

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Public Notice No. 7-19-05

August 1, 2019
Phone: (760) 346-7491
NPDES No. CA0104248

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs)
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2019-0006**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment proposed Order R7 2019-0006, which will serve as an NPDES permit and WDRs for the El Centro Generating Station. The following discharger has applied for reissuance of the current NPDES permit, Order R7-2014-0005, under section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act NPDES permit program (33 U.S.C. § 1342):

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION
485 E. VILLA ROAD
EL CENTRO, CA 92243

Colorado River Basin Water Board staff has prepared proposed Order R7-2019-0006 (Proposed Order) for the above discharger containing effluent and receiving water limitations and special provisions in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, § 13000 et seq.). The public hearing to consider adoption of the Proposed Order will be on:

Date: September 19, 2019
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

BACKGROUND

The Imperial Irrigation District (Discharger) owns and operates the El Centro Generating Station (Facility), a gas and oil-fired power plant. The Discharger is a publicly-owned utility providing irrigation water, farm drainage services, and electric power to customers in Imperial County and parts of Riverside and San Diego counties. The Facility is a steam electric generating facility that provides immediate and base load electrical power to serve the Imperial Valley and consists of three steam turbine generators and three gas turbine generators, with a total of four generating units. Units 1, 2, 3, and 4 began operating in 1949, 1952, 1957, and 1968, respectively. Unit 2 was repowered in 1992; Unit 3 was repowered in 2012. The total capacity of the Facility is 347

megawatts and power generating units are primarily natural gas-fired. The Facility has the ability to utilize No. 2 fuel oil; however, this fuel option is not currently in use.

All units are cooled using water circulated through unit-specific cooling towers. The Facility utilizes four cooling towers, five fuel storage tanks, and six raw water storage/settling basins. Colorado River water via the Dogwood Canal is used to provide water for cooling and other facility operations. Raw water entering the Facility is treated with a clarifying agent to control bacterial, fungal, and algal growth prior to storage in the basins. Canal water is passed through a screen to remove large debris and then through a series of settling basins to remove sediment. Settling basin effluent is then pumped through Reverse Osmosis (RO) units and is de-ionized prior to being stored in surge tanks for cooling tower make-up. All units are cooled using water circulated through unit specific cooling towers.

The Facility injects a number of chemicals into the cooling water stream to prevent biofouling and scaling on the condenser tubes. Cooling tower supply water is treated with corrosion inhibitors, scale inhibitors, dispersants, biological control agents, coagulants, and flocculants. Cooling tower make-up is added to the system as feed water. Cooling tower blowdowns occur periodically based on operational hours, heat transfer demands, and mineral composition of the cooling water.

In addition, chlorination is used as an oxidizing biocide. Chlorine treatment occurs in four-hour cycles approximately once every twelve hours. Sulfuric acid is added to the system to maintain proper pH balance. Up to 21,600 gallons per day (gpd) of RO-treated effluent (prior to de-ionization), is used for the evaporative cooler. Bleed-off from the evaporative cooler is directed through an oil water separator for treatment.

Discharge to surface water commences seasonally, normally during the summer months, and is comprised of cooling tower blowdown, RO reject water, and evaporative cooling water, which are commingled in a collection vault. Sodium bisulfate is added to de-chlorinate the effluent at the collection vault prior to discharge from Discharge Point 001 to Central Drain No. 5.

The Facility also discharges to two Class I non-hazardous wastewater deep underground injection wells (UIWs), IW-1 (2,750 feet) and IW-3 (2,740 feet) on the Facility property under UIC Permit CA10600002. EPA provided the Facility authorization to inject on August 24, 2012. Wastewater disposed of through the UIWs is collected in a water storage pond, receives filtration in series using a disc filter (910-20 microns) followed by a carbon filter (5-microns), and is injected into IW-1 and IW-3.

The Facility provides immediate and base load electrical power to serve the Imperial Valley. The Facility is located in the city of El Centro, California. A maximum of 0.995 million gallons per day (MGD) of industrial cooling water (i.e., commingled cooling tower blowdown, reverse osmosis reject water, and evaporative cooling water) is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to Central Drain No. 5, a water of the United States, a tributary to the Alamo River.

The Discharger is currently regulated by an NPDES permit and WDRs (NPDES Permit No. CA0104248, Order R7-2014-0005), which was adopted on June 26, 2014, expired on June 30, 2019, and has been administratively extended. The Discharger filed a report of waste discharge and submitted an application for reissuance of its WDRs and NPDES permit on December 28, 2018.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The full text of the current NPDES permit, Order R7-2014-0005, and the Proposed Order are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

[Colorado River Basin Regional Board Tentative Orders](#)

If you need a hard copy of these orders mailed to you, please contact Mary Castaneda by phone at (760) 776-8945 or e-mail at mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments during a thirty (30) day public comment period, which begins August 1, 2019 and ends September 3, 2019. Written comments on the Proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m., September 3, 2019**.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Kai Dunn at the address shown below or emailed to [Kai Dunn \(Water Boards Staff\) Email Address](#).

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
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The Colorado River Basin Water Board will prepare written responses to significant comments that are timely received. If written comments to the Colorado River Basin Water Board are not timely submitted, late comments will not be accepted if doing so would prejudice any party in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4.

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 Colorado River Basin Water 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. Comments from the public will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Any person planning to make a presentation to the Colorado River Basin Water Board that requires the use of visual aids (such as overheads, slides, or video projector) should contact the assigned staff person to make arrangements before the meeting date in order to avoid unnecessary delays during the meeting. 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:

[Colorado River Basin Regional Board Meeting Procedures](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact Jose Valle de Leon, Water Resources Control Engineer, at (760) 776-8940 or email at [Jose Valle de Leon \(Water Boards Staff\) Email Address](#) for any questions regarding the Proposed Order.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or e-mail at [Hilda Vasquez \(Water Boards Staff\) Email Address](#) no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or email at [Mary Castaneda \(Water Boards Staff\) Email Address](#) at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A 13 0128 003, Imperial ID El Centro GS, Order R7-2019-0006
ECM: 222402