

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92260
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Public Notice 7-24-12
Issued March 25, 2024

Written Comment Deadline:
April 26, 2024

Staff Contact:
Francisco Costa
Francisco.Costa@waterboards.ca.gov
(760) 776-8937

Workshop:
April 9, 2024

Adoption Hearing:
June 11, 2024

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, PUBLIC
WORKSHOP, AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR COLORADO RIVER
BASIN INCORPORATING TRIBAL BENEFICIAL USES, STATEWIDE
MERCURY PROVISIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the staff of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) will accept written and oral comments, hold a public workshop, and hold a separate public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan) to include Tribal Beneficial Uses and administrative updates. More information on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment is provided below. The Board will accept written comments on the Draft Staff Report during a 30-day period beginning on **March 25, 2024**, and ending on **April 26, 2024**.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT, at the Colorado River Basin Water Board's public meeting on April 9, 2024, the Board will hold a workshop on the Draft Staff Report.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT, at the Colorado River Basin Water Board's public meeting on June 11, 2024, the Board will consider whether to adopt a Tentative Resolution, approving a finalized version of the Draft Staff Report.

WORKSHOP AND HEARING PARTICIPATION

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public workshop to provide information and receive oral comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and a separate public hearing to consider approval of Draft Staff Report, as specified below:

Workshop: April 9, 2024
9:00 am

Adoption Hearing: June 11, 2024
9:00 am

AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION TO INCLUDE TRIBAL BENEFICIAL USES, STATEWIDE MERCURY PROVISIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES
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Location: Colorado River Basin Water Board's Boardroom
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100,
Palm Desert, California 92260

Remote Participation Option Available
(See Instructions Below)

Remote Participation Option

Although these public meetings will be conducted in-person, the public will also have the opportunity to participate remotely via the [ZOOM videoconferencing platform](https://zoom.us) (<https://zoom.us>), which is free to download. If you intend to comment or otherwise actively participate in either meeting, you will need to obtain ZOOM access prior to each meeting. For those who do NOT intend to actively participate, the meetings will be livestreamed via [Cal-Span](http://www.cal-span.org) (www.cal-span.org).

Please refer to the Colorado River Basin Water Board's [Remote Meetings](#) page (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting) for instructions on remote participation via ZOOM.

Oral Comments at Hearing

All persons interested in the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment will be provided the opportunity to orally comment during the workshop and adoption hearing, provided that they have submitted **Speaker Request Cards** (or the equivalent for virtual participation). Such comments will be limited to three minutes, though the Board Chair may grant additional time on a case-by-case basis. To ensure accuracy of the record the Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that interested persons wishing to speak provide a summary of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing. However, interested persons do not need to submit written statements in order to speak. If your comments will incorporate a short slideshow presentation or visual aids, please email these materials to Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 3:00 pm on April 8, 2024 for the workshop and no later than 3:00 pm on June 10, 2024 for the adoption hearing. Such materials should be presented at the workshop.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments on the Draft Staff Report during a 30-day public comment period ending on **April 26, 2024**. All written comments must be received no later than **5:00 pm**. Comments received prior to this deadline will

COMMENT DEADLINE
April 26, 2024

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
April 9, 2024

ADOPTION HRG
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be included in the administrative record. Untimely written comments will not be considered, though oral comments at the adoption hearing will still be permitted.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- By Mail: Colorado River Basin Water Board,
Attn: Francisco Costa
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92260
- By Email: Francisco.Costa@waterboards.ca.gov
- By Fax: (760) 341-6820

BACKGROUND

Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Colorado River Basin is the guiding document that outlines the Colorado River Basin Water Board's plan for preserving and enhancing water quality in the region for the protection of beneficial uses for present and future generations. The Basin Plan contains the region's beneficial uses for groundwaters and surface waters, water quality objectives (WQOs) for protection of beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve WQOs.

The proposed Basin Plan Amendment was developed in response to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) adoption of Tribal Beneficial Uses and Statewide Mercury Provisions. Tribal Beneficial Use definitions are a group of beneficial uses that can help protect activities specific to Native American cultures and their uses of California waters, including the consumption of non-commercial fish or shellfish. Tribal Beneficial Use definitions can also be referred to as cultural uses of water.

The Project will involve incorporation of an existing State Water Board definitions for "Tribal Beneficial Uses," as well as certain administrative updates, specifically:

- (1) Inclusion of Statewide Mercury Objectives to the Water Quality Objectives in Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan.
- (2) Formally incorporate the Human Right to Water in Policies (see Water Code, § 106.5) in Chapter 5; and
- (3) Update Salton Sea information included in Chapters 1 and 5 in response to public comments (e.g., revising Salton Sea language to reflect current restoration plans and other pertinent information).

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The proposed Basin Plan Amendment language is set forth in “Attachment A” to the Draft Staff Report posted online. The Tentative Resolution, which will contain the same amendment language, will be posted to the Board’s website prior to the public meeting on June 11, 2024.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft Staff Report 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 Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov. The Tentative Resolution approving the Staff Report will be posted to the Board’s website prior to the public meeting on June 11, 2024.

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact **Mary Castaneda** 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 Francisco Costa at (760) 776-8937 or Francisco.Costa@waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

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