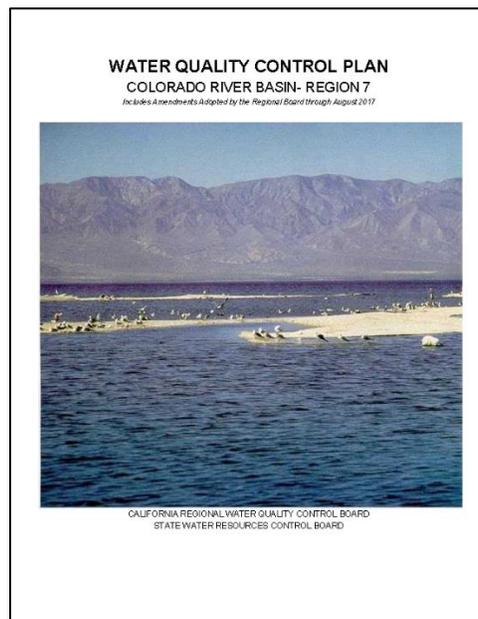


NON-REGULATORY AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN TO UPDATE SALTON SEA DISCUSSION AND TO CORRECT GENERAL ERRORS AND OUTDATED OR OBSOLETE INFORMATION

Staff Report



June 2018

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/>



Prepared under the direction of
Abdi Haile, Supervising Engineering Geologist
Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist
by
Maria Davydova, Environmental Scientist

Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	SPECIFIC CHANGES.....	1
2.1	Editorial Changes to Update Salton Sea Discussion.....	1
2.1.1	Chapter 1 - Introduction.....	2
2.1.2	Chapter 2 – Beneficial Uses.....	6
2.1.3	Chapter 3 – Water Quality Objectives.....	7
2.1.4	Chapter 4 - Implementation.....	8
2.2	Editorial Changes to Correct General Errors.....	12
2.2.1	Throughout the Basin Plan.....	13
2.2.2	Cover Page.....	16
2.2.3	Foreword.....	17
2.2.4	Table of Contents.....	18
2.2.5	Chapter 1 – Introduction.....	19
2.2.6	Chapter 2 – Beneficial Uses.....	22
2.2.7	Chapter 3 – Water Quality Objectives.....	25
2.2.8	Chapter 4 - Implementation.....	25
2.2.9	Chapter 6 – Surveillance, Monitoring and Water Quality Assessment.....	28
3	CONSIDERATIONS.....	28
3.1	Environmental Review.....	28
3.2	Necessity.....	29
3.3	Scientific Peer Review.....	29
4	REFERENCES.....	30
	APPENDICES.....	31

Appendix A-1	32
Appendix A-2	33
Appendix B	34
Appendix C	35
Appendix D-1	36
Appendix D-2	37

1 INTRODUCTION

This staff report describes the proposed non-regulatory amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin to update its discussion of the Salton Sea and to correct general errors and outdated or obsolete information (Amendment). This Amendment addresses 2017 Triennial Review Item 13 “Update Salton Sea Discussion and Associated Information” and Item 14 “Correct General Errors and Outdated or Obsolete Information.”

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (Basin Plan) is designed to preserve and enhance water quality in the Region and to protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters for the benefit of present and future generations. The Basin Plan contains the Region’s beneficial uses for ground and surface waters, water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve water quality objectives. The Basin Plan fulfills state and federal statutory requirements for water quality planning, thereby preserving and protecting ground and surface waters of the Colorado River Basin Region. (See Water Code, § 13240; 33 U.S.C. § 1313.) The most recent amendment to the Basin Plan was in 2017, amending the Yucca Valley Septic Tank Prohibition in Chapter 4, Section II.H.

In accordance with state and federal law, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) must keep the Region’s Basin Plan current and accurate via periodic review and update it as appropriate. States are required to review their water quality standards at least once every three years – a process known as “triennial review.” (See 33 U.S.C. § 1313(c).) The triennial review may result in amendments to the Basin Plan over the course of the three-year review cycle. The 2017 triennial review list was adopted on November 9, 2017, by the Regional Water Board in a public hearing under Resolution No. R7-2017-0033.

This Amendment proposes a non-regulatory update of the Basin Plan to incorporate administrative changes to provide more up-to-date information and improve clarity throughout the Basin Plan. The proposed changes reflect the current conditions of the Salton Sea and recent regulatory and legislative developments relating to thereto, as well as other editorial changes. When combined, the various portions of this Amendment will affect every chapter of the Basin Plan, as well as the cover page, the foreword, and the table of contents. The Amendment does not change beneficial uses, water quality standards, or implementation provisions and imposes no new regulatory requirements.

2 SPECIFIC CHANGES

The specific changes proposed under the Amendment are discussed in the paragraphs below. The discussion is divided into two sections, in accordance with the Triennial Review Issues they address: “Editorial Changes to Update Salton Sea Discussion” and “Editorial Changes to Correct General Errors.” Under those sections, the individual edits are listed in the order in which they appear in the Basin Plan, with the exception of editorial changes that apply throughout the Basin Plan (Staff Report Section 2.2.1).

2.1 Editorial Changes to Update Salton Sea Discussion

The Salton Sea and its watershed have long been a major focus of the Regional Water Board’s activities. This water body is critical to managing water quality in the region due to its size, recreational uses, and importance as a wildlife habitat, as well as due to ongoing environmental degradation, sensitivity to climate change, and the jurisdictional and political complexity of its

management and restoration. Existing beneficial uses listed for the Salton Sea in Table 2-3 of the Basin Plan are aquaculture (AQUA), contact and non-contact water recreation (REC I and II), warm freshwater habitat (WARM), and wildlife habitat (WILD); a potential beneficial use of industrial service supply (IND) is also listed. Because the Salton Sea Watershed is an endorheic basin, with no outlet to the ocean, salts and other pollutants continuously concentrate as the water evaporates from the surface, degrading water quality and affecting all existing beneficial uses. Furthermore, continued evaporation is exposing growing areas of the lakebed that are potentially emissive and pose a threat to air quality and human health.

The last update to the Basin Plan concerning the Salton Sea occurred in 1992. Since that time, the Salton Sea has diminished in size, salinity has long since exceeded 45,000 mg/L, and substantive legislative and regulatory developments have occurred that have significant impact on the fate of the sea. These developments include the execution of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), several state legislative actions, the formation of a new Salton Sea Task Force in 2015, and the establishment of the Salton Sea Management Program led by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). The Colorado River Basin Water Board is actively coordinating and collaborating with CNRA, the Salton Sea Authority, and individual Salton Sea stakeholders on the Salton Sea Management Program. As the restoration and mitigation projects are developed and implemented, basin planning actions will be necessary to protect water quality and public health at the Salton Sea.

The Salton Sea is discussed throughout the Basin Plan in numerous sections. An administrative update to language referring to this water body is important not only in keeping the Basin Plan up to date, but also in providing accurate information to the public and preparing the Basin Plan for future amendments relating to the Salton Sea. The proposed changes to update and revise descriptions and graphics relating to the Salton Sea in Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 are listed below.

2.1.1 Chapter 1 - Introduction

Background information related to the Salton Sea that is included in descriptions of the Colorado River Basin Region’s geographical setting, fish and wildlife resources, and planning will be updated to provide clarity and reflect current conditions.

Section V.A. Geographic Setting

	Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Basin Plan Update	Comment / Justification
A	Ch. 1, Sec. V.A., Paragraph 1	Updated reference: referenced figure will be moved as a result of other portions of the Amendment.	modified for clarity
B	Ch. 1, Sec. V.A., Paragraph 2	Deleted information that is redundant or outdated. Modified geologic description of the Salton Trough. Updated information about geothermal industry in the region.	revised for clarity and to provide current information
C	Ch. 1, Sec. V.A., Paragraph 3	Deleted information that was incorporated into proposed text in Ch. 1 Sec. VI.F.	modified for clarity
D	Ch. 1, Sec. V.A., Paragraph 4	Modified sentence structure.	modified for clarity

Proposed changes:

- A The Colorado River Basin Region covers approximately 13 million acres (20,000 square miles) in the southeastern portion of California (Figure ~~1-2-11~~, Page ~~1-211-13~~). It includes all of Imperial County and portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. It is bounded for forty miles on the northeast by the State of Nevada, on the north by the New York, Providence, Granite, Old Dad, Bristol, Rodman, and Ord Mountain ranges, on the west by the San Bernardino, San Jacinto, and Laguna Mountain ranges, on the south by the Republic of Mexico, and on the east by the Colorado River and State of Arizona. Geographically, the Region represents only a small portion of the total Colorado River drainage area, which includes portions of Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Mexico.
- B A significant geographical feature of the Region is the Salton Trough, which contains the Salton Sea and the Coachella and Imperial Valleys. The ~~two valleys are separated by the Salton Sea, which covers the lowest area of the depression. The trough~~Salton Trough is a structural landward extension of the Gulf of California structural depression. In prehistoric times, it contained the ancientAncient Lake Cahuilla (not to be confused with the present Lake Cahuilla ~~which is~~, located at the terminus of the Coachella Branch of the All-American Canal). Much of the agricultural economy and industry of the Region is located in the Salton Trough. ~~There are also industries associated with agriculture, such as sugar refining. During the past several years there has been increasing development of geothermal industries. In the future, agriculture is expected to experience little growth in the Salton Trough, but there will likely be increased development of other industries (e.g. construction, manufacturing, and services).~~The Salton Trough contains the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area, which as of 2017, consisted of 10 generating geothermal plants.
- C ~~The present Salton Sea, located on the site of a prehistoric lake, was formed between 1905 and 1907 by overflow of the Colorado River. Today, it serves as a drainage reservoir for irrigation return water and stormwater from the Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and Borrego Valley, and also receives drainage water from the Mexicali Valley in Mexico. The Sea is California's largest inland body of water and it provides a very important wildlife habitat and sportfishery.~~
- D Developments along California's 230-mile reach of the Colorado River, which flows along the eastern boundary of the Region, include agricultural areas in Palo Verde Valley and Bard Valley, urban centers at Needles, Blythe, and Winterhaven, several transcontinental gas compressor stations, and numerous small recreational communities. Some mining operations are located in the surrounding mountains. Also situated along the Colorado River are the Fort Mojave, Chemehuevi, Colorado River, and Yuma Indian Reservations ~~are located along the River.~~

