

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-19-01
January 22, 2019
NPDES No. CA0104426

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS**

The following discharger has filed an application for reissuance of a discharge permit Order R7-2014-0002 under section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program (33 U.S.C. § 1342):

**CITY OF EL CENTRO,
EL CENTRO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The staff of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board), has prepared proposed Order R7-2019-0002 (Proposed Order) for the above discharger containing effluent and receiving water limitations and special provisions in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and division 7 of the Water Code, commencing with section 13000. The public hearing to consider adoption of the Proposed Order will be on:

Date: March 7, 2019
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers
235 N. Broadway
Blythe, CA 92225

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

BACKGROUND

The City of El Centro owns and operates the El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant. The current total design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is 8.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge consists of disinfected secondary treated wastewater. Wastewater from the community is pumped from seven lift stations to a final lift station, from which it is pumped to preliminary treatment where solids are removed by an automatic bar screen. Manual injection of ferric chloride and polymer is added to the process at the main lift station to remove metals from the wastewater. Wastewater is then directed through the plant's primary clarifiers. Secondary treatment is achieved through

biological treatment via six aeration basins and secondary clarification through four final clarifiers. The wastewater is then disinfected using ultraviolet (UV) light before being discharged to the Central Main Drain.

Primary sludge generated from the primary clarifiers is pumped to anaerobic digesters. Secondary sludge generated from the secondary clarifiers is processed through a gravity belt thickener, with the de-watered sludge sent to the anaerobic digesters. Following anaerobic digestion, sludge is directed through a belt press, dried to approximately 90 percent solids in drying beds and then land-applied at locations in Arizona. The Facility maintains an emergency storage basin for use during cleaning of the UV disinfection channel or plant malfunction. The emergency storage basin can be pumped to the primary clarifiers if necessary, but is typically allowed to evaporate.

The El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant services a population of approximately 43,200. The El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant is located in El Centro, California. Wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to the Central Main Drain, a water of the United States, tributary to the Alamo River.

The Discharger is currently regulated by an NPDES permit (NPDES Permit No. CA0104426, Order R7-2014-0002), which was adopted on May 8, 2014 and expires on May 31, 2019. The Discharger filed a report of waste discharge (ROWD) and submitted an application for reissuance of the NPDES permit on September 12, 2018.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The full text of the current NPDES permit, Order R7-2014-0002, and Proposed Order R7-2019-0002, are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

If you need a hard copy of these orders mailed to you, please contact Mary Castaneda by phone at (760) 776-8945 or e-mail at mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments during a thirty (30)-day public comment period, which begins January 22, 2019 and ends February 21, 2019. Written comments on the proposed Board Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m., February 21, 2019**.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Kai Dunn at the address shown below or emailed to kai.dunn@waterboards.ca.gov.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
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The Colorado River Basin Water Board will prepare written responses to significant comments that are timely received. If written comments to the Colorado River Basin Water Board are not timely submitted, late comments will not be accepted if doing so would prejudice any party in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4.

HEARING PROCEDURE

Affected stakeholders and other interested persons are invited to attend and express their views on this matter at the public hearing, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. In addition, to ensure accuracy of the record, the Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that any speakers who have prepared written statements for oral presentation at the hearing submit those statements to Board staff before or during the hearing.

Those who wish to speak at the hearing will be asked to fill out a speaker request card and provide it to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. Comments from the public will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Any person planning to make a presentation to the Board that requires the use of visual aids (such as overheads, slides, or video projector) should contact the assigned staff person to make arrangements before the meeting date in order to avoid unnecessary delays during the meeting. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

More information about the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Meeting Procedures is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf

A copy may also be obtained in person at the Colorado River Basin Water Board Office, or a copy can be mailed to you by contacting Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or e-mail at mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov to request a copy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact Kai Dunn, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, at (760) 776-8986 or email at kai.dunn@waterboards.ca.gov for any questions regarding the Proposed Order.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or e-mail at hvasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing.