

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

BOARD ORDER R7-2014-0027

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
CITY OF CALIPATRIA, OWNER/OPERATOR
WASTEWATER EMERGENCY STANDBY BASINS
Calipatria – Imperial County**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) finds that:

1. The City of Calipatria (Discharger), P.O. Box 167, Calipatria, CA 92233, owns and operates a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) that provides sewage services to residents and businesses in the City of Calipatria, Imperial County. The POTW is located in the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, Township 12 South, Range 14 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, physical address 106 Lindsey Road, Calipatria, CA 92233, shown on the Vicinity Map, Attachment "A", incorporated herein and made part of this Board Order by reference.
2. The POTW has a design capacity of 1.73 million gallons per day (mgd) and consists of four aerated lagoons operating in series followed by a disinfection system. Treated wastewater from the POTW is discharged from Discharge Point 001 to the "G" Drain, a water of the United States, tributary to the Alamo River, within the Salton Sea Watershed pursuant to Colorado River Basin Water Board Order R7-2010-0018, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) No. CA0105015.
3. In the event of routine maintenance, power outages or other emergencies, the POTW diverts untreated or partially treated effluent to two unlined earthen wastewater emergency standby basins (Standby Basins) located approximately 4,000 feet west of the POTW and connected to the POTW via an underground pipeline. The Standby Basins are located at the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 12 South, Range 13 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, shown on the Vicinity Map in Attachment "A".

Wastewater Discharge to Standby Basins

4. These Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) regulate the intermittent use of the Standby Basins to divert untreated and partially treated wastewater during emergencies and/or routine maintenance of the treatment units.
5. The intermittent discharge of wastewater to the Standby Basins has been regulated by WDRs prescribed under Board Order R7-2003-0010, adopted by the Colorado River Basin Water Board on November 5, 2003. The Colorado River Basin Water Board has determined that Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the discharge are in need of revision. There is no substantial change in the quality or quantity of discharge. The WDRs are being updated administratively to implement the most current laws and regulations applicable to the discharge.

6. The Standby Basins cover approximately eleven (11) acres of land in surface area.
7. During an emergency and/or routine maintenance, the Discharger discharges a maximum of 530,000 gallons-per-day of wastewater into two (2) earthen basins for final disposal by evaporation and infiltration.

Hydrogeologic Conditions

8. Annual precipitation in the vicinity averages approximately 3 inches/year.
9. Evapotranspiration rate in the vicinity is estimated at 69 inches per year.
10. The Salton Sea is approximately 3.3 miles to the northwest.
11. Surface waters in the vicinity of the Standby Basins are the agricultural drain referenced as G Drain, running approximately 100 feet south of the Standby Basins, and Alamo River, which runs approximately 100 feet west of the Standby Basins.
12. There are no water supply wells within 1,000 feet of the Standby Basins.
13. The water supply for the community is delivered from the Colorado River by the Imperial Irrigation District's canal system and is treated at the Calipatria Surface Treatment Plant.
14. The Standby Basins and associated facilities are located in the seismically active Imperial Valley and are considered likely to be subject to moderate to strong ground motion from earthquakes.

Basin Plan, Beneficial Uses, and Regulatory Considerations

15. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan), which was adopted on November 17, 1993, and amended on November 16, 2012, designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
16. The discharge is within the Imperial Hydrologic Unit. The Basin Plan designates the following beneficial uses for Imperial Hydrologic Unit:
 - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
 - b. Industrial supply (IND)
17. The discharge is also located within 100 feet of the G Drain and within 100 feet of the Alamo River, to which the G Drain discharges. The Basin Plan designates the following beneficial uses for the Alamo River:
 - a. Fresh Water Replenishment (FRSH);
 - b. Water Contact Recreation (REC-I)^{1, 2};
 - c. Non-Contact Recreation (REC-II)¹;
 - d. Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM);

¹ Unauthorized Use

² The only REC-I usage that is known to occur is from infrequent fishing activity.

- e. Wildlife Habitat (WILD);
 - f. and Support of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE)³.
18. Section 13267 of the California Water Code (CWC) authorizes the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards to require technical and monitoring reports. Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R7-2014-0027, included herein and made part of this Board Order by this reference, establishes monitoring and reporting requirements to implement federal and state requirements.
19. This Board Order establishes WDRs pursuant to Division 7, Chapter 4, Article 4, of the CWC for discharges that are not subject to regulation under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402 (33 U.S.C. Section 1342).
20. The discharge authorized by this Board Order, and treatment and storage facilities associated with discharges of treated municipal wastewater, except for discharges of residual sludge and solid waste, are exempt from the requirements of the Consolidated Regulations for Treatment, Storage, Processing, or Disposal of Solid Waste, as set forth in Title 27, CCR, Division 2, Subdivision 1 (Title 27), commencing with section 20005. This exemption is based on Section 20090(a) of Title 27, which states in relevant part that discharges of domestic sewage or treated effluent are exempt provided that such discharges are regulated by WDRs, or for which WDRs have been waived, and which are consistent with applicable water quality objectives, and treatment or storage facilities associated with municipal wastewater treatment plants, provided that residual sludges or solid waste from wastewater treatment facilities shall be discharged only in accordance with the applicable Title 27 provisions. The Discharger's compliance with this Board Order results in meeting the applicable Title 27 provisions. The discharge is domestic sewage, this Board Order regulates that discharge in a manner consistent with applicable surface and ground water quality objectives, and residual sludges or solid waste from the Standby Basins will be managed pursuant to Title 27.

Groundwater Degradation

21. State Water Board Resolution 68-16 ("Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters of the State"), hereinafter Resolution 68-16 states:

"Whenever the existing quality of water is better than the quality established in policies as of the date on which such policies become effective, such existing high quality will be maintained until it has been demonstrated to the State that any change will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of such water and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies."

Resolution 68-16 further states:

"Any activity which produces or may produce a waste or increased volume or concentration of waste and which discharges or proposes to discharge to existing high quality waters will be required to meet waste discharge requirements which will result in

the best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that (a) a pollution or nuisance will not occur and (b) the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained

22. Some degradation of groundwater from the discharge to the disposal ponds is consistent with Resolution 68-16, provided that the degradation:
 - a. Is confined to a reasonable area;
 - b. Is minimized by means of full implementation, regular maintenance, and optimal operation of best practicable treatment and control (BPTC) measures;
 - c. Is limited to waste constituents typically encountered in domestic wastewater; and
 - d. Does not result in the loss of any beneficial use as prescribed in the applicable basin plan, or violation of any water quality objective.
23. The discharge to the Standby Basins is an existing intermittent permitted discharge. Wastewater discharged to the Standby Basins is subject to final disposal by spreading, tilling, evaporating and percolating the waste. The Discharger has no means of pumping it back to the POTW at this time. Most of the wastewater in the Standby Basins will evaporate, and some will percolate so there is a limited threat to degrade groundwater. Compliance with the terms of this Board Order will encourage evaporation and limit degradation confined to the groundwater in the immediate area beneath and around the basin. The Discharger provides sewerage collection and treatment services that are protective of human health and the environment and contributes to the economic development of the area. Accordingly, the permitted discharge is consistent with the anti-degradation provisions of Resolution 68-16.
24. Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13263(g), the discharge of waste is a privilege, not a right, and adoption of this Board Order does not create a vested right to continue the discharge.

CEQA and Public Participation

25. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these WDRs, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.).
26. The Board has notified the Discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to revise WDRs for this discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
27. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Board Order R7-2003-0010 is rescinded, except for enforcement purposes, and, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the CWC, and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, the Discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Prohibitions

1. The discharge of any wastewater from the Standby Basins to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Discharge of waste classified as 'hazardous,' as defined in Title 23, CCR, Section 2521(a), or 'designated,' as defined in California Water Code Section 13173, is prohibited.
3. Emergency and/or routine maintenance discharge of untreated or partially treated wastewater other than to the Standby Basins is prohibited.
4. The disposal of wastes in excess of the design capacities of the Standby Basins is prohibited.
5. The discharge of waste to land not owned or authorized for such use by the Discharger is prohibited.
6. Surfacing or ponding of wastewater outside of the designated disposal locations is prohibited.
7. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.

B. Discharge Specifications

1. The Discharger shall preclude wastes from accumulating in any part of the basins. If wastes do accumulate after discharge, the Discharger shall spread the wastes within 72 hours after the end of a discharge event.⁴
2. To maintain the treatment capacity and the percolation rates of the Standby Basin, the Discharger shall till or disk the waste into the native soil and remove any non-composting trash when the waste is dry but no later than two weeks from the time waste enters a Standby Basin.
3. A minimum depth of two (2) feet freeboard shall be maintained at all times in the Standby Basins.
4. The discharge to the Standby Basins shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050(l) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
5. Public contact with wastewater shall be precluded or controlled through fences, signs, or other acceptable alternatives.
6. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply in accordance with State Water Board Resolution 68-16.

⁴ "Discharge event" for this Board Order shall be defined as the period of time from when wastewater is first diverted from the POTW toward the Standby Basins and to when wastewater is no longer flowing into the Standby Basins.

7. The Standby Basins shall be operated and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.
8. Objectionable odors originating at the Standby Basins shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the Standby Basins property boundary.
9. Standby Basins shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitos. In particular:
 - a. An erosion control program shall be implemented to assure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of each basin;
 - b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides; and
 - c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
10. The Standby Basins shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate the allowable volume of wastewater that can be discharged during any three-day period and design seasonal precipitation based on total annual precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns.

C. Provisions

1. The Discharger shall comply with all of the conditions of this Board Order. Noncompliance is a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Cal. Water Code, § 13000 et seq.), and is grounds for enforcement action.
2. The Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R7-2014-0027, and future revisions thereto, incorporated herein and made a part of this Board Order by this reference, as specified by the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer.
3. Prior to implementing a modification that results in a material change in the quality or quantity of the discharge, or a material change in the location of discharge, the Discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Colorado River Basin Water Board, and obtain revised requirements.
4. Prior to a change in ownership or management of the Standby Basins, the Discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Colorado River Basin Water Board.
5. The Discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
6. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
7. The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all systems and components of collection, treatment and control, installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with this Board Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate process controls, and appropriate quality assurance procedures. All systems in service or reserved shall be inspected and maintained on a

regular basis. Records of inspections and maintenance shall be retained, and made available to the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer on request.

8. The Discharger shall report orally any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. The noncompliance shall be reported immediately to the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer and the Office of Emergency Services as soon as:
 - a. The Discharger has knowledge of the discharge,
 - b. Notification is possible, and
 - c. Notification will not substantially impede cleanup or other emergency measures.

During non-business hours, the Discharger shall leave a message on the Colorado River Basin Water Board office voice recorder. A written report shall be provided within five (5) business days the Discharger is aware of the incident. The written report shall include a description of the noncompliance, the cause, period of noncompliance, anticipated time to achieve full compliance, and steps taken or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The Discharger shall report all intentional or unintentional spills occurring due to a discharge event to the Standby Basins to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office in accordance with the above time limits.