Section V.E. Fish and Wildlife Resources

	Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Basin Plan Update	Comment / Justification
A	Ch. 1., Sec. V.E., Paragraph 3	Replaced outdated information with more detailed background discussion and current state of the fisheries at the Salton Sea.	updated to provide current information
B	Ch. 1., Sec. V.E., Paragraph 4	Updated the names and locations of National Wildlife Refuges, completed the list of wildlife areas.	updated for clarity and to provide current information
C	Ch. 1., Sec. V.E., Paragraph 5	Identified the sources of threatened and endangered listings.	updated for clarity

Proposed changes:

- A Practically all of the fishes inhabiting the Region are introduced species. The most abundant species in the Colorado River and irrigation canals include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, flathead and channel catfish, yellow bullhead, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, carp, striped bass, threadfin shad, red shiner, and in the colder water above Lake Havasu, rainbow trout. Grass carp ~~were have recently been~~ introduced into sections of the All American Canal system for aquatic weed control. Fishes inhabiting agricultural drains in the Region generally include mosquito fish, mollies, red shiners, carp, and tilapia, although locally significant populations of catfish, bass, and sunfish occur in some drains. ~~A considerable sportfishery exists in the Salton Sea, with orangemouth corvina, gulf croaker, sargo, and tilapia predominating.~~The Salton Sea formerly hosted a considerable sportfishery of introduced species, including Gulf croaker, orangemouth corvina, and sargo. During the late 1960's and 1970's, a hybrid tilapia invaded the Salton Sea and became dominant by number and weight. Fish surveys conducted in 2017 showed that tilapia are still present at the Salton Sea, but it is uncertain how long the population will be able to sustain itself with rising salinity.
- B ~~The Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge and state waterfowl management areas are located in or near the Salton Sea. The refuge supports large numbers of waterfowl in addition to other types of birds. Located along the Colorado River are the Havasu, Cibola and Imperial National Wildlife Refuges. National wildlife refuges in the Region include the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Sonny Bono Complex) in the West Colorado River Basin, and three refuges in the East Colorado River Basin (Cibola, Havasu and Imperial National Wildlife Refuges). The Sonny Bono Complex consists of the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge and the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The three Colorado River refuges have territory on either side of the Colorado River in both Arizona and California. Wildlife lands managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife within the Region are the Marble Mountains, Santa Rosa, San Felipe Valley, and Imperial wildlife areas.~~
- C The Region provides habitat for certain wildlife species listed as endangered/ or threatened species of wildlife including under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and/or the federal Endangered Species Act. These species include, but are not limited to, desert pupfish, razorback sucker, Yuma clapper rail, black rail, least Bell's vireo, yellow-billed cuckoo, desert tortoise, and peninsular bighorn sheep.

Figure 1-1 “Colorado River Basin Planning Areas”

Location in Aug 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Basin Plan Update	Comment / Justification
Ch.1, Sec. VI.B, End of Section	Moved the figure from Sec. VI.B to after of Sec. VI.G; updated figure to improve the layout and site data sources; updated figure numbering according to new order.	updated and moved for clarity

Proposed changes:

- 1) Delete Figure 1-1 shown in [Appendix A-1](#) of this Staff Report.
- 2) Insert Figure 1-2 shown in [Appendix A-2](#) of this staff report at the end of Chapter 1, Section VI.G.
- 3) Update figure cross-references as necessary.

Section VI.C. Coachella Valley Planning Area

Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Basin Plan Update	Comment / Justification
Ch.1, Sec. VI.C, Paragraph 2	Revised for sentence structure consistency with Section VI.D. and to ensure the information will not become outdated as water surface elevation falls.	revised to provide current information

Proposed changes:

The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains and the Salton Sea shoreline form the western and southern boundaries. Elevations range from over 230 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea shoreline to over 10,000 feet above sea level in the San Jacinto Mountains, ~~to 230 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea shoreline.~~

Section VI.D. Anza-Borrego Planning Area

Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Basin Plan Update	Comment / Justification
Ch.1, Sec. VI.D, Paragraph 2	Revised to ensure the information will not become outdated as water surface elevation falls.	revised to provide current information

Proposed changes:

Elevations range from over 230 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea to over 6,000 feet along the western boundary. The principal communities in the planning area are Salton City and Borrego Springs.

Section VI.F. Salton Sea Planning Area

	Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Basin Plan Update	Comment / Justification
A	Ch.1, Sec. VI.F, Paragraph 1	Modified to clarify location information and dimensions and to provide current information about elevation. Added reference to new figure.	modified for clarity and to provide current information
B	Ch.1, Sec. VI.F, After Paragraph 1	Inserted new text with information about the origin of the water body, including information moved from Chapter 1, section V.A. Referenced Chapter 4 Section IV.B. for more information.	revised to provide relevant information
C	Ch.1, Sec. VI.F, Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 2	Combined last sentence of Paragraph 1 with Paragraph 2, deleted repeating information.	modified for clarity
	Ch.1, Sec. VI.F, End of Section	Inserted a map of the Salton Sea Watershed to provide relevant information. (See Appendix B.)	added to provide relevant information and for clarity

Proposed changes:

A This planning area consists entirely ~~of the Salton Sea, a saline lake located within the lowest portion of the Salton Sea Trough depression at the confluence of the Coachella Valley, Anza Borrego, and Imperial Valley Planning Areas, which is a saline body of together make up the Salton Sea Transboundary Watershed. The northern end of the water in a natural sink between the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, body is in Riverside County and the southern portion is in Imperial Counties. The sea is County, while a section of the watershed extends to Mexicali Valley south of the United States-Mexico border. As a terminal lake with limited and diminishing recharge consisting predominantly of agricultural drainage, the sea has been shrinking in size, resulting in a surface elevation drop from approximately 228 feet below sea level in 1988 to 235 feet below sea level in 2016. The Salton Sea stretches between Coachella and Imperial valleys and is roughly 30 miles long and, about 10 to 15 miles wide, with an average depth of 30 feet. It has an wide. It has a surface area of approximately 360 square miles, and its surface elevation, although variable, is approximately 227 feet below mean sea level. (See Figure 1-1.)~~

B ~~The lakebed of the Salton Sea was formed by the Ancient Lake Cahuilla and has been filled with water and dried out repeatedly throughout the past ten thousand years. The present-day Salton Sea formed between 1905 and 1907, when a temporary diversion of the Colorado River was breached by floodwaters, causing the river to change course and flow into the depression. By the time the breach was closed, the surface water of the newly formed lake became California’s largest inland body of water by surface area. Over the course of the twentieth century, the Salton Sea became an important recreation destination and wildlife habitat, while serving as an irrigation drainage reservoir for agriculture in the Coachella, Imperial, and Borrego valleys. Wildlife and recreational uses of the sea have been declining as the water body recedes and salts concentrate. The legislative and regulatory efforts to restore the sea are discussed in Chapter 4, IV.B.~~

C ~~[INSERT PARAGRAPH BREAK]The climate is arid, and average annual precipitation is about 2.6 inches.[DELETE PARAGRAPH BREAK] Replenishment of the Salton Sea is predominantly from farm drainage and seepage, and with occasional and sometimes significant inflows from storm runoff, from the Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and Anza-Borrego area in this Region, and from the Mexicali Valley in Mexico. The gross contributing watershed comprises of about 7,500 square miles.~~

In addition to the changes shown above, insert Figure 1-1 shown in [Appendix B](#) of this staff report.

2.1.2 Chapter 2 – Beneficial Uses

The administrative update to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan modifies the language used in background information about beneficial uses as discussed below.

Section II. Present Beneficial Uses

Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Update	Comment / Justification
Ch.2, Sec. II, Paragraphs 1 & 2 (not pictured below)	Inserted oxford comma in paragraph 1. Inserted comma after conjunction between two phrases in Paragraph 2. (These changes are not pictured below.)	modified for clarity
Ch.2, Sec. II, Paragraph 3	Modified language and paragraph organization for clarity and for consistency with Water Boards mission to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's resources. Capitalization and style changes made as described in Section 2.2.1 of this Staff Report.	modified for clarity and consistency with Water Boards mission

Proposed changes:

The ~~primary purpose of the~~ Salton Sea ~~and receives drainage from irrigated cropland, transported by the~~ agricultural drains in the Imperial, ~~and Coachella valleys.~~ ~~The agricultural drains of Palo Verde, Coachella, and Bard Valleys is for collection, transport, and/or storage of drainage (including subsurface) waters from irrigated cropland in order to valleys ultimately discharge to the Colorado River. Agricultural discharges consist of run-off and agricultural tile drainage. Tile drainage comes from subsurface drain systems that remove excess groundwater, thereby helping maintain adequate soil salinity balance for agriculture in the Region. Although this is clearly the primary purpose of these waters, this~~ This type of use cannot be recognized as a beneficial use, ~~in Tables 2-2 and 2-3 because since~~ federal regulations specify that waste transport or assimilation cannot be designated as a beneficial use for any waters of the United States (as per Clean Water Act regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations sSection 131.10 (a)).

