73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100 Palm Desert, CA 92260 (760) 346-7491 Public Notice 7-22-25 July 14, 2022 NPDES No. CA7000009

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY ORDER R7-2022-0023

CITY OF CALEXICO, OWNER/OPERATOR CITY OF CALEXICO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT IMPERIAL COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public comment a proposed resolution of discharge limit violations subject to mandatory minimum penalties pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (i).

On July13, 2022, the Assistant Executive Officer of the Colorado River Basin Water Board signed proposed Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order No. R7-2022-0023 (Stipulated Order), entered into with the City of Calexico (Discharger), Owner/Operator of the City of Calexico Water Pollution Control Plant, to resolve effluent limit violations of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Orders R7-2014-0004 and R7-2019-0004 (NPDES No. CA7000009) without a formal enforcement proceeding.

The Discharger and Colorado River Basin Water Board Prosecution Team (collectively, the Parties) have entered into a tentative settlement to resolve the violations alleged in the proposed Stipulated Order. As a result, the Parties have agreed to settle the matter and intend to recommend to the Colorado River Basin Water Board at the September Board meeting, that it adopt the proposed Stipulated Order under Water Code section 13323 and Government Code section 11415.60. The Prosecution Team believes that the resolution of the alleged violations is fair and reasonable and fulfills the Prosecution Team's enforcement objectives, that no further action is warranted concerning the specific violations, and that the proposed Stipulated Order is in the public's best interest.

Accordingly, to resolve the alleged violations by consent and without further administrative proceedings, the Parties have agreed to the final imposition of an administrative civil liability against the Discharger in the amount of **\$81,000**. The Parties have further agreed that **\$81,000** will be suspended pending the Discharger's completion of two Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). Additional details concerning this proposed settlement are described in the proposed Stipulated Order. The settlement is contingent on Colorado River Basin Water Board approval.

If no significant comments are received in opposition to the settlement within the 30-day comment period and no new material facts become available to the Colorado River Basin Water Board, the proposed Stipulated Order will be presented to the Board and its Executive Officer for approval.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILTY

Additional information and relevant documents related to this matter may be reviewed online at <u>https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public_notices/</u>.

If you need a hard copy of the proposed Stipulated Order mailed to you, please contact Mary Castaneda by phone at (760) 776-8945 or e-mail at <u>Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov</u>.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments regarding the proposed Stipulated Order during a 30-day public comment period, which begins **July 14, 2022** and ends **August 15, 2022**. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the proposed Stipulated Order are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **5:00 p.m., August 15, 2022**.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board intends to consider adopting the proposed Stipulated Order during a Public Hearing at the following date and time:

Date:	September 13, 2022
Time:	10:00 a.m.
Location:	73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
	Palm Desert, CA 92260
	(with virtual public participation available)

The public may participate either in person at the physical meeting location or virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. Instructions concerning how to participate virtually are available on the Regional Water Board's website. Persons desiring to receive information about changes to the format of this meeting should sign up for the Lyris e-mail list by <u>Subscribing to our Electronic Mailing List</u> (Select Board Meetings Agenda).

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record. Links for the meeting, a phone call option, and remote participation instructions are posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: <u>Colorado River Basin Water Board Remote Participation</u> Instructions.

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at: <u>Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures.</u>

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Maribel Pizano at the address shown below, emailed to <u>Maribel.Pizano@waterboards.ca.gov</u>, or faxed to the office at (760) 341-6820.

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

Written comments submitted after August 15, 2022, will not be accepted into the record, unless allowed by the Chair of the Colorado River Basin Water Board. Comments received by this date will be considered in preparation of staff recommendations to the Colorado River Basin Water Board. Also, an opportunity for oral comments will be provided at the hearing, although time limits may be imposed by the Board. Please note that all exhibits, charts, graphs, and other testimony timely presented as evidence must be left with the Colorado River Basin Water Board as part of the administrative record.

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or via email <u>Hilda.Vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov</u> 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 via email <u>Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov</u> at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Maribel Pizano at <u>Maribel.Pizano@waterboards.ca.gov</u>.