CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100 Public Notice No. 7-25-15 Palm Desert, CA 92260 Notice Date: May 1, 2025 Phone: (760) 346-7491 NPDES Permit CA0104451

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROPOSED ORDER R7-2025-XXXX

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2025-XXXX (Tentative Order), which will serve as the reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number CA0104451 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the following discharger and facility:

NILAND COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT (Discharger)

NILAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 125 WEST ALCOTT ROAD NILAND – IMPERIAL COUNTY (Facility)

The Discharger has applied for reissuance of the Facility's NPDES Permit, previously issued per WDRs Order R7-2019-0005. The Permit was issued pursuant to section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342), and pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.).

HEARING PARTICIPATION

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative Order at the date, time, and location specified below:

Date: July 1, 2025 **Time:** 9:00 a.m.

Location: Colorado River Basin Water Board's Boardroom

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100

Palm Desert, California 92260

(virtual public participation available; see below)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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 subscribe to the Lyris email list (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 Board's website (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting/#participation_via_video_conference).

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Board's <u>Meeting Procedures</u> (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf).

BACKGROUND

The Discharger owns and operates the Facility, a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal plant, that provides service to a population of approximately 602 individuals located in the City of Niland. The Facility is located in the SW 1/4 of Section 9, T11S, R14E, SBB&M. The permitted maximum daily flow limitation is equal to the design capacity of the Facility, which is 0.50 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge from the Facility consists of disinfected equivalent to secondary treated wastewater.

Treatment consists of headworks comprised of a manual bar screen and a lift pump station, three lined ponds connected in series (Ponds 1, 2, and 3) each with two aeration units for aerated stabilization, and contact chlorination using sodium hypochlorite followed by dechlorination using sodium bisulfite.

The plant handles and directs overflow discharge from the headwork to an emergency overflow basin, located parallel to the aeration ponds. A separate groundwater pump station, located adjacent to the influent lift pump station, was designed to lower the water level under and around the aeration ponds to prevent the liner from "pop" up due to infiltrating water when a pond is being emptied for cleaning or maintenance.

Accumulated biosolids are dredged from the lagoons and from the chlorination chamber and disposed of on drying beds. Dried solids are analyzed prior to removal off-site for disposal at a landfill.

Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to the "R" Drain, a water of the United States and tributary to the Salton Sea.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a 30-day public comment period, which ends on **June 2, 2025**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **June 2, 2025**. Comments received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of **Fatima Alrahem** at the address shown below or emailed to: <u>Fatima.Alrahem@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

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Tentative Order has been posted to the Board's <u>Tentative Orders</u> webpage (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board decisions/tentative orders/index.shtml).

To receive a physical copy by mail, contact **Mary Castaneda** at (760) 776-8945 or at Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov.

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact **Mary Castaneda** via email at Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-(800) 735-2929 or voice line at 1-(800) 735-2922.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Fatima Alrahem** at (760) 313-1290 or Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A130109011, Niland Wastewater Treatment Plant, Board Order R7-2025-XXXX