2.1.3 Chapter 3 – Water Quality Objectives

The administrative update to Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan updates the background information about Specific Surface Water Objectives as detailed below.

Section III. C. Salton Sea

Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Update	Comment / Justification
Ch.3, Sec. III.C., 1. Total Dissolved Solids	Added current salinity data. Deleted unnecessary paragraph break. Deleted outdated non-essential information. Updated “Regional Water Board” abbreviation (see section 2.2.1 of this Staff Report).	updated and modified to provide current information
Ch.3, Sec. III.C., 2. Selenium, Paragraph 1	Deleted mention of selenium impairment because Salton Sea was delisted from the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies under the 2012 Integrated Report.	modified to provide current information
Ch.3, Sec. III.C., 2. Selenium, a and b	Added missing hyphenation.	modified for clarity

Proposed changes:

~~4-1.~~ Total Dissolved Solids (Salinity)

The total dissolved solids concentration of Salton Sea in 1992 was approximately 44,000 mg/L ~~and over 61,000 mg/L in 2017.~~ ~~[DELETE PARAGRAPH BREAK]~~ The water quality objective for Salton Sea is to reduce the present level of salinity, and stabilize it at 35,000 mg/L, unless it can be demonstrated that a different level of salinity is optimal for the sustenance of the ~~s~~Sea’s wild and aquatic life ~~(California Department of Fish and Game is attempting to make this determination)~~. However, the achievement of this water quality objective shall be accomplished without adversely affecting the primary purpose of the Salton Sea, which is to receive and store agricultural drainage, seepage, and storm waters. Also, because of economic considerations, 35,000 mg/L may not be realistically achievable. In such case, any reduction in salinity which still allows for survival of the sea’s aquatic life shall be deemed an acceptable alternative or interim objective. Because of the difficulty and predicted costliness of achieving salinity stabilization of Salton Sea, it is unreasonable for the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board to assume responsibility for implementation of this objective. That responsibility must be shared jointly by all of the agencies which have direct influence on the ~~s~~Sea’s fate. Additionally, there must be considerable public support for achieving this objective, without which it is unlikely that the necessary funding for Salton Sea salinity control will ever be realized.

2-2. Selenium

~~The beneficial use of the Salton Sea for recreation has been impaired due to elevated levels of selenium in tissues of resident wildlife and aquatic life (See page 4-10 for a more detailed discussion of this).~~ The following objectives apply to all surface waters that are tributaries to the Salton Sea:

- a. A four-day average value of selenium shall not exceed .005 mg/L;
- b. A one-hour average value of selenium shall not exceed .02 mg/L.

These numerical limits are based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Water Quality Criteria.

2.1.4 Chapter 4 - Implementation

The administrative update to Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan modifies the language used in background information about Nonpoint Source Controls and Specific Implementation Actions to provide current information related to the Salton Sea; it further modifies the description of specific implementation actions at the Salton Sea for clarity. These changes are detailed below.

Section III. A. Agriculture

Text location in Aug 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Update	Comment / Justification
Ch.4, Sec. III.A, 1. Introduction, Paragraph 2	Inserted information from a more recent statewide watershed assessment.	updated to provide current information

Proposed changes:

The preferred approach toward addressing nonpoint source pollution is to deal with the problem on a watershed basis. The Salton Sea Transboundary Watershed has been identified as this Region's highest priority for control of agricultural pollution, based mainly on its relatively large size, the beneficial uses of waters in the watershed, the volume of discharge, and the severity of water quality degradation. California's 1998 Unified Watershed Assessment identified the Salton Sea Transboundary Watershed as a Category 1 (impaired) watershed. The 2013 California Integrated Assessment of Watershed Health also identified Coachella and Imperial valleys, which make up the Salton Sea Watershed, as among the California regions with the highest watershed vulnerability scores.

Section IV. B. Salton Sea

	Text location in Aug 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Update	Comment / Justification
A	Ch.4, Sec. IV.B, Before Paragraph 1	Insert information about Salton Sea regulatory and policy changes and developments since 1992	updated to provide current information
B	Ch.4, Sec. IV.B, Paragraph 1	Add current salinity data. Update to reflect the current state of the fishery.	updated to provide current information
C	Ch.4, Sec. IV.B, Paragraph 2	Remove outdated estimates that will continue to change and add relevant information about flow reduction.	updated to provide current information
D	Ch.4, Sec. IV.B, Paragraph 3 and on	Deleted paragraphs discussing excessive selenium because Salton Sea was delisted for selenium from the 303(d) list. Replaced with paragraph containing current information about Salton Sea impairments.	Revised to provide current information

Proposed changes:

A

The Salton Sea has experienced many regulatory and environmental changes and numerous restoration proposals have been made in over a century of its existence. The first major interagency effort to restore the Salton Sea was initiated in 1986 when the California Resources Agency¹ created a Salton Sea Task Force (1986 Task Force) to bring together stakeholders that had an interest in maintaining and improving the environment of the Salton Sea. The 1986 Task Force was formed and operated with the assistance of the California Department of Fish and Game.²

This 1986 Task Force dissolved shortly after the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) was formed in 1993 as a Joint Powers Authority. SSA was established with the goal of overseeing the comprehensive restoration of the Salton Sea as a single operating entity. The Board of the Salton Sea Authority consists of officials representing Riverside County, Imperial County, Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. The Regional Water Board and numerous partner agencies provide support to the Authority in its ongoing efforts to address water quality and other environmental issues at the Salton Sea.

In 2002, the State Water Board issued Order WRO 2002-0013. The final order approved the long-term transfer of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year authorized for diversion and use by IID, to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), CVWD, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The transfer was enacted in 2003 when the parties signed the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The QSA requires water to be made available for transfer through a number of water conservation measures, including temporary land fallowing, which would result in diminished discharges to the Salton Sea. Order WRO 2002-0013 required mitigation of this impact for 15 years in the form of water releases to the Salton Sea. Between 2003 and 2017, a total of 800,000 acre feet of water were scheduled for release by IID in annual increments, commonly referred to as the "mitigation water transfer." The 15-year period was meant to provide enough time to study the feasibility of long-term restoration actions and begin implementation of any feasible restoration projects.

In the decade that followed, numerous studies were conducted to help meet the state's obligation to restore the Salton Sea. In 2007, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) published the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) on Salton Sea Restoration. In July 2015, DWR released the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report for the Species Conservation Habitat Project. The preferred alternative consists of 3,770 acres of shallow saline ponds at the mouth of the New River.

In May 2015, California Governor Edmund Gerald Brown established a new Salton Sea Task Force to lead the Salton Sea restoration efforts and coordinate with the stakeholders. The new Salton Sea Task Force recommended the initiation of the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) as an inter-agency effort headed by the Salton Sea Authority and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). The SSMP partner agencies released a report titled "Phase I: SSMP 10-year plan" in March 2017, outlining proposed projects designed to meet restoration goals set forth by the Salton Sea Task Force and the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Interior and CNRA. The Regional Water Board is actively coordinating with CNRA, the Salton Sea Authority, and individual Salton Sea stakeholders on the development and implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program.

[FOOTNOTES TO BE PLACED IN THE FOOTER OF THE PAGE OF THE TEXT:]

¹ The California Resources Agency was renamed the "California Natural Resources Agency" in 2008.

² The California Department of Fish and Game was renamed to "California Department of Fish and Wildlife" in 2012.

B At present, the primary water quality problem facing Salton Sea is increasing salinity. Salinity and total dissolved solids are considered equivalent for this discussion. The salinity of the sea was approximately 44,000 mg/L in 1992, and over 61,000 mg/L in 2017. Most of the recreationally important species of fish ~~inhabiting that have inhabited~~ the sea ~~in the past~~ were originally transplanted from the Gulf of California, where the salinity level is approximately 35,000 mg/L. Previous tests have indicated that spawning of these transplanted fishes is adversely affected at salinity levels above 40,000 mg/L. ~~When salinity increases above 45,000 mg/l it is very questionable if a viable fishery will continue to exist.~~ As of 2017, all fish populations have collapsed with the exception of tilapia, which has also declined significantly.

C Because the Salton Sea is in a closed basin and is replenished primarily by agricultural drainage water containing approximately 3,000 mg/l with elevated total dissolved solids concentrations, the salinity will continue to rise at about 1-2% per year unless a means of salinity control is devised and successfully implemented. ~~Upon termination of the mitigation water transfers at the end of 2017, the inflow of water into the Sea has dropped significantly.~~ Any reduction in inflows to the sea will cause the salinity to rise more rapidly. ~~The Reduced~~ volumes of flow contributed from Mexico and from stormwater runoff will also have a bearing on the rate of salinity increase in Salton Sea.

