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## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 22, 2021

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND CEQA SCOPING MEETING**

*Regarding*

**Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to Address  
Organophosphate Pesticides and Toxicity Impairments  
within the Lower Salinas River Watershed**

**Remote Participation Only <sup>1</sup>**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PDT**

**Zoom Meeting Link: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/98032461758>**

Zoom Meeting ID: 980 3246 1758

or call in (669) 900-9128, meeting code 98032461758#

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff will hold a public workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek input on the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to control discharges of organophosphate pesticides (chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion) and prevent toxicity within streams of the lower Salinas River watershed. The Central Coast Water Board is the lead state agency charged with the protection of water quality in the Central Coast.

***POR MEDIO DEL PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA*** que el personal de la Junta del Agua de la Costa Central ofrecerá un taller público y reunión sobre CEQA, la Ley de Calidad Ambiental de California. El propósito es pedir aporte sobre el desarrollo de TMDLs (Carga Total Máxima Diaria). Las TMDLs son para abordar el deterioro de calidad del agua causado por toxicidad y pesticidas con organofosfatos en la cuenca baja del Salinas River. Si desea este aviso en español o si necesita servicio de intérprete para asistir a la videoconferencia, contacte a Monica Barricarte en [Monica.Barricarte@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Monica.Barricarte@waterboards.ca.gov) o 805-549-3881.

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<sup>1</sup> As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, this meeting will occur solely via remote presence.

## **LANGUAGE SERVICES**

Non-English language interpretation can be provided for the video conference meeting. If you require non-English-language interpretation, please contact [Larry.Harlan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Larry.Harlan@waterboards.ca.gov) on or before April 9, 2021.

## **BACKGROUND**

The proposed geographic scope of this TMDL includes the lower Salinas River watershed which encompasses an area of approximately 405 square miles in northern Monterey County. The project area extends north from the City of Gonzales to Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Eighteen waterbodies are listed as impaired on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List of impaired waterbodies (303(d) List) due to excessive levels of one or more organophosphate pesticides (chlorpyrifos, diazinon, malathion), and/or toxicity. The Clean Water Act requires the state to develop TMDLs for waters on the 303(d) List. TMDLs are strategies to restore water quality so that waterbodies attain water quality standards and then can be removed from the 303(d) List.

The term total maximum daily load is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. A TMDL project identifies the probable sources of pollution, establishes the maximum amount of pollution a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and allocates that amount to all probable contributing sources.

## **PURPOSE**

This workshop and CEQA scoping meeting will provide participants with: 1) an explanation and understanding of the TMDL project under development; 2) an opportunity to comment on the TMDL project; and 3) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis and environmental documentation for this project to be prepared pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the Central Coast Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15251(g); and Title 23, section 3775 et seq.).

Interested persons are specifically requested to provide information about:

- How they or responsible parties would foreseeably comply with the TMDL;
- The reasonably foreseeable significant environmental impacts associated with those means of compliance;
- Specific evidence supporting that such impacts are reasonably foreseeable, and describing the magnitude (significance) of the impacts;
- Reasonable alternative means of compliance that would have less significant adverse environmental impacts; and
- Reasonable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the means of compliance.

Central Coast Water Board staff will consider the issues raised and comments provided by attendees of the remote video and teleconference, both on the TMDL project and on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental documentation. Issues and comments provided by attendees of the remote video and teleconference may assist Central Coast Water Board staff in preparing the final reports that will be presented to the Central Coast Water Board.

**Central Coast Water Board staff will solicit oral comments during the remote video and teleconference. Additionally, if stakeholders wish to submit written comments regarding the potential environmental impact issues relevant to CEQA scoping, please submit the written comments on or before May 21, 2021.** To submit written comments, please see the section entitled “*How to Submit Written Comments*” below. Central Coast Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to each individual comment received but will incorporate written responses to all significant environmental points in the final reports that will be provided to the Central Coast Water Board.

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

All interested parties, including individuals representing agricultural interests, landowners who own or operate agricultural operations, representatives of municipalities and other public agencies/entities, representatives of environmental groups, and all other individuals interested in organophosphate pesticide control and aquatic toxicity reduction efforts within streams of the lower Salinas River watershed.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Persons wishing to submit written comments regarding CEQA scoping elements for this TMDL project may submit them via e-mail to Larry Harlan at [Larry.Harlan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Larry.Harlan@waterboards.ca.gov). If you wish to submit written comments regarding CEQA scoping elements for this TMDL project by postal mail, please address the comment letter to Larry Harlan at 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906.

### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

Due to ongoing circumstances related to the COVID-19 emergency, all public participation will be remote via an online hosted platform. The presentation slides will be shared via video conferencing and available by request following the meeting. Questions, comments, and discussion items will be collected during the video and teleconference meeting.

### **FUTURE NOTICES**

Central Coast Water Board staff will hold the public remote video and teleconference at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, or place of the video and teleconference will be noticed through the Salinas River Pesticide TMDLs e-mail distribution list. Any person interested in receiving future notices, including any changes to this notice of a public workshop and/or CEQA scoping meeting, must sign up for the

e-mail distribution list using the [subscription form](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.html) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg3\\_subscribe.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.html)), select the box for “Salinas River Pesticide TMDLs” and provide the required information.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

For questions regarding CEQA scoping or the TMDL project please contact Larry Harlan at [Larry.Harlan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Larry.Harlan@waterboards.ca.gov) or at (805) 594-6195.