

**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. 7-21-46
September 9, 2021
NPDES No. CA0104906

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs)
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2021-0045**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment proposed Order R7-2021-0005, which will serve as an NPDES permit and WDRs for the U.S. Navy Naval Air Facility El Centro Wastewater Treatment Plant. The following discharger has applied for reissuance of the current NPDES permit, Order R7-2015-0004, under section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act NPDES permit program (33 U.S.C. § 1342):

U.S. NAVY
NAVAL AIR FACILITY EL CENTRO
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
1605 3RD STREET, BUILDING 504
EL CENTRO – IMPERIAL COUNTY

Staff of the Colorado River Basin Water Board has prepared proposed Order R7-2021-0005 (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 the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, § 13000 et seq.). The public hearing to consider adoption of the Proposed Order will be on:

Date: November 2, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference*

*As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the Board meeting will occur solely via remote presence. In the event orders from the Governor of California change prior to the scheduled date of this meeting, the format of this meeting may change to also allow for in-person attendance at a physical meeting location (73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260). Persons desiring to receive notice about changes to the format of this meeting should sign up for the Lyris e-mail list by [Subscribing to our Electronic Mailing 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 Colorado River Basin

Water Board's website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Remote Participation Instructions](#).

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures](#).

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Navy (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system (Facility), which provides sewerage service to the Naval Air Facility El Centro with a service population of approximately 1,580. The permitted maximum daily flow limitation is equal to the design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant which is 0.3 MGD.

The treatment system consists of an influent diversion box, three equalization tanks, an automatic bar screen, an oxidation ditch, and a secondary clarifier. Effluent is chlorinated using sodium hypochlorite solution and dechlorinated using a sodium bisulfite prior to discharge. The Facility also maintains a 4-million-gallon overflow storage pond with a synthetic liner, which can divert flow from the equalization tanks.

Raw wastewater leaves two pump houses and enters three 18,000-gallon equalization tanks, in parallel. From the equalization basins, raw wastewater passes through the influent junction box, a flow meter and automatic sampler, and then through an automatic bar screen. The wastewater undergoes biological treatment in the oxidation ditch, followed by solids separation in the secondary clarifier. Wastewater is disinfected in the chlorine contact chamber by injecting sodium hypochlorite followed by dechlorination using sodium bisulfite.

A portion of the solids separated in the secondary clarifier is pumped back to the oxidation ditch for additional treatment and the remaining portion is pumped to one of six drying beds, dried, and placed in trash bins prior to being hauled away by a contractor (currently, Allied Waste Services) to the Allied Waste Imperial Landfill (Imperial, CA) for disposal.

Final effluent is discharged from Discharge Point 001 (32°, 50', 20" North; 115°, 41', 07" West) to an unnamed tributary to the New River. From the unnamed tributary to the New River, effluent flows approximately 180 yards prior to entering New River, a water of the United States.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a thirty (30) day public comment period, which begins **September 9, 2021** and ends **October 8, 2021**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. **October 8, 2021**. Comments received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Jose Valle de Leon at the address shown below or emailed to: Jose.ValledeLeon@Waterboards.ca.gov 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
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The full text of the Proposed Order is available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

https://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, or CJ Jasieniecki at (760) 346-7494 or via e-mail at: CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov

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 hilda.vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or CJ Jasieniecki at (760) 346-7494 or via e-mail at: CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Jose Valle de Leon at (760) 776-8940 or via email at Jose.ValledeLeon@Waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.