

**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. 7-26-26
Notice Date: July 9, 2026
NPDES Permit CA0104248

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 CA0104248 and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the following discharger and facility:

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
(Discharger)

EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION
485 EAST VILLA ROAD
EL CENTRO – IMPERIAL COUNTY
(Facility)

The Imperial Irrigation District has applied for reissuance of the El Centro Generating Station NPDES Permit, previously issued per WDRs Order R7-2020-0006, 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: September 8, 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)

IID EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION

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 El Centro Generating Station (Facility). The Facility is located in the NE ¼ of Section 32, T15S, R14E, SBB&M. The permitted maximum daily flow limitation is equal to the design capacity of the Facility which is 0.995 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge consists of industrial wastewater.

The Facility is a gas and oil-fired steam electric generating facility that provides immediate and base load electrical power to serve the Imperial Valley and consists of three steam turbine generators and three gas turbine generators. The total electrical generating capacity of the Facility is 347 megawatts (MW). The Facility consists of one (1) steam unit and two (2) combined cycle units. The steam unit is rated at 80 MW, and the combined cycle units are rated at 115 MW (83 MW gas turbine and 32 MW steam turbine) and 152 MW (two 47 MW gas turbines and one 58 MW steam turbine). The power generating units are primarily natural gas fired. The Facility has the ability to utilize No. 2 fuel oil; however, this fuel option is seldom used due to air emissions permit restrictions. The Facility utilizes three cooling towers, five fuel storage tanks, and six raw water storage/settling basins.

Colorado River water via the Dogwood canal is utilized to provide water for cooling and other Facility operations. Raw water entering the Facility is treated with a clarifying agent to aid in the removal of suspended solids prior to storage in basins. Canal water is passed through a screen to remove large debris and then through a series of settling basins to remove sediment. Settling basin effluent is then pumped through Reverse Osmosis (RO) units and is de-ionized prior to being stored in surge tanks for cooling tower make-up water. A reverse osmosis (RO) and demineralization system is utilized

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August 7, 2026

for additional water treatment. All units are cooled using water circulating through unit specific cooling towers.

The Facility has two Class I, non-hazardous wastewater deep underground injection wells (UIWs), IW-1 (2,750 feet) and IW-3 (2,740 feet), on the Facility's property to discharge wastewater under Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit CA10600002. USEPA provided the Facility authorization to inject on August 24, 2012, and the Facility commenced discharge to IW-1 and IW-3 on May 10, 2013. Industrial wastewater disposed of through the UIWs is filtered to remove TSS and stored in a tank prior to injection. The UIW system was not performing as expected upon initial operation; therefore, the Facility ceased UIW discharges and returned discharges to Central Drain No. 5 for the period from May 2013 to October 2013. However, in October 2013, the Facility recommenced discharges using IW-1 and IW-3 and closed the valves to the surface water discharge outfall. A minor modification to Permit No. CA10600002 was approved in late 2014 to increase the injection pressure at the wellhead from 210 pounds per square inch (psi) to 550 pounds per square inch (psi). Currently, the injection rate permitted by the USEPA is 1.71 MGD.

Discharge to surface water still occurs seasonally, normally during the summer months, and is comprised of cooling tower blowdown, RO reject water, and evaporative cooling water, which are commingled in a collection vault.

The Facility has the potential to discharge a maximum of 0.995 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 into the Alamo River, and ultimately flows to the Salton Sea.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a 30-day public comment period, which ends on **August 7, 2026**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on August 7, 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
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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. 7A130128003, Imperial Irrigation District El Centro Generating Station, Board Order R7-2026-XXXX