D ~~In addition to salinity, other pollutants are also present at the Salton Sea at elevated concentrations that impair beneficial uses. As of 2012, the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies also identifies the Salton Sea as impaired due to nutrients, bacteria, pesticides, toxicity, and arsenic. Nutrients and pesticides are likely to originate from agricultural runoff, while bacteria is found in raw sewage. Arsenic is a common water pollutant that can have both natural and anthropogenic sources. Toxicity in aquatic life is a form of pollution that can be caused by a variety of contaminants. The Salton Sea was also formerly listed as impaired by selenium, but this pollutant was removed from the list of this water body's impairments in 2012. The Salton Sea's major tributaries, the New River and Alamo River, were still listed as impaired by selenium as of 2012.~~

~~Another water quality issue facing Salton Sea is the significant input of selenium from agriculture return flows. Relatively elevated levels were first analyzed for and detected in Salton Sea fish during 1984, and have continued to be detected in similar concentrations through 1991 (the last year for which data is available). On May 6, 1986, the California Department of Health Services issued the following advisory on selenium:~~

~~"1. Total consumption by adults of croaker, orangemouth corvina, sargo and tilapia from the Salton Sea should be limited to one 4-ounce portion per two weeks, or one 8-ounce portion per month.~~

~~2. Consumption of croaker, orangemouth corvina, sargo and tilapia from the Salton Sea should be avoided altogether by women of child-bearing age and by children under the age of 15 years."~~

~~These recommendations were issued to guard against the effects of excessive selenium ingestion by humans which could include growth and developmental effects in children, and reproductive, neurologic, gastrointestinal, and dermatologic effects in adults. Selenium bioaccumulates in fish and wildlife and poses threats to many species including migratory birds, endangered species, and resident waterfowl and is a significant concern to the Salton Sea Wildlife Refuge and other adjacent parks and refuges.~~

Section IV. B. Salton Sea, 1. Salinity Control

Location in 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Update	Comment / Justification
A Ch.4, Sec. IV.B.1, Paragraph 1	Deleted paragraph: current information was incorporated into the paragraph that follows and in Ch. 4, Sec. IV.B.	modified for clarity
B Ch.4, Sec. IV.B.1, Paragraphs a and b	Changes made to remove outdated information and improve clarity without changing the overall meaning.	revised for clarity
C Ch.4, Sec. IV.B.1, Last Paragraph	Replaced old information with more recent actions by groups involved in salinity control implementation at the Salton Sea.	updated to provide current information

Proposed changes:

A ~~Many studies have been conducted over the last 25 years in an effort to identify methods to maintain the salinity of Salton Sea at a level that would sustain the Sea's fishery. The Regional Board has been involved with many of these studies and has been an active member of the Salton Sea Task Force. The Task Force was created to bring together local, state, and federal agencies that had an interest in maintaining and improving the environment of the Salton Sea. The Task Force was formed and operated with the assistance of the California Department of Fish and Game. A variety of strategies to control salinity levels in the Sea were reviewed by the Task Force. Three strategies received the most attention and are summarized as follows:~~

~~Based on past studies and findings, the following salinity control strategies have received the most attention among Salton Sea stakeholders:~~

B a. Pump-out Options

~~Since approximately 4 million tons per year of salt are added to the Sea by its tributaries, removing an equal amount of salt from the Sea would be necessary to stabilize the salinity level of the Sea. Pump-out proposals postulate that in order to stabilize the salinity level of the Salton Sea, it would be necessary to remove on a continuous basis a salt load equivalent to the salt load delivered by the inflows from the tributaries. This could be done by removing about 120,000 acre feet of salty water from the Sea per year. Removing additional salt would begin to lower the salinity to a desired level.~~

~~One option for salt removal is to pump this salty water the necessary amount of water from the Salton Sea to the Gulf of California (or alternately Laguna Salada). Preliminary technical and cost estimates for this option have been developed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. However, the Gulf of California is in Mexico and such. Such a project would require an agreement with that country Mexico. Alternate locations for disposal of the salty water include the Pacific Ocean, underground injection, and pumping to other enclosed desert basins, although the technical difficulties and costs would be significantly higher.~~

~~Another option would pump Sea the necessary amount of water from the Salton Sea into constructed ponds where an enhanced evaporation system would be utilized to concentrate salt. Theoretically these These ponds could potentially be used to generate electricity through solar heat trapping. To stabilize the salinity levels in the sSea, at least 4-5 square miles would be needed for such ponds, in addition to disposal of up to 5 million tons of salt per year.~~

b. In-Sea Impoundments

~~This option would divide the Sea into basins separated by dikes. Parts of the Sea would then be allowed to get very salty while other areas would receive most of the freshwater inflows and could maintain a favorable salinity. It would be very costly to construct and maintain the dikes. As with the solar pond option, salt disposal would have to be dealt with at some point.~~

C

~~The last meeting of the Salton Sea Task Force was in 1992. A recommendation was made at that time that in order to proceed with any large scale salinity control project, it would be necessary for appropriate local agencies to establish a single operating entity with the authority to manage such a project. In June of 1993 the Salton Sea Authority was formed for this purpose. The four member agencies of the Authority are Riverside County, Imperial County, Imperial Irrigation District, and Coachella Valley Water District. The Regional Board will support the Authority in its efforts to improve water quality in the Salton Sea.~~

~~The Phase I: SSMP 10-Year Plan outlines measures which feature a version of the in-sea impoundments option as the main method for salinity control, dust suppression, and habitat restoration in the initial stages of the program. The 10-Year Plan describes a series of ponds to be constructed on portions of the exposed playa, where the lake's saline water and freshwater inflows will be mixed at varying concentrations to support different types of habitats.~~

Section IV. B. Salton Sea, 2. Pollution Control

Text location in Aug 2017 Basin Plan	2018 Update	Comment / Justification
2. Pollution Control, sentence 1	Added U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to list of agencies conducting pollutant investigations. Updated the name of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which changed in 2012.	updated to provide current information
2. Pollution Control, sentence 2	Deleted "selenium" from the list as it was removed from the 303(d) list of water quality impairments for Salton Sea.	modified to provide current information
2. Pollution Control, sentences 5-7	Changed verb tenses for actions that are currently being taken by the Regional Water Board, deleted unnecessary language. Deleted mention of selenium as it was removed from the 303(d) list of water quality impairments for Salton Sea.	modified to provide current information

Proposed changes:

Investigations by the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and ~~Game~~Wildlife, and others have identified pollutants from upstream sources which threaten the beneficial uses of the Salton Sea. These pollutants include selenium, nutrients, pesticides, bacteria, and silt. Most of these pollutants are from agricultural runoff from farmlands in the Salton Sea Watershed. The largest contribution is from the Imperial Valley with smaller amounts coming from the Coachella and Mexicali Valleys. Controls on these pollutants are most effectively implemented at their source. The major control activity ~~will be~~is implementation of Management Practices (MPs) on farmlands ~~which will be~~, conducted in accordance with the State's Nonpoint Source Program as discussed in Chapter 4. The ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board ~~will~~is also ~~work~~working with the USEPA, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, and upstream states to identify sources of pollutants, ~~especially selenium~~, entering the Colorado River from locations upstream of California. ~~Pending the availability of funding, the~~The Regional BoardRegional Water Board ~~will continue~~continues to monitor water quality at the Salton Sea and its tributaries as described in Chapter 6.

2.2 Editorial Changes to Correct General Errors

The Basin Plan document has been modified over the years by numerous amendments. The incorporation of each amendment into the documents bears with it the risk of contributing typographical errors, inconsistencies in writing and formatting styles, outdated information and other errors. To address some of these issues, the 2017 triennial review included a recommendation to adopt a series of administrative amendments to correct these errors inconsistencies. In addition to adoption of individual amendments, staff recommendation for this triennial review issue also included incorporation of urgent corrections into other amendments. In accordance with that triennial review recommendation, this Amendment incorporates changes that will correct some of the general errors and outdated or obsolete information.

2.2.1 Throughout the Basin Plan

The administrative update to the Basin Plan proposes to make changes throughout the entirety of the document to standardize the numbering and formatting of section headings and to update and standardize naming of state agencies.

Section Headings

The 2017 Basin Plan includes inconsistencies in section numbering styles. The proposed administrative update to the Basin Plan standardizes the formatting throughout the Basin Plan to consistently use the numbering structure shown in a sample in [Appendix C](#) of this staff report. The standardized headings do not affect Chapter Numbers, Level 1 headings (I., II., III.), or Level 2 Headings (A., B., C.).

Proposed changes:

All existing headings where numbering will be affected are listed in the table below. Headings that are added or deleted under other portions of this amendment are not listed. Format changes, such as spacing or conversion from uppercase to lower case, are not shown.

