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Palm Desert, CA 92260
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Public Notice 7-17-29
NPDES Permit CA0105023
December 11, 2017

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND HEARING PROCEDURE
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT
R7-2017-0040
ISSUED TO SEELEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
SEELEY – IMPERIAL COUNTY

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A HEARING WILL BE HELD
BEFORE THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER BOARD ON MARCH 8, 2018**

Background

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (Complaint) pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13323 to the Seeley County Water District, owner and operator of the Seeley County Water District Wastewater Treatment Plant, (hereinafter referred to as Discharger) alleging that the Discharger violated effluent limitations and monitoring and reporting requirements of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order Nos. R7-2007-0036 and R7-2012-0011 (NPDES No. CA0105023). The Complaint proposes that administrative civil liability in the amount of \$216,000.00 be imposed as authorized by Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i). Unless the Discharger waives its right to a Hearing and pays the proposed liability, the Hearing will be held before the Colorado River Basin Water Board during its meeting on March 8, 2018. The deadline of January 11, 2018 for waiving the Hearing and all other procedural deadlines are listed in the Table of Important Deadlines (Table) at the end of this Notice. Also, please note that all requests, objections, and any other material submissions for which a deadline has been specified **must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date specified. Unless the recipient(s) indicate otherwise, all written requests and submissions may be provided electronically.**

Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the Hearing is to receive relevant evidence and testimony regarding the proposed Complaint. At the Hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will consider whether to adopt, modify, or reject the proposed assessment up to the maximum penalty provided by law. If it adopts the proposed assessment, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will issue an Administrative Civil Liability Order. The Public Hearing on March 8, 2018 will commence at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as practical, or as announced in the Colorado River Basin Water Board's meeting agenda. The meeting will be held in the City of Blythe, California in the Council Chambers located at Blythe City Hall, 235 N. Broadway, Blythe, CA 92225. An agenda for the meeting will be issued at least ten days before the meeting and will be posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's web page at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/. The agenda will include the final hearing date and location, and estimated start time for the hearing.

Hearing Procedures

The Hearing will be conducted in accordance with this Hearing procedure. This Hearing procedure has been pre-approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Advisory Team in model format, but the Advisory Team may modify the procedure on its own or at the request of any designated party. A copy of the procedures governing an adjudicatory hearing before the Colorado River Basin Water Board may be found at Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (CCRs), [section 648 et seq.](#), and is available upon request or can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf. In accordance with Title 23, CCRs, section 648(d), any procedure not provided by this hearing procedure is deemed waived. Except as provided in Title 23, CCRs, section 648(b), Chapter 5 of the Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) does not apply to adjudicatory hearings before the Colorado River Basin Water Board. This Notice provides additional requirements and deadlines related to this proceeding.

THE PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE MAY BE AMENDED BY THE ADVISORY TEAM AS NECESSARY. **ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS HEARING PROCEDURE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD'S ADVISORY TEAM BY 5:00 P.M. ON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE TABLE, OR THEY WILL BE WAIVED.** FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

Hearing Participation

Participants in this proceeding are designated either as "parties" or as "interested persons." Designated parties to the Hearing may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses and are subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may present non-evidentiary policy statements, but may not cross-examine witnesses and are not subject to cross-examination. Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Colorado River Basin Water Board, staff, or others at the discretion of the Colorado River Basin Water Board.

The following participants are hereby designated as parties in this proceeding:

- (1) Colorado River Basin Water Board Prosecution Team
- (2) Seeley County Water District

Requesting Designated Party Status

Persons who wish to participate in the Hearing as a designated party shall request party status by submitting a request in writing to Advisory Team counsel, Katharine Buddingh, with copies to the designated parties, **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table**. The request shall include an explanation of the basis for status as a designated party (e.g., how the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the potential actions by the Colorado River Basin Water Board could affect the person), the information required of designated parties as provided below, and a statement explaining why the party or parties designated above do not adequately represent the person's interest. Any opposition to the request must be submitted to Ms. Buddingh **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table**. The parties will be notified in writing by Ms. Buddingh by **5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table** whether the request has been granted or denied.

