments regarding the Special Board Order during the thirty-day public comment period, which begins on **December 9, 2016** and ends on **January 7, 2017**. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the Special Board Order are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **January 7, 2017**. The Colorado River Basin Water Board has implemented an electronic records management system to reduce paper consumption and improve overall accessibility to records and documents. To submit comments electronically, please convert the signed original documents to Portable Document Format (PDF) and submit via email to Jeong-Hee Lim at jeong-hee.lim@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk or USB and mailed to the attention of Jeong-Hee Lim at the following address:

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

Written comments may also be faxed to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office at (760) 341-6820.

Document Availability

A copy of the proposed Board Order R7-2017-0002 and its staff report, and the CDO R7-2008-0008, as amended, may be obtained from the Colorado River Basin Water Board office, or via the following web address at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

Interested persons requiring a hard copy of the tentative order should contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

Hearing Procedure

Affected stakeholders and other interested persons are invited to attend and express their views on this matter at the public hearing, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. In addition, to ensure accuracy of the record, the Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that any speakers who have prepared written statements for oral presentation at the hearing submit those statements to Board staff before or during the hearing.

Those who wish to speak at the hearing will be asked to fill out a speaker request card and provide it to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. In order to have adequate time for the presentations by Board staff, comments from the public may be limited at the discretion of the Board Chair to three (3) minutes per person. If the presentation may take longer, please let Board staff know before speaking so that the presentation can be appropriately scheduled at the hearing. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

More information about the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Meeting Procedures is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf

Additional Information

Contact Jeong-Hee Lim, Water Resources Control Engineer, at (760) 776-8940 for any questions regarding this matter.

Special Accommodations

Any person who is disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing.