



Accomplishments

- ✓ Septic System Discharges Now Prohibited in Yucca Valley

www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100

Palm Desert, CA 92260

Phone: (760) 346-7491

The Colorado River Basin Region covers California's most arid area. 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 700,000 acres of productive farmland in the Imperial, Coachella, Bard, and Palo Verde valleys. The river also provides drinking water to several million people in California's southern coastal cities.

Upcoming Priorities for 2012

- New River Improvement Project (AB 1079): Implement key surveillance and strategic regulatory programs to address New River pollution from Mexico and the Imperial Valley, respectively, to ensure the river meets the State water quality standards and track clean-up progress and emerging threats.
- Septic Systems: (1) Eliminate discharges of wastes from septic tanks in high density areas overlying sources of drinking water, and promote the construction of centralized wastewater treatment plants and sewer lines, and the recycling of treated wastewater; and (2) Continue to work with and outreach to key stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, in the Coachella Valley to ensure that: (a) overloaded/outdated septic systems are brought up to standards, and actual and potential nuisance and water quality threats are addressed, and (b) stakeholders can fully participate in the regulatory-decision-making process.
- Irrigated Agriculture: Continue to address the actual and potential impacts that agricultural runoff has on water quality as provided by the State's policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Non-Point Source Program: (1) Imperial Valley, (2) Coachella Valley, (3) Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa, and (4) Bard Valley.