Contacts

Advisory Team:

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Prosecution Team:

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Jeong-Hee Lim, Water Resource Control Engineer
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Discharger:

Miriam Rosales, General Manager
Seeley County Water District
PO Box 161
Seeley, CA 92273
mrosales@seeleywaterdistrict.com

John Kemp, Chief Plant Operator
Seeley County Water District
PO Box 161
Seeley, CA 92273
Jhkconsult@gmail.com

Preliminary Witness List

The Prosecution Team expects to testify at this Public Hearing. The Prosecution Staff will update the preliminary witness list, if necessary, by **5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table.**

Separation of Functions

To help ensure the fairness and impartiality of this proceeding, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the Colorado River Basin Water Board (Prosecution Team) have been separated from those who will provide advice to the Colorado River Basin Water Board (Advisory Team). Members of the Advisory Team are: Jose Angel, Executive Officer; Katharine Buddingh, Staff Counsel. Members of the Prosecution Staff are: Frank Gonzalez, Assistant Executive Officer; Kailyn Ellison, Staff Counsel; Kai Dunn, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer; Maribel Jernegan, Sanitary Engineering Associate; Jose Figueroa-Acevedo, Water Resource Control Engineer; and Jeong-Hee Lim, Enforcement Coordinator. Although members of the Prosecution Team may have acted as advisors to the Colorado River Basin Water Board in other, unrelated matters, they are not advising the Colorado River Basin Water Board in this proceeding. Accordingly, the members of the Prosecution Team have not engaged in any *ex parte* communications, as defined below, with members of the Colorado River Basin Water Board or the Advisory Team regarding this proceeding.

Ex Parte Communications

The designated parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in *ex parte* communications regarding this matter with members of the Advisory Team or members of the Colorado River Basin Water Board. An “*ex parte* communication” is any written or verbal communication pertaining to the investigation, preparation, or prosecution of the Complaint between a member of a designated party or interested party on the one hand, and a Colorado River Basin Water Board member or an Advisory Team member on the other hand, unless the communication is copied to all other designated and interested parties or made at a proceeding open to all other parties and interested persons (if verbal). Communications regarding non-controversial procedural matters are not *ex parte* communications and thus, are not restricted. Communications among the designated and interested parties themselves are also not *ex parte* communications.

Hearing Time Limits

To ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate in the Hearing, the following time limits shall apply: Each designated party shall have 25 minutes to testify, present evidence, and

cross-examine witnesses, and each interested person shall have 3 minutes to present a non-evidentiary policy statement. Participants with similar interests or comments are requested to make joint presentations, and participants are requested to avoid making redundant comments. Additional time may be provided at the discretion of the Advisory Team (prior to the Hearing) or the Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair (at the Hearing) upon a showing that additional time is necessary.

Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements

Prosecution Team: Send to the Advisory's Team counsel, the Discharger, and any other designated parties by **5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table**.

Discharger: Send to the Advisory's Team counsel, the Prosecution Team, and any other designated parties by **5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table**.

1. All evidence, testimony (except rebuttal testimony) and exhibits proposed to be offered at the Hearing. Evidence and exhibits already in the public files of the Colorado River Basin Water Board may be submitted by reference so long as the exhibits and their location are clearly identified in accordance with Title 23, CCR, section 648.3.
2. All legal and technical arguments or analysis.
3. The name of each witness, if any, whom the designated party intends to call at the hearing, the subject of each witness' proposed testimony, and the estimated time required by each witness to present direct testimony.
4. The qualifications of each expert witness, if any.

In lieu of electronically transmitting copies of the above information, the Prosecution Team may create an "ftp" website or similar electronic data website containing this information so long as it is accessible to the Advisory Team, the Discharger, and any other designated party. If such a website is used, the Prosecution Team shall confirm as soon as possible with the Advisory Team, the Discharger, and any other designated party that the website is accessible. If the website is not accessible to any party, the Prosecution Team shall provide the information contained on the website to that party in electronic form, unless otherwise directed by that party.

Any designated party, who would like to submit information that rebuts the information previously submitted by other designated parties, may provide that rebuttal information to the Advisory's Team counsel, the Discharger, and all other designated parties **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table** in electronic form, unless otherwise directed by the recipient(s). Rebuttal information shall be limited to the scope of the information previously submitted by the other designated parties. Rebuttal information that is not responsive to information previously submitted by other designated parties may be excluded.

