

**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. 7-26-03
Notice Date: January 27, 2026
NPDES Permit CA0104493

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2026-XXXX**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2026-XXXX (Tentative Order), which will serve as the reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number CA0104493 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the following discharger and facility:

COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT
(Discharger)

COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
87-075 AVENUE 54
COACHELLA – RIVERSIDE COUNTY
(Facility)

The Coachella Sanitary District has applied for reissuance of the Coachella Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES Permit, previously issued per WDRs Order R7-2020-0008, issued pursuant to section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342), and pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.).

HEARING PARTICIPATION

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative Order at the date, time, and location specified below:

Date: April 14, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Colorado River Basin Water Board's Boardroom
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

(virtual public participation available; see below)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public may participate either in person at the physical meeting location or virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. Instructions concerning how to participate virtually are available on the Regional Water Board's website. Persons desiring to receive information about changes to the format of this meeting should subscribe to the [Lyris email 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 Board's website (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting/#participation_via_video_conference).

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Board's [Meeting Procedures](#) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf).

BACKGROUND

The Discharger owns and operates the Facility, a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, and provides service to a population of approximately 46,000 individuals located in the City of Coachella. The Facility is located in Section 15, T6S, R8E, San Bernardino Base & Meridian.

The Facility consists of a raw wastewater lift station, a headworks facility, two parallel treatment trains, a disinfection system, and sludge drying beds. The permitted maximum daily flow limit is equal to the design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant, which is 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD).

Wastewater from the community is collected in the City of Coachella's domestic sewer collection system and conveyed to the plant headworks facility, where the wastewater passes through a mechanical fine screen. The screenings are removed, collected and disposed of. After passing through the mechanical screen, raw wastewater flows into a packaged grit chamber (i.e., a cyclone grit removal type system). The wastewater is then split by an automated flow control structure and delivered to an activated sludge treatment system and an oxidation ditch treatment system.

The activated sludge treatment system capacity is 1.5 MGD and consists of two process units operated in parallel. The activated sludge treatment system consists of two contact stabilization tanks (CSTs). To maintain the proper solids, as the solids concentration builds in the CSTs, a portion of the settled sludge is removed from the bottom of the clarifiers via sludge wasting pumps, which pump the sludge to the lined/unlined drying beds on the south end of the plant. When sludge has adequately dried, the biosolids

stored in a stockpile area in the southwest corner of the site. When enough biosolids have accumulated, staff schedules to have them removed from the site for disposal.

The oxidation ditch (OD) treatment system capacity is 3.0 MGD. The OD process is characterized as a modified extended aeration activated sludge process with a relatively long sludge age. The tanks as constructed include a large aeration basin and a relatively smaller anoxic zone for denitrification.

The clarified effluent from the CSTs and OD processes are disinfected using an automated chlorine delivery system. Bisulfite is automatically dosed to dechlorinate to a target residual chlorine concentration. Treated, disinfected wastewater is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel, a water of the United States.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a 30-day public comment period, which ends on **February 26, 2026**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 26, 2026**. Comments received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of **Fatima Alrahem** at the address shown below or emailed to: Fatima.Alrahem@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
Palm Desert, CA 92260

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Tentative Order has been posted to the Board's [Tentative Orders](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml) webpage (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml).

To receive a physical copy by mail, contact **Mary Castaneda** at (760) 776-8945 or at Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov.

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact **Mary Castaneda** via email at Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting

to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-(800) 735-2929 or voice line at 1-(800) 735-2922.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Fatima Alrahem** at (760) 313-1290 or Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A330104012, Coachella Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant, Board Order R7-2026-XXXX