Chapter	Heading Level						Title
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	
1	III.	B.	A. 1.				California Water Code
1	III.	B.	B. 2.				California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
1	III.	B.	C. 3.				California Code of Regulations
1	III.	B.	D. 4.				Other State Statutes
4	II.	H.	2.	A. i.			Cathedral City Cove
4	II.	H.	2.	A. i.	(a)		Cathedral City Cove - Reports
4	II.	H.	2.	B. ii.			Mission Creek or Desert Hot Springs Aquifers
4	II.	H.	2..	C. iii.			Town of Yucca Valley
4	II.	H.	2.	C. iii.	A. (a)		Time Schedule for Implementation
4	II.	H.	2.	C. iii.	B. (b)		Deferred Parcels
4	II.	H.	2.	C. iii.	C. (c)		Internal Boundaries for Phases 1 through 3
4	II.	H.	2.	C. iii.	D. (d)		Monitoring and Reporting
4	II.	H.	2.	C. iii.	E. (e)		Prohibition Exemptions
4	II.	H.	2.	C. iii.	F. (f)		Compliance Assurance and Enforcement
4	III.	A.	2.	A. i.			Imperial Valley Sedimentation/Siltation
4	IV.	B.	1.	b. iii.			In-Sea Impoundments
4	V.	A.	2.	2-1 i.			Wastewater Treatment Plants
4	V.	A.	2.	2-2 ii.			United States Government
4	V.	E.	1.	1-1 i.			Farm Landowners, Renters/Lessees, Operators/Growers
4	V.	E.	1.	1-2 ii.			Imperial Irrigation District
4	V.	E.	1.	1-2 ii.	a. (a)		Drain and River Deltas Maintenance
4	V.	E.	1.	1-2 ii.	b. (b)		Drain Water Quality Monitoring Plan
4	V.	E.	1.	1-2 ii.	c. (c)		Information on Agricultural Dischargers
4	V.	E.	1.	1-3 iii.			United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and U.S. Section Of The International Boundary And Water Commission (USIBWC)
4	V.	E.	2.	2-1 i.			On-Field Sediment Control MPs

Chapter	Heading Level						Title
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	
4	V.	E.	2.	2-2 <u>ii.</u>			Off-Field Sediment Control MPs
4	V.	E.	2.	2-3 <u>iii.</u>			Estimated Cost of Implementation and Sources of Financing For Imperial Valley Drains, and New and Alamo Rivers
4	V.	E.	2.	2-4 <u>iv.</u>			Recommended Actions for Cooperating Agencies
4	V.	E.	2.	2-4 <u>iv.</u>	2-4.1 <u>(a)</u>		Imperial County Farm Bureau Watershed Program
4	V.	E.	2.	2-4 <u>iv.</u>	2-4.1 <u>(a)</u>	a- <u>(1)</u>	ICFB Watershed Program Plan
4	V.	E.	2.	2-4 <u>iv.</u>	2-4.1 <u>(a)</u>	b- <u>(2)</u>	ICFB Tracking And Reporting Procedures
4	V.	E.	2.	2-4 <u>iv.</u>	2-4.2 <u>(b)</u>		University Of California Cooperative Extension
4	V.	E.	2.	2-4 <u>iv.</u>	2-4.3 <u>(c)</u>		NRCS
4	V.	F.	2.	2-1 <u>i.</u>			Actions to be Taken by Third Party Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
4	V.	F.	2.	2-2 <u>ii.</u>			Actions Requested to be Taken by the U.S. Government
4	V.	F.	3.	i. <u>i.</u>			Water Quality and Trash Monitoring
4	V.	F.	3.	ii. <u>ii.</u>			Implementation Tracking Program
4	V.	F.	3.	iii. <u>iii.</u>			Measures of Success, and Failure Scenarios
4	V.	F.	4.	i. <u>i.</u>			Annual Reports
4	V.	F.	4.	ii. <u>ii.</u>			Triennial Review
4	V.	G.	2.	i. <u>i.</u>			Measures of Success
4	V.	G.	2.	ii. <u>ii.</u>			Failure Scenarios
4	V.	G.	3.	i. <u>i.</u>			Annual Reports
4	V.	G.	3.	ii. <u>ii.</u>			Triennial Review
4	V.	H.	2.	2-1 <u>i.</u>			Phase I Implementation Actions
4	V.	H.	2.	2-2 <u>ii.</u>			Phase I Implementation Responsible Parties and Schedule
4	V.	H.	2.	2-3 <u>iii.</u>			Phase II Implementation Actions
4	V.	H.	2.	2-4 <u>iv.</u>			TMDL Review Schedule
4	V.	H.	2.	2-5 <u>v.</u>			Triennial Review
6	II.	F.	1.	A- <u>i.</u>			New River
6	II.	F.	1.	A- <u>i.</u>	1-A <u>1(a)</u>		Additional Compliance Assurance and Enforcement
6	II.	F.	1.	A- <u>i.</u>	1-A <u>2(b)</u>		Water Quality Monitoring
6	II.	F.	2.	A- <u>i.</u>			Imperial Valley
6	II.	F.	2.	A- <u>i.</u>	2-A <u>1(a)</u>		Additional Compliance Assurance and Enforcement
6	II.	F.	2.	A- <u>i.</u>	2-A <u>2(b)</u>		Monitoring and Tracking
6	II.	F.	2.	A- <u>i.</u>	2-A <u>3(c)</u>		Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment
6	II.	F.	2.	A- <u>i.</u>	2-A <u>4(d)</u>		TMDL Implementation Tracking
6	II.	F.	2.	A- <u>i.</u>	2-A <u>5(e)</u>		TMDL Assessment and Reporting
6	II.	F.	2.	A- <u>i.</u>	2-A <u>6(f)</u>		Regular Review

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife was known as the California Department of Fish and Game until 2012. The state agency is mentioned 11 times throughout the Basin Plan by its old name. This Amendment includes nine substitutions to update the name. Additional deletions and updates to the state agency's name are made in the Salton Sea Language portion of this

Amendment. The Basin Plan also includes three references to the Fish and Game Code, which remain current.

Proposed changes:

Update references to the California Department of “Fish and Game” to “Fish and Wildlife” as appropriate throughout the Basin Plan.

“Regional Water Board” vs. “Regional Board”

The Basin Plan refers to the Regional Water Board 50 times as “Regional Water Board” and 288 times as “Regional Board.” The first mention of the Board in Chapter 1 does not include the full name of the agency. This Amendment standardizes the Basin Plan to refer to the Board as “Regional Water Board,” as detailed below.

Proposed changes:

- 1) In Chapter 1 Section I, include the following definition: “California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board).”
- 2) In Chapter 1, Section III.B, opening paragraph, replace “Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Board)” with “Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards).”
- 3) In Chapter 1, Section III.B.A (III.B.1 under this Amendment), replace “...Regional Water Quality Control Boards hereinafter referred to as ‘Regional Board(s)’....” with “Regional Water Boards.”
- 4) In Chapter 4, Section V.G, delete “(Regional Board).”
- 5) Replace all other mentions of “Regional Board” with “Regional Water Board,” except where inappropriate, such as in direct quotes.

“State Board” vs. “State Water Board”

The 2017 Basin Plan refers to the State Water Resources Control Board 23 times by its full name, once as the “State Water Board,” 42 times as the “State Board,” and 8 times as “SWRCB.” This Amendment standardizes the Basin Plan to refer to the State Water Resources Control Board as “State Water Board,” as detailed below.

Proposed changes:

- 1) In Chapter 1, Section I, include the following definition: “State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).”
- 2) In Chapter 1, Section II, replace “(State Board)” with “(State Water Board).”
- 3) In Chapter 1, Section III.B.A (renumbered III.B.1 under this Amendment), replace “The State Water Resources Control Board, hereinafter referred to as “State Board” with “The State Water Board.”
- 4) Replace all additional expansions “State Water Resources Control Board (State Board)” with “State Water Board.”
- 5) Replace all other mentions of the “State Board” with “State Water Board,” removing any additional abbreviation expansions as necessary.

Capitalization and Style

Staff proposes updating capitalization and writing style in certain areas to conform more closely to the California Style Manual (4th Edition).

Proposed changes:

- 1) Make the terms “federal” and “state” consistently lower case throughout the Basin Plan.
- 2) Make the terms “constitution,” “statutes,” and “administrative codes” lower case in Chapter 1; add the term “state” before “constitution” in the first sentence of Chapter 1, Section III B.
- 3) When a sentence ends with a quotation mark, consistently place the period inside the quotation mark. (.”)
- 4) When used in a sentence, consistently place commas inside of a quotation mark, instead of outside the quotation mark. (,”)
- 5) Make the phrase “federal government” consistently lower case throughout the Basin Plan.

Legal Citation Formatting

Staff proposes updating the legal citation formatting throughout the Basin Plan to conform more closely to the California Style Manual (4th Edition).

Proposed changes:

- 1) Make the terms “section,” “division,” “chapter,” “article,” and “title” in reference to statutes and/or regulations consistently lower case throughout the Basin Plan.
- 2) Replace “section” with “part” where appropriate in reference to the Code of Federal Regulations.
- 3) Spell out “section” when used in a sentence, but use the section symbol (§) when statutory and/or regulatory references are not used inside of a sentence.
- 4) Add numeric statutory references to the federal Clean Water Act and NEPA at various places in Chapter 1.
- 5) Remove references to the California Code of Regulations in paragraph 3 of Chapter 2 and on Chapter 4, Section II; replace with references to the Water Code.
- 6) Otherwise conform legal citation formatting to California Style Manual (4th Edition).

2.2.2 Cover Page

The cover page features an image that is representative of the region and states the title of the document, the edition date, and the names of the agencies responsible for the document. Staff proposes changes to the language and formatting on this page for clarity. Note that the screen shot below does not reflect that the formatting for the words “COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION” in the title have been changed to be consistent with the formatting of the words “WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN”

Proposed changes:

Above the cover image:



Below the cover image:



2.2.3 Foreword

The Foreword provides some basic background about the Basin Plan and its current edition. Staff proposes to modify this section to update information and make it easier to update in the future, as proposed below. Staff also proposes to modify the language describing the Basin Plan and amendment process for clarity and consistency with the Regional Water Board’s mission.

Proposed changes:

~~On November 17, 1993 the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 93-145 which approved this 1993 Basin Plan. This Basin Plan was subsequently approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 17, 1994 (Resolution No. 94-18). The California Office of Administrative Law approved the adoption of the 1993 Basin Plan on August 3, 1994. This Basin Plan now supersedes the previous (1991) Basin Plan.~~

This Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) was prepared by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board), in accordance with criteria contained in the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the ~~f~~ederal Clean Water Act, and other pertinent state and federal rules and regulations.

