

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION  
SURFACE WATER PROGRAM  
PLANNED PERMITTING ACTIVITIES  
IN FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, is providing the following information about planned permitting activities in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, which began on July 1, 2024, and ends on June 30, 2025. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public 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.

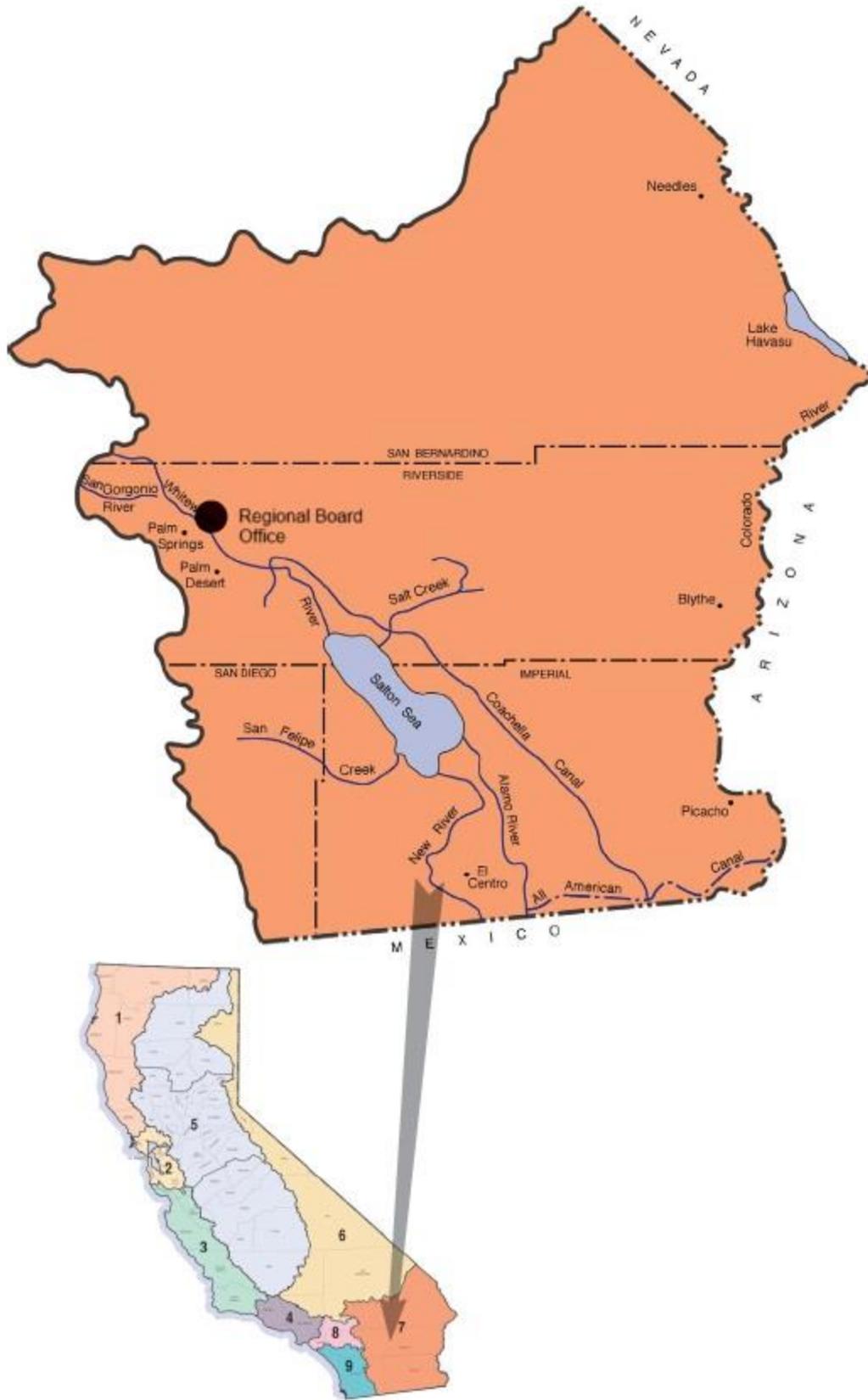
The Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) makes water quality decisions for the Colorado River Basin Region (Region 7), which covers California's most arid area. Despite its dry climate, the region contains two water bodies of State and national significance: the Colorado River 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. Figure 1 shows the area included in the Colorado River Basin Region.

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.



**Figure 1. The Colorado River Basin Region.**

## **NPDES PERMIT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025**

The NPDES program plans to develop the permits listed below in Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025. Members of the public are encouraged to reach out to Region 7 staff regarding the development and status of these permits.

### **El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant—City of El Centro; Imperial County (Permit Renewal)**

The El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 2255 North La Brucherie Road, on the east side of the City of El Centro, about two miles north of Interstate 8. The wastewater treatment plant treats sewage from El Centro residents and discharges the treated disinfected wastewater to the Central Main Drain, which flows to the Alamo River. This discharge is allowed pursuant to a Regional Water Board permit adopted in March 2019. 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 fall of 2024.

### **Calexico Water Pollution Control Plant—City of Calexico; Imperial County (Permit Renewal)**

The Calexico Water Pollution Control Plant is located at 298 West 2nd Street, on the south side of the City of Calexico, near the U.S./Mexico International Boundary. The wastewater treatment plant treats the sewage from Calexico residents and discharges the treated disinfected wastewater to the New River. This discharge is allowed pursuant to a Regional Water Board permit adopted in May 2019. 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 2025.

### **Niland Wastewater Treatment Plant —Community of Niland; Imperial County (Permit Renewal)**

The Niland Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 125 West Alcott Road, on the southeast side of the Community of Niland, a half mile west of highway 111. The wastewater treatment plant treats sewage from Niland residents and discharges the treated disinfected wastewater to the R Drain, which flows to the Salton Sea. This discharge is allowed pursuant to a Regional Water Board permit adopted in May 2019. 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 summer of 2025.

### **“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 are developing an updated permit and plan to present it for Regional Water Board consideration of adoption in 2025.

## **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 generally, please contact Logan Raub at (760) 776-8966 or [Logan.Raub@WaterBoards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@WaterBoards.ca.gov).