Interested persons may submit one (1) paper copy of non-evidentiary policy statements by the close of the hearing.

In accordance with Title 23, CCR, section 684.4, the Colorado River Basin Water Board endeavors to avoid surprise testimony or evidence. Accordingly, oral testimony offered at the Hearing that is beyond the scope of the previously submitted written testimony may be excluded. Power Point and other computer assisted visual presentations must be submitted to the Advisory Team by **5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table**. Electronic submissions are acceptable, unless otherwise directed by any intended recipient(s). Additionally, any witness providing written testimony shall appear at the hearing and affirm that the written testimony is true and correct.

Request for Pre-hearing Conference

A designated party may request that a pre-hearing conference be held before the Hearing in accordance with Water Code section 13228.15. A pre-hearing conference may address any of the matters described in Government Code section 11511.5(b), including, but not limited to, the following matters:

- (1) Exploration of settlement possibilities;
- (2) Preparation of stipulations;
- (3) Clarification of issues;
- (4) Rulings on identity and limitation of the number of witnesses;
- (5) Objections to proffers of evidence;
- (6) Order of presentation of evidence and cross-examination;
- (7) Rulings regarding issuance of subpoenas and protective orders;
- (8) Schedules for the submission of written briefs and schedules for the commencement and conduct of the hearing; and,
- (9) Exchange of witness lists and of exhibits or documents to be offered in evidence at the hearing.

Requests must contain a description of the issues proposed to be discussed during that conference, and must be submitted as early as practicable to the Advisory Team with a copy to all other designated parties. The requests may be electronically submitted, unless otherwise directed by any recipient(s). No party who participates in a pre-hearing conference is precluded from appearing before the Colorado River Basin Water Board at any subsequent Hearing relating to the matter.

Evidentiary Objections

Any designated party objecting to evidence, testimony, or exhibits submitted by another designated party must submit a written objection (electronic submission is acceptable, unless otherwise directed by any recipient) to the Advisory Team with a copy to all other designated parties by **5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Table**. The Advisory Team will notify the parties in writing as soon as possible about further action to be taken on such objections and when that action will be taken. At the discretion of the Advisory Team, a pre-hearing telephonic conference may be scheduled to discuss any further actions to be taken on the objections.

Evidentiary Documents and File

The Complaint, related evidentiary documents, and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the office of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA. This file shall be considered part of the official administrative record for this hearing. Other submittals received for this proceeding will be added to this file and will become a part of the administrative record, absent a contrary ruling by the Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair. In addition, many of these documents may also be posted on-line at www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver. Although the web page is updated regularly, please contact Maribel Jernegan at Maribel.Jernegan@waterboards.ca.gov or (760) 776-8941 to assure access to the latest information.

Questions

Questions concerning this proceeding may be addressed to Katharine Buddingh by e-mail at Katharine.Buddingh@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at 916-440-7769.

TABLE OF IMPORTANT DEADLINES

December 11, 2017	Prosecution Team issues Complaint to Discharger and Advisory Team, electronically posts the Notice of Public Hearing and Hearing Procedure, and sends the Discharger a copy of the Notice.
December 20, 2017	Deadline for objections, if any, to proposed hearing procedure.
December 20, 2017	Deadline for requests for designated party status.
January 5, 2018	Deadline for oppositions to requests for designated party status.
January 9, 2018	Advisory Team issues decision on any requests for designated party status.
January 11, 2018	Discharger's deadline for waiving right to hearing.
January 26, 2018	Prosecution Team's deadline for submitting all information required under "Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements" and Preliminary Witness List.
February 16, 2018	Remaining Designated Parties' deadline for submitting all information required under "Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements".
February 22, 2018	Designated Parties' deadline for submitting any evidentiary objections.
February 23, 2018	Prosecution Team's deadline for submitting any rebuttal information.
March 2, 2018	Designated Parties' deadline for submitting, Power Point, and other computer assisted visual presentations for use at the hearing.
March 8, 2018	Hearing Date.