~~The Basin Plan is designed to preserve and enhance water quality in the Colorado River Basin Region and to protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters for the benefit of present and future generations. More specifically, the Basin Plan: (i) identifies beneficial uses for surface and ground waters, (ii) includes narrative and numerical water quality objectives that must be attained or maintained to protect the designated beneficial uses and conform to the state's anti-degradation policy, and (iii) describes implementation programs and other actions that are necessary to achieve the water quality objectives established in the Basin Plan. The intent of this plan is to provide definitive guidelines, and give direction to the full scope of Regional Board activities that serve to optimize the beneficial uses of state waters within the Colorado River Basin Region of California by preserving and protecting the quality of these waters.~~

~~This plan is also subject to review by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The plan Basin Plan is a dynamic rather than fixed document and is always subject to modification in itself not a final statement on regional water quality planning, but is subject to continuous review, and update as necessary. The Regional Water Board will periodically consider changes to this Basin Plan as necessary and at a minimum of every three years. Updated sections of the plan Basin Plan may appear as periodic Basin Plan amendments, which are also subject to approval by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Office of Administrative Law.~~

This edition of the Basin Plan includes amendments adopted by the Regional Water Board and approved by aforementioned agencies through [INSERT MONTH AND YEAR AMENDMENT GOES INTO EFFECT] August 2017.

2.2.4 Table of Contents

To generate a table of contents for the Basin Plan, it is most efficient to use a form generated automatically by MS Word. In recent Basin Plan updates, staff manipulated the formatting of the automatically generated table to match formatting of the earlier versions. A complete update of the Table of Contents will be necessary for this Amendment due to proposed heading modifications. Staff proposes to update the automatic Table of Contents allowing it to take on the automatic formatting. This will result in subtle formatting changes, including page numbers being displayed as “Chapter-dash-page” rather than just the page number, as shown in the comparison below.

Proposed changes:

Sample from Basin Plan 2017 Table of Contents:

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION.....	1
I.THE REGIONAL BOARD	1
II.FUNCTION OF THE BASIN PLAN.....	1
III.LEGAL BASIS AND AUTHORITY.....	2
A.FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS	2
B.CALIFORNIA STATUTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAWS.....	3
C.OTHER PLANNING AGENCIES.....	5
IV.THE PLANNING PROCESS.....	6
A.BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS.....	6

Sample from Amended Table of Contents:

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION	1-1
I. THE STATE AND REGIONAL WATER BOARDS.....	1-1
II. FUNCTION OF THE BASIN PLAN.....	1-1
III. LEGAL BASIS AND AUTHORITY	1-2
A. FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS	1-3
B. CALIFORNIA STATUTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAWS	1-3
C. OTHER PLANNING AGENCIES	1-5
IV. THE PLANNING PROCESS.....	1-6
A. BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS.....	1-6

2.2.5 Chapter 1 – Introduction

The administrative update to Chapter 1 of the Basin Plan updates information and makes other editorial changes for clarity, as detailed below.

Section I. The Regional Board

Staff proposes to revise this section to incorporate more relevant and up-to-date information. The changes include the following:

- 1) Incorporate text clarifying the relationship between the different Water Boards and other California Environmental Protection Agency boards, departments, and offices.
- 2) Incorporate text explaining the purpose of having regional water quality control plans.
- 3) Update information concerning board members to be consistent with current requirements.
- 4) Re-organize paragraph structure and other minor editorial changes to improve clarity.
- 5) Update the section title to be reflective of the updated content.

Proposed changes:

I. THE REGIONAL BOARD STATE AND REGIONAL WATER BOARDS

Responsibility for the protection of surface water and ground water quality in California rests primarily with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) (collectively, Water Boards). The Water Boards are part of the California Environmental Protection Agency, along with the Air Resources Board, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

The State Water Board establishes statewide water quality control policy and regulation. The State Water Board also coordinates Regional Water Board efforts and reviews Regional Water Board actions for consistency with statewide policy and regulation.

The Regional Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor for staggered four-year terms. Members must reside or maintain a place of business within the Region and must be associated with or have special knowledge of specific activities related to the control of water quality. Members of the Board conduct their business at regular meetings and public hearings at which public participation is encouraged.

The Regional Water Boards are semi-autonomous and make critical water quality decisions for their region. All duties and responsibilities of the Regional Board Regional Water Boards are directed at providing reasonable protection and enhancement of the quality of all regional surface and ground waters of the Region, both surface and underground. The programs by which these duties and responsibilities are carried out include, but are not limited to:

- Preparing new or revised policies addressing region-wide quality concerns;
- Adopting, monitoring compliance with, and enforcing waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits;
- Providing recommendations to the State Water Board on financial assistance programs, proposals for water diversion, budget development, and other statewide programs and policies;
- Coordinating with other public agencies which are concerned with water quality control; and
- Informing and involving the public on water quality issues.

~~Given the highly diverse environmental and land use characteristics of regions within the state, region-specific water quality regulations are contained in Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) that recognize regional beneficial uses, water quality characteristics, and water quality problems.~~

~~The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) regulates surface and ground water quality in the Colorado River Basin Region (Region). The Regional Water Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor for staggered, four-year terms. Members must reside or maintain a place of business within the Region, and most of the members must have a demonstrated interest or proven ability in the field of water quality. Members of the Regional Water Board conduct their business at regular meetings and public hearings at which public participation is encouraged.~~

~~Administration of these duties is accomplished by a permanent staff of State Employees, directed by an Executive Officer who is selected by and serves at the pleasure of the Regional Board.~~

Section II. Function of Basin Plan

Staff proposes to revise this section to add clarity as to the purpose, function, and organization of the Basin Plan.

Proposed changes:

~~The Basin Plan contains the water quality regulations for the Colorado River Basin Region and programs to implement those regulations. The Basin Plan is designed to preserve and enhance water quality in the Region and to protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters for the benefit of present and future generations. Specifically, the Basin Plan: (i) identifies beneficial uses for surface and ground waters, (ii) includes narrative and numerical water quality objectives that must be attained or maintained to protect the designated beneficial uses and conform to the state's anti-degradation policy, and (iii) describes implementation programs and other actions that are necessary to achieve the water quality objectives established in the Basin Plan. This Water Quality Control Plan (herein referred to as the Basin Plan) for the Colorado River Basin Region was prepared by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, in accordance with criteria contained in the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Federal Clean Water Act, and other pertinent state and federal rules and regulations. The intent of the Basin Plan is to provide definitive guidelines, and give direction to the full scope of Regional Board activities that serve to optimize the beneficial uses of the state waters within the Colorado River Basin Region of California by preserving and protecting the quality of these waters.~~

Water uses and water benefits vary. Water quality is an important factor in determining use and benefit. For example, drinking water ~~has to~~**generally must** be of higher quality than the water used to irrigate ~~pastures~~**agricultural land**. Both of these are beneficial ~~water~~**uses of water**, but the quality requirements for irrigation water are different from those for drinking water. The Basin Plan recognizes the variations of water quality and water uses.

The Basin Plan is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 provides a summary overview of the functions of the State and Regional Water Boards, the legal basis and authority for the Basin Plan, and the physical features of the Colorado River Basin Region. This Basin Plan lists and defines Chapter 2 designates the various beneficial water uses for surface and ground waters in the Region (Chapter 2). Chapter 3 designates the water quality objectives necessary to ensure the reasonable protection of the beneficial uses. It describes the water quality which must be maintained to support such uses (Water Quality Objectives, Chapter 3). Chapter 4 describes the implementation plans for achieving and maintaining the beneficial uses and water quality objectives. The section on implementation (Chapter 4) describes the programs, projects and other actions which are necessary to achieve the standards established in this Plan. Plans, Policies and Issues (Chapter 5), summarizes the various plans and policies which protect water quality. This chapter and also describes water quality issues which require special attention. Chapter 6 provides a summary description of the water quality monitoring and surveillance program of the Regional Water Board. Surveillance and Monitoring (Chapter 6), describes activities within the Colorado River Basin Region which are related to surveillance, monitoring, assessment, lab support, quality assurance and quality control.

The Regional Board Regional Water Board implements the Basin Plan by issuing and enforcing waste discharge requirements to persons, which can include individuals, communities, or businesses whose waste discharges may affect water quality. These requirements can be either state WDRs Waste Discharge Requirements for discharge to land, or federally-delegated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System NPDES permits for discharges to surface water waters of the United States. Dischargers are required to meet water quality objectives and thus protect beneficial uses.

This Basin Plan also encourages water users to improve the quality of their water supplies, particularly where the wastewater they discharge is likely to be reused. Public works and other projects, which can affect water quality, are reviewed and their impacts are identified. Proposals, which implement or help achieve the goals of the Basin Plan, are supported.

This Basin Plan is subject to review by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Basin Plan is a dynamic rather than fixed document and is always subject to modification, in itself, not a final statement on regional water quality planning, but is subject to continuous review and update as necessary. The Regional Water Board will periodically consider changes to this Basin Plan as necessary and at a minimum of every three years. Updated sections of the Basin Plan may appear as periodic amendments, which are also subject to approval by the State Board State Water Board and USEPA the Office of Administrative Law. Amendments to the Basin Plan are also often subject to review by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Section III. Legal Basins and Authority

Staff proposes to revise this section to clarify the legal basis for enforcement of federal and state permits.

