

**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. 7-23-32  
July 31, 2023  
NPDES No. CA0104248

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. R7-2020-0019-01  
ISSUED TO  
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION  
EL CENTRO, IMPERIAL COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public comment proposed amended Time Schedule Order (TSO) R7-2020-0019-1 (Amended Order R7-2020-0019-1). The original TSO (Order R7-2020-0019) required compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2020-0006 (NPDES No. CA0104248) for Imperial Irrigation District's (Discharger) El Centro Generating Station (Facility). Amended Order R7-2020-0019-1 modifies two interim milestones contained in Order R7-2020-0019.

**BACKGROUND**

The Discharger owns and operates the El Centro Generating Station (Facility) located at 485 East Villa Road, El Centro, CA 92243, in Imperial County. The Facility is a steam electric generating facility that provides electricity to the Imperial Valley. The Facility consists of three steam turbine generators and three gas turbine generators, with a total of four generating units. All units are cooled using water circulated through unit-specific cooling towers. Colorado River water via the Dogwood Canal is used to provide water for cooling and other facility operations. The Facility has a potential to discharge a maximum of 0.995 million gallons per day (MGD) of industrial cooling water (i.e., commingled cooling tower blowdown, reverse osmosis reject water, and evaporative cooling water) to Central Drain No. 5, which flows to the Alamo River and then into the Salton Sea, a water of the United States.

On January 16, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted Order R7-2020-0006 to regulate discharges of industrial wastewater from the Facility. Order R7-2020-0006 included effluent limitations for copper, lead, selenium, thallium, and zinc.

On March 12, 2020, the Discharger reported that they were unable to consistently comply with the effluent limitations for copper, lead, selenium, thallium, and zinc established in Order R7-2020-0006 and requested a Time Schedule Order from the Colorado River

Basin Water Board to allow sufficient time to bring the Facility into compliance with the effluent limitations.

On July 9, 2020, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted Order R7-2020-0019, which established a time schedule of no more than five years for bringing the waste discharge into compliance with the final effluent limitations for copper, lead, selenium, thallium, and zinc in Order R7-2020-0006

On May 5, 2023, the Discharger reported that they would not be able to meet interim milestones 4 and 5 and requested additional time. The Discharger stated they have encountered unanticipated events that threaten the ability to achieve the milestones. The first event is the rearrangement of the lead agency responsible for the CEQA study from Imperial County to the Discharger. The CEQA process adds four to six months for public review, comment period, and adoption which the Discharger did not include in the original timeline for the TSO in 2020. The second event is the consideration of the Yucca IID steam unit being retired, which will increase the energy production requirement at the El Centro Generating Station. This requires a redesign of the control strategy and compliance project for the new operations.

Amended Order R7-2020-0019-1 will extend the deadlines for two interim milestones established in Time Schedule Order No. R7-2020-0019. The first milestone, "Obtain construction approval of project", originally had a deadline of 8/31/2023. This deadline will now be extended seven months to 3/31/2024. The second milestone, "Complete the Pollution Prevention Plan and construction of the project", originally had a deadline of 12/31/2024. This deadline will now be extended two months to 3/1/2025. The final milestone, which includes coming into full compliance with Order R7-2020-0006, will not be extended in this amendment and remains 4/1/2025.

## **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a thirty (30) day public comment period, which begins **July 31, 2023**, and ends **August 30, 2023**. Written comments on the proposed Amended Order R7-2020-0019-1 must be received no later than **5:00 p.m., August 30, 2023**.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Logan Raub at the address shown below, emailed to [Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov), or faxed to the office at (760) 341-6820.

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The Executive Officer working with staff will review any comments submitted. If required, the comments will be incorporated into the Proposed Amended Time Schedule Order and the Executive Officer will sign it.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Logan Raub at [Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov).

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

File: WDID 7A130128003, IID – El Centro Generating Station, Order No. R7-2020-0006