9. The Discharger shall allow the Colorado River Basin Water Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
 - a. Enter the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records are kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
 - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, records kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
 - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
 - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
10. The Discharger shall provide adequate notice to the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer of the following:
 - a. The introduction of pollutants into any facility described in the Findings of this Board Order from an indirect Discharger which would be subject to Section 301 or 306 of the Clean Water Act, if the pollutants were discharged directly.
 - b. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants introduced into any facility described in the Findings of this Board Order, by an existing or new source; and
 - c. Any planned physical alteration or addition to the facilities described in this Board Order, or change planned in the Discharger's sludge use or disposal practice, where such alterations, additions, or changes may justify the application of Board Order conditions that are different from or absent in the existing Board Order, including

notification of additional disposal sites not reported during the Board Order application process, or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan.

11. The Discharger shall report all instances of noncompliance. Reports of noncompliance shall be submitted with the Discharger's next scheduled self-monitoring report or earlier if requested by the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer, or if required by an applicable standard for sludge use and disposal.
12. The Discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer and in Monitoring and Reporting Program R7-2014-0027. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
13. The Discharger is the responsible party for the WDRs and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for the Standby Basins. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of these WDRs. Violations may result in enforcement action, including Colorado River Basin Water Board orders or court orders that require corrective action or impose civil monetary liability, or modification or revocation of these WDRs by the Colorado River Basin Water Board.

D. General Conditions

14. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
15. This Board Order does not convey property rights of any sort, or exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize injury to private property or invasion of personal rights, or infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
16. This Board Order may be modified, rescinded, or reissued, for cause. The filing of a request by the Discharger for a Board Order modification, rescission or reissuance, or notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance, does not stay any Board Order condition. Causes for modification include a change in land application plans, or sludge use or disposal practices, and adoption of new regulations by the State Water Resources Control Board or Colorado River Basin Water Board (including revisions to the Basin Plan), or federal government.

I, Robert Perdue, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on May 8, 2014.



ROBERT PERDUE
Executive Officer

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

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM R7-2014-0027
FOR

CITY OF CALIPATRIA, OWNER/OPERATOR
WASTEWATER EMERGENCY STANDBY BASINS
Calipatria – Imperial County

Location of Discharge:
Northeast ¼ of Section 12, Township 12 South, Range 13 East, SBB&M

MONITORING AND REPORTING

A. MONITORING

1. This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) describes requirements for monitoring a wastewater system and groundwater quality (when needed). This MRP is issued pursuant to California Water Code section 13267. The Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless and until a revised MRP is issued by the Executive Officer.

2. Water Code section 13267 states, in part:

“In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region, or any citizen or domiciliary, or political agency or entity of this state who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge, waste outside of its region that could affect the quality of waters within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the regional board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.”

3. Water Code section 13268 states, in part:

“(a) (1) Any person failing or refusing to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required by subdivision (b) of § 13267, or failing or refusing to furnish a statement of compliance as required by subdivision (b) of Section 13399.2, or falsifying any information provided therein, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be liable civilly in accordance with subdivision (b). (b) (1) Civil liability may be administratively imposed by a regional board in accordance with Article 2.5 (commencing with § 13323) of Chapter 5 for a violation of subdivision (a) in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day in which the violation occurs.”

4. The Discharger owns and operates the wastewater system that is subject to Board Order R7-2014-0027. The reports are necessary to ensure that the Discharger complies with the Board Order. Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall implement the MRP and shall submit the monitoring reports described herein.
5. The Discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order, for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. Records of monitoring information shall include the date, exact place, and time of measurement(s) and the individual(s) who performed the measurement(s).

B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The Discharger shall perform and report the following maintenance activities:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Reporting Required</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
1. Inspect the Standby Basins for any potential operation/maintenance problems, including its structural integrity, vector control, and wastes accumulation.	The findings of the inspection and planned corrective actions, if problems are detected	Annually
2. Within 48 hours of the beginning of every discharge event, inspect the ground surface along the entire length of the pipeline conveying wastewater from the POTW to the Standby Basins for any evidence of wastewater leakage, such as wastewater odors or surfacing.	The findings of the inspection and planned corrective actions, if problems are detected	After a Discharge Event
3. Within 72 hours after the end of every discharge event, spread the wastes, if any accumulate in any part of the Standby Basins.	Document the activity	After a Discharge Event
4. Within two weeks after the end of every discharge event, till or disk the soil in the area of the Standby Basins containing wastes.	Document the activity	After a Discharge Event