Proposed changes:

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which is contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code, establishes the responsibilities and authorities of the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Board) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). The Porter-Cologne Act names these Regional Water Boards "...the principal state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality." (Water Code, Section 13001.) Each Regional Board Regional Water Board is directed to "...formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region." (Id. § 13240.) A water quality control plan for the waters of an area is defined as having these three components: beneficial uses which are to be protected, water quality objectives which protect those uses, and an implementation plan which accomplishes those objectives. (Section Id. § 13050.) Further, "such plans shall be periodically reviewed and may be revised." (Section Id. § 13240.) The Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. section 1251 et seq. Public Law 92-500, as amended) provides for the delegation of certain responsibilities of water quality control and water quality planning to the states. Where the USEPA and the State Board State Water Board have agreed to such delegation, the Regional Board Regional Water Boards implement portions of the Clean Water Act, such as the NPDES program and toxic substance control programs.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and Clean Water Act also describe how enforcement of requirements pertaining to discharges of waste-discharge requirements is to be carried out. Enforcement tools available to the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board range from simple letters to the discharger, through formal Regional Water Board oOrders and direct assessments of administrative civil liabilityies and penalties, to judicial ~~abatement for~~ enforcement, including civil liability, penalties, fines, and/or injunctive relief. Legally-noticed public hearings are required for most actionsCease and Desist Orders, but some enforcement actions (e.g., Cleanup and Abatement Orders) may be issued by the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board to allow for a quicker response than regularly scheduled board meetings can provide.

This ~~Water Quality Control~~Basin Plan was prepared to comply with all applicable ~~f~~Federal and ~~s~~State laws, regulations, plans, policies, and guidelines. The laws, regulations, and guidelines are summarized below. The plans and policies are summarized in Chapter 5. Also, future amendments thereto, are hereby included in this Basin Pplan by reference.

2.2.6 Chapter 2 – Beneficial Uses

The administrative update to Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan modifies headings, corrects typographical errors and revises the layout of the beneficial uses tables, as detailed below.

Section II. Present Beneficial Uses

Staff proposes to amend the discussion of beneficial use tables contained in this section by inserting two new Level 2 headings and modifying some of the text as shown below in order to improve clarity.

Proposed changes:

A. SURFACE WATER BENEFICIAL USES

Beneficial uses for surface waters listed~~Most of the data contained~~ in Tables 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4 ~~uses is were identified~~ based on data contained~~information compiled~~ in the following reports:

- Surface Water Survey, March 1984 (revised September 1988);
- Survey of Springs, 1984; and
- Survey of Springs, 1986.

In Tables 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4 pPresent beneficial uses are designated by X; potential beneficial uses are designated by P, and intermittent uses by I. Intermittent uses include those uses which occur only seasonally because of limiting environmental conditions (e.g. provide habitat for trout during colder months of the year), and uses which are dependent on and occur only when sufficient flow exists.

Identification of beneficial uses of surface waters is based strictly on documentation of the existence of those uses and should not in any way be construed to indicate ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board authorization or approval of the uses. In some instances water quality may not be adequate to support beneficial uses indicated, or beneficial uses may be occurring illegally¹ or without authorization (for example: fishing in Coachella Valley drains²).

B. GROUND WATER BENEFICIAL USES

The beneficial uses for ground water which are contained in Table 2-5 are for each hydrologic unit as an entirety, unless otherwise specified. Some hydrologic units contain multiple aquifers which may each support different beneficial uses.

Section IV. Sources of Drinking Water Policy

This section of the Basin Plan references a portion of the Sources of Drinking Water Policy, converting the numbered paragraphs into level 2 headings. In order to improve readability of this

section, staff proposes to change the level 2 headings to numbered paragraphs and make minor modifications to text, as shown below.

Proposed changes:

III. IV. SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER POLICY¹

The following "Sources of Drinking Water" policy as adopted by the ~~State Board~~State Water Board on May 19, 1988 (Resolution No. 88-63) shall apply to all waters of the Region:

[INCREASE INDENT] All surface and ground waters are considered to be suitable, or potentially suitable, for municipal or domestic water supply with the exception of:

A.a. Surface and ground waters where:

- 1. 1.**—The total dissolved solids (TDS) exceed 3,000 mg/Li (5,000 us/cm, electrical conductivity), and it is not reasonably expected by the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board to supply a public water system, or
- 2. 2.**—There is contamination, either by natural processes or by human activity (unrelated to a specific pollution incident), that cannot reasonably be treated for domestic use using either Management Practices or best economically achievable treatment practices, or
- 3. 3.**—The water source does not provide sufficient water to supply a single well capable of producing an average, sustained yield of 200 gallons per day.

B.b. Surface waters where:

1. The water is in systems designed or modified to collect or treat municipal or industrial wastewaters, process waters, mining wastewaters, or storm water runoff, provided that the discharge from such systems is monitored to assure compliance with all relevant water quality objectives as required by the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board; or,
2. The water is in systems designed or modified for the primary purpose of conveying or holding agricultural drainage waters, provided that the discharge from such systems is monitored to assure compliance with all relevant water quality objectives as required by the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board.

C.c. Ground waters where:

- 1. 1.**—The aquifer is regulated as a geothermal energy producing source or has been exempted administratively pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations, ~~s~~Section 146.4 for the purpose of underground injection of fluids associated with the production of hydrocarbon or geothermal energy, provided that these fluids do not constitute a hazardous waste under 40 Code of Federal Regulations, sSection 261.3.

D.d. ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board authority to amend use designations:

Any body of water which has a current specific designation previously assigned to it by the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board in the Water Quality Control Plan may retain that designation at the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board's discretion. Where a body of water is not currently designated as MUN but, in the opinion of the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board, is presently or potentially suitable for MUN, the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board shall include MUN in the beneficial use designation. The ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board shall assure that the beneficial uses of municipal and domestic supply are designated for protection wherever those uses are presently being attained, and assure that any changes in beneficial use designations for waters of the ~~s~~State are consistent with all applicable regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. **[END INCREASED INDENT]**

Tables 2-2, 2-3 and 2-4 – Column Headers

In the Beneficial Use Tables 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4, column header letters are oriented horizontally, while the labels are written out vertically, which makes them difficult to read. Staff proposes to change the headings to write out the labels vertically and continuously. The example shown below applies to all three tables, with small variations.

Proposed changes:

Sample from Basin Plan 2017 Beneficial Uses tables:

	MU N	A GR	A Q U A	F R S H	I N D	G W R	R E C I	R E C II	W A R M	CO L D	W I L D	P O W	RA R E
Rivers/Streams													
Colorado River and associated lakes and reservoirs	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X ¹	X	X	X

Sample from Amended Beneficial Uses tables:

	MUN	AGR	AQUA	FRSH	IND	GWR	REC I	REC II	WARM	COLD	WILD	POW	RARE
Rivers/Streams													
Colorado River and associated lakes and reservoirs	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X ¹	X	X	X

Tables 2-4 and 2-5 – Hydrologic Unit Names

The Regional Water Board regularly works with other agencies on matters concerning water resource management and hence it is important to use the same watershed names and boundaries across agencies. For this purpose, California agencies use the California Interagency Watershed Map, or CalWater, which divides the state into ten Hydrologic Regions. The Regions are further subdivided into Hydrologic Units, Hydrologic Areas, Hydrologic Sub-areas, Super Planning Watersheds, and Planning Watersheds. Each watershed level is nested within the preceding one listed.

For its planning purposes, the Regional Water Board uses Hydrologic Units (HU) and Hydrologic Areas (HA), which are identified in the [basin planning map](#) “Colorado River Basin Hydrologic Basin Planning Area.” In Tables 2-4 and 2-5, beneficial uses for springs and groundwater (respectively) are listed by Hydrologic Unit, with the exception of the Whitewater HU, which is further subdivided into its Hydrologic Areas in Table 2-5. While the basin planning map matches CalWater watershed names and boundaries, Tables 2-4 and 2-5 are inconsistent with both maps: “Bristol” and “Piute” are listed and numbered as Hydrologic Units, while these are in fact names associated with Hydrologic Areas (Bristol HA and Piute Valley HA) that are nested within Route Sixty Six HU and Homer HU, respectively. Because the numbers listed alongside these names correspond with Hydrologic Units, not Areas, and because the remaining Hydrologic Areas nested within those Hydrologic Units are not listed, it follows that this inconsistency was either an error or a deliberate deviation from CalWater nomenclature. To align watershed names used in the Basin Plan with statewide nomenclature, staff proposes to update the names of these two hydrologic units to be consistent with those of CalWater. A graphical demonstration of the appropriate nomenclature in those watersheds is provided in [Appendix E](#) of this Staff Report.

Proposed changes:

- 1) In Tables 2-4 and 2-5, replace “Bristol Hydrologic Unit” and “Bristol HU” with “Route Sixty Six Hydrologic Unit.”

2) In Table 2-4, Replace “Piute Hydrologic Unit” with “Homer” Hydrologic Unit.

2.2.7 Chapter 3 – Water Quality Objectives

The administrative update to Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan makes minor modifications to correct typographical errors, improve clarity, and standardize cross-referencing, as detailed below.

Section III. B. New River

Staff proposes to make minor modifications to correct typographical errors and standardize cross-referencing in the first and last paragraphs of this section.

Proposed changes:

Minute ~~DELETED PARAGRAPH BREAK~~
No. 264 of the Mexican-American Water Treaty titled "Recommendations for Solution of the New River Border Sanitation Problem at Calexico, California - Mexicali, Baja California Norte" was approved by the Governments of the United States and Mexico effective on December 4, 1980. Minute No. 264 specifies qualitative and quantitative standards for the New River at the International Boundary and upstream of the International Boundary in Mexico.

