

# COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

## National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Fact Sheet

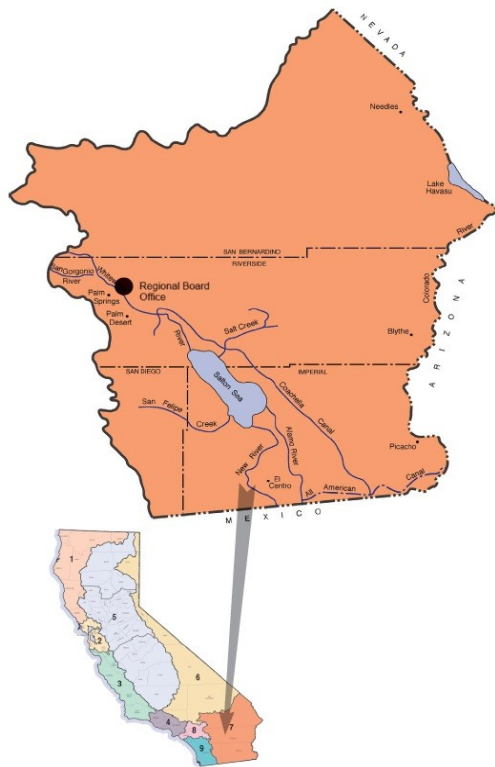


Figure 1. The Colorado River Basin Region

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, is providing the following information about planned permitting activities in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, which began on July 1, 2025, and ends on June 30, 2026. The purpose of this notice is to let the public know about the permitting of facilities in their community which may impact their water quality and inviting their participation in our decision-making processes.

### THE REGIONAL WATER BOARD

In California, the responsibility for the protection of surface water and ground water quality rests primarily with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards, collectively referred to as the “Water Boards.” The Water Boards are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) makes water quality decisions for the Colorado River Basin Region

(Region 7), which covers California’s most arid area. Figure 1 shows the area included in the Colorado River Basin Region. Despite its dry climate, the region contains two water bodies of state and national significance: the Colorado River and the Salton Sea. Water from the Colorado River irrigates more than 600,000 acres of productive farmland in the Imperial, Coachella, Bard, and Palo Verde valleys. The river also provides drinking water to several million people in Southern California. There are also many other waters in the Colorado River Basin Region that are equally important to people and wildlife that require protection.

The Regional Water Board’s mission is to protect and improve the quality of our regional waters. The ways by which we carry out our mission include:

- Developing policies addressing region-wide water quality concerns;
- Working on statewide programs and policies;

- Working with other agencies concerned with water quality control;
- Adopting permits regulating discharges to water and land. These permits include waste discharge requirements (WDRs) orders and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits; and
- Informing and involving the public on water quality issues.

## **NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PROGRAM**

The NPDES permit program regulates the discharge of wastewaters and stormwaters to surface waters that are designated as “Waters of the United States.” In California, the Water Boards issue and enforce federal NPDES permits under the authority granted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Permit activities involve issuing and renewing permits, conducting inspections, reviewing monitoring reports, and taking enforcement actions against dischargers who fail to comply.

## **NPDES PERMIT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026**

The NPDES program plans to develop the permits listed below in Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026. Members of the public are encouraged to reach out to Region 7 staff regarding the development and status of these permits.

### **Valley Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant—City of Indio; Riverside County (Permit Renewal)**

The Valley Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 45500 Van Buren Street, on the northeast side of the City of Indio, about a quarter mile west of the Interstate 10 Highway 86 interchange. The wastewater treatment plant treats sewage from Indio residents and discharges the treated disinfected wastewater to the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel. This discharge is allowed pursuant to a Regional Water Board permit adopted in March 2020. Staff are developing an updated permit for the wastewater treatment plant and are planning to present it for Regional Water Board consideration of adoption in the winter of 2026.

### **Coachella Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant—City of Coachella; Riverside County (Permit Renewal)**

The Coachella Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 87-075 Avenue 54, on the east side of the City of Coachella, about a quarter mile west of Highway 86. The wastewater treatment plant treats the sewage from Coachella residents and discharges the treated disinfected wastewater to the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel. This discharge is allowed pursuant to a Regional Water Board permit adopted in June 2020. Staff are developing an updated permit for the wastewater treatment plant and are planning to present it for Regional Water Board consideration of adoption in the winter of 2026.

### **Imperial Irrigation District El Centro Generating Station —City of El Centro; Imperial County (Permit Renewal)**

The Imperial Irrigation District El Centro Generating Station, a gas and oil-fired power plant, is located at 485 East Villa Road on the east side of the City of El Centro and two miles west of highway 111. The facility discharges treated industrial wastewater to the

Central Drain No. 5, a tributary to the Alamo River. This discharge is allowed pursuant to a Regional Water Board permit adopted in January 2020. Staff are developing an updated permit for the wastewater treatment plant and are planning to present it for Regional Water Board consideration of adoption in the spring of 2026.

### **“Phase I” General Order for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) within Whitewater River Watershed—Coachella Valley, Riverside County (Permit Renewal)**

The Regional Boards regulates discharges from urban areas that have Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). Phase 1 MS4 permits apply to urban areas with populations greater than 250,000 people. On March 14, 1991, the Regional Water Board designated the Whitewater River Watershed as an area required to have a Phase 1 MS4 stormwater permit. The majority of the Whitewater River Watershed is in the Coachella Valley. The first Regional Water Board permit for the Whitewater River Watershed was adopted in 1996 and has been updated and renewed by the Regional Water Board three times since. The most recent renewed Regional Water Board permit became effective in June 2013. Staff continue to develop an updated permit and plan to present it for Regional Water Board consideration of adoption in 2026.

### **General Order for Discharges of Extracted and Treated Groundwater Resulting from the Cleanup of Groundwater Polluted by Volatile Organic Constituents into Surface Water —Regionwide (Permit Rescission)**

The Regional Water Board adopted a general permit in September 2015, that permitted discharges resulting from the cleanup of groundwater polluted by releases of petroleum organic compounds and other volatile organic compounds. Since adoption, no dischargers have applied for enrollment under the general permit. Staff are planning to propose that the Regional Water Board rescind the general permit at their September 2025 meeting.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This fact sheet was prepared as part of the Regional Water Board’s outreach activities conducted pursuant to Water Code section 189.7. Such activities are intended to provide equitable, culturally relevant community outreach to promote meaningful civil engagement from potentially impacted communities. If you would like to learn more about any of the proposed permitting activities described above, or have any questions concerning surface water permitting activities, please contact Logan Raub at (760) 776-8966 or [Logan.Raub@WaterBoards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@WaterBoards.ca.gov).