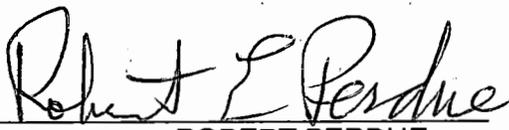
C. REPORTING

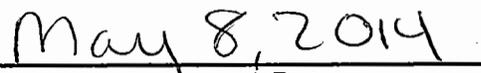
1. The Discharger shall inspect the general condition of the Standby Basins (e.g., structural integrity, whether weeds are growing in it and along its banks, signs of erosion, etc.) monthly and maintain a log at the POTW regarding the condition and use of the Standby Basins. The log shall be available for inspection by the Colorado River Basin Water Board and its representatives upon request.
2. For an anticipated discharge to the Standby Basins (e.g., scheduled unit maintenance), the Discharger shall, prior to discharge to the basin, submit to the Colorado River Basin Water Board a report two (2) working days before the proposed discharge is to take place. The report shall:
 - a. Describe the structural integrity of the basin;
 - b. Describe the reasons for the proposed discharge to the Standby Basins and the anticipated volume of wastewater that is to be discharged to the basin;
 - c. The quality of the wastewater to be discharged (e.g., secondary disinfected wastewater, secondary undischarged wastewater, etc.); and
 - d. Note whether there is any wastewater in the basin and record the available freeboard if there is wastewater in it.
3. For an emergency discharge to the Standby Basins, the Discharger shall notify the Colorado River Basin Water Board via telephone (760 346-7491) within 24-hours from the time the discharge took place. The notification shall include when and why the discharge took place.
4. Following any discharge event to the Standby Basins, the Discharger shall submit to the Colorado River Basin Water Board a Monitoring Report by the 15th day of the following month; the report shall include the following:
 - a. Estimate of the volume of wastewater discharged (gallons);
 - b. Description of the quality of discharge (e.g., raw sewage, primary effluent, etc.);
 - c. Description of the cause for the discharge;
 - d. Dates and times when the discharge began and ended;
 - e. All information required after a discharge event in the "Operation and Maintenance" requirements of this Monitoring and Reporting Program.
5. The Discharger shall submit to the Colorado River Basin Water Board Annual Monitoring Reports by January 15th of every year for the preceding calendar year. The report shall include the following:
 - a. All information required annually in the "Operation and Maintenance" requirements of this Monitoring and Reporting Program;
 - b. If no discharge events took place during the calendar year, a statement certifying that no discharge took place;
 - c. If discharge events took place during the calendar year, a summary of those events with dates and approximate discharge volumes (this requirement does not waive or substitute for the Monitoring Report required pursuant to C.4., above).

6. Monitoring reports shall be certified under penalty of perjury to be true and correct, and shall contain the required information at the frequency designated in this monitoring and reporting program (MRP).
7. Each report required herein shall contain the following statement:

"I declare under the penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of a fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."
8. The MRP, and other information requested by the Colorado River Basin Water Board, shall be signed by the District Manager or Chief Plant Operator.
9. Other duly authorized representative of the Discharger may sign the documents if:
 - a. Authorization is made in writing by the either one of the person described above;
 - b. Authorization specifies an individual or person having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated disposal system; and
 - c. Written authorization is submitted to the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer.
10. The Discharger shall submit monitoring reports to:

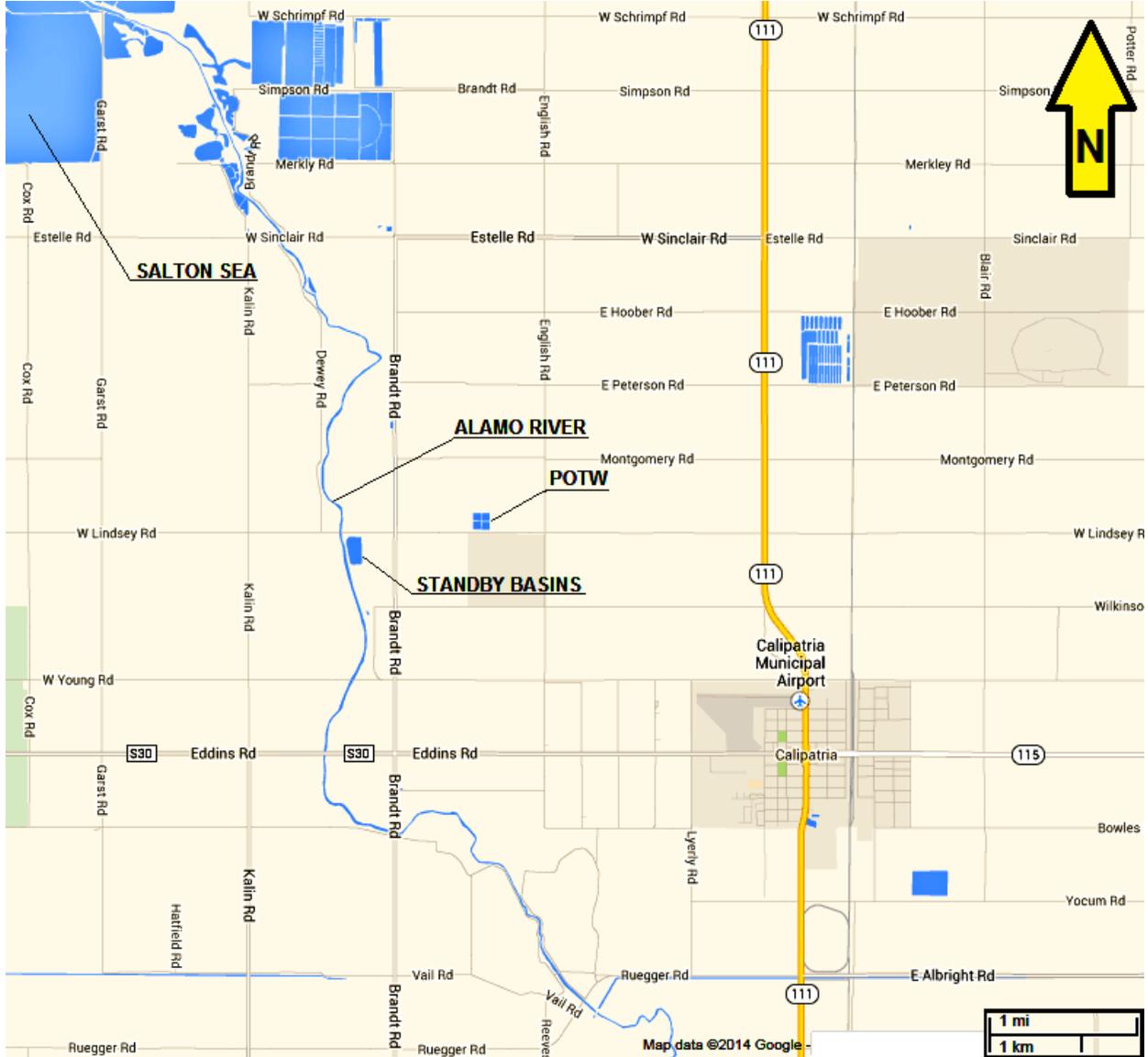
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260


ROBERT PERDUE
Executive Officer


Date

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ATTACHMENT "A"



VICINITY MAP
CITY OF CALIPATRIA, OWNER/OPERATOR
WASTEWATER EMERGENCY STANDBY BASINS
Calipatria – Imperial County