[...]

Bacteria Water Quality Objectives

1. The bacterial standards identified in the General Surface Water Objectives section of this Basin Plan (p. 3-3) are applicable to the entire stretch of the New River in the United States.
2. The Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and associated implementation actions are described in Chapter 4, Section ~~V.A.V(A)~~. Compliance Monitoring activities for the TMDL are described in Chapter 6, Section ~~II.B.II(B)~~.

2.2.8 Chapter 4 - Implementation

The administrative update to Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan makes minor modifications to correct typographical errors, improve clarity, standardize cross-referencing, and update Figure 4-1, as detailed below.

Section II.H.2.C.A. Time Schedule for Implementation

The following amendment will omit an unnecessary cross-reference. Note that this section is renumbered as Section II.H.2.iii.a under the Amendment (See Section 2.2.1 of this Staff Report).

Proposed changes:

1st Notification: a 90-day advance notice (by mail), as to when the approximate date the sewage collection system will become "available" for them to connect; and

2nd Notification: another written notification, within 10 days of when the system is actually "available," that the system is "available," and they need to connect to it.

Within one-hundred (100) days following the first round of the 2nd Notification (~~Item 2, above~~), and

Section II.H.2.C.D, Monitoring and Reporting

The following change is necessary for consistency with the standardized header numbering styles discussed in section 2.1.1 of this staff report. Note that this section is renumbered as Section II.H.2.iii.d under the Amendment (See Section 2.2.1 of this Staff Report).

Proposed changes:

compliance with the Prohibition. HDWD shall also submit biannual reports to the Regional Water Board by January 1st and July 1st of each year regarding the status of Deferred Parcels. Specifically, the report shall address whether any Deferred Parcel and/or areas where Deferred Parcels are located meet any of the criteria specified in paragraph (b)-Section B, above.

Figure 4-1 “Sewer Master Plan Phases”

The August 2017 Basin Plan incorporated an amendment that revised phase boundaries of the Septic Tank Discharge Prohibition in The Town of Yucca Valley, found in Chapter 4, Section II.H.2.C (renumbered as Section II.H.2.iii under this Amendment). However, Figure 4-1 “Sewer Master Plan Phases,” which depicts the phase boundaries, was not updated to reflect these changes. This Amendment replaces the outdated Figure 4-1, presented in [Appendix D-1](#) of this Staff Report, with an up-to-date representation of phase boundaries, as shown in [Appendix D-2](#). The map used for the updated figure was submitted by the Hi-Desert Water District for the prohibition revision amendment.

Proposed changes:

- 1) Replace Figure 4-1 with the figure presented in [Appendix D-2](#) of this Staff Report.
- 2) Change the title of the figure to “Prohibition Phase Boundaries.”

Section IV.C. Toxicity Objective Compliance

The following amendment standardizes cross-referencing of other sections in the Basin Plan.

Proposed changes:

Compliance with the ~~Regional Board~~Regional Water Board's toxicity objective (see Chapter 3) will be determined through the use of bioassays utilizing standard/approved methodology. A three-part biomonitoring program to determine compliance is described in Chapter 6, ~~(Section II.B.)~~. Compliance may also be determined by reviewing data generated by the Toxic Substances Monitoring Program (see Chapter 6, Section II.E.) and other water quality monitoring programs. Implementation measures to address violations of the toxicity objective will be conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal policies and regulations.

Section V.E.1.2 Imperial Irrigation District

Staff proposes to make minor modifications to the text and formatting to improve clarity. Note that under the Amendment, this section is re-numbered as V.E.1.ii (see section 2.2.1 of this Staff Report).

Proposed changes:

TMDL	Date
Alamo River	October 28, 2003
New River	July 31, 2004
Imperial Valley Drains	6 months after USEPA approval

and on a semi-annual basis ~~after the completion of deadlines in Table 4-13~~ thereafter, the IID shall submit the following information to the ~~Regional Board~~ Regional Water Board on the agricultural dischargers within the District:

- ~~[BEGIN BULLET PARAGRAPHS]~~ The names and mailing addresses for all the owners of properties within the IID service area that are being used for irrigated agriculture, as well as the location of their properties. ~~[INSERT PARAGRAPH BREAK]~~
- The names and mailing addresses for all water account holders within the IID service area, and the location of all fields that they irrigate. ~~[INSERT PARAGRAPH BREAK]~~
- For each parcel within the IID service area, the location of the parcel, the irrigation canal and gates serving the parcel, the drop boxes draining the parcel, the drains that these drop boxes empty into, and the fields located within each parcel. ~~[INSERT PARAGRAPH BREAK]~~
- For each field within the IID service area, the parcel within which each field is located, the area and location of each field within the parcel, the irrigation canal and gates serving each field, the drop boxes draining each field and the drains to which these drop boxes drain. ~~[INSERT PARAGRAPH BREAK]~~
- The above information ~~should be submitted~~ in an electronic, tabular, and easily geo-referenced format. ~~[END BULLET PARAGRAPHS]~~

Section V.G.1 TMDL Elements – Table 4-25

Staff proposes minor modifications to the table to improve clarity and standardize cross-referencing of other sections in the Basin Plan.

Proposed changes:

<p>Project Definition (To describe the impairment being addressed by the TMDL)</p>	<p>The Basin Plan prescribes a general surface water quality objective (WQO) for DO in all surface waters designated WARM, such as the New River, of a minimum of 5.0 (five) milligrams per liter (mg/L) at any time- (Basin Plan, Chapter 3, Section II.F., p. 3-2.). The Basin Plan also prescribes a specific surface WQO for the New River at the International Boundary of 5.0 mg/L, (Chapter 3, Section III.B, Table 3-1) <u>which</u> This WQO is based on the quantitative standards set forth in Minute No. 264 of the Mexican-American Water Treaty, titled "Recommendations for Solution of the New River Border Sanitation Problem at Calexico, California – Mexicali, Baja California Norte." This <u>The</u> Treaty was signed and made effective by the U.S. and Mexico on December 4, 1980. (Basin Plan, Chapter 3, Section III.B., Table 3-1, p. 3-6.) Accordingly, this TMDL proposes these DO WQOs as the numerical target to be met.</p>
---	---

Section VI Actions of Other Authorities

Staff proposes to remove an unclear cross-reference to improve clarity.

Proposed changes:

wastewaters is less than that of the Colorado River water which is purchased and spread for recharge in the upper valley areas. In recognition of this, the ~~Regional Board~~ Regional Water Board supports the reuse of community wastewaters, wherever economically and socially feasible. ~~(See page 4-2.)~~

2.2.9 Chapter 6 – Surveillance, Monitoring and Water Quality Assessment

The administrative update to Chapter 6 of the Basin Plan corrects typographical errors and standardizes cross-referencing, as detailed below.

Chapter 6, Section I.A. Regional Board Goals and Management Principles

Staff proposes to delete this entire section, which was duplicated from Chapter 4, Section I.A in a typographical error.

Proposed changes:

~~A. REGIONAL BOARD GOALS AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES~~

~~The regulatory activities of the Regional Boards are the primary mechanism for water quality control. In view of this, and in view of the limited water resources in the Colorado River Basin Region and their increasing use, the Regional Board directs its actions toward the following goals and management principles:~~

Section II.E. Toxic Substances Monitoring

Staff proposes to correct a typographical error in which a bullet point was omitted, and to modify the bullet point list as shown below.

Proposed changes:

The objectives of the Toxic Substance Monitoring Program are:

- ~~[BEGIN BULLETED PARAGRAPH]~~To develop statewide baseline data and to demonstrate trends in the occurrence of toxic elements and organic substances in the aquatic biota.
- To assess impacts of accumulated toxicants upon the usability of State waters by man.
- To assess impacts of accumulated toxicants upon the aquatic biota; ~~and~~
- Where problem concentrations of toxicants are detected, to attempt to identify sources of toxicants and to relate concentrations found in the biota to concentrations found in the water.

Section II.F. TMDL Compliance Assurance and Enforcement

The following amendment standardizes cross-referencing of other sections in the Basin Plan, and updates the cross-reference in accordance with heading numbering change discussed in section 2.2.1 of this Staff Report.

Proposed changes:

- Implementation and enforcement of ~~s~~Sections 13225, 13267, and 13268 of the ~~California~~ Water Code to ensure that all responsible parties submit in a prompt and complete manner, the Water Quality Management Plan defined in Chapter 4, Section ~~V.E.1.I.V(E)(1-4)~~.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Environmental Review

Basin Plan amendments are generally subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed amendment does not constitute a CEQA project because the amendment consists of informational updates and non-substantive editorial changes only. The proposed changes are intended to provide current background information and improve the

readability of the Basin Plan. There are no changes to beneficial uses, water quality objectives, or implementation plans and no new regulatory requirements imposed.

3.2 Necessity

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) is responsible for reviewing regulations proposed by state agencies to ensure that they are clear, necessary, legally valid, and available to the public. (Government Code, § 11340 et seq.) The OAL is also responsible for transmitting these regulations to the Secretary of State and for publishing regulations in the California Code of Regulations. Following State Water Board approval of this Basin Plan Amendment, any regulatory portions of the amendment must be approved by OAL. (Government Code, § 11353.) The State Water Board must include in its submittal to OAL a summary of the necessity for the regulatory provision. (Government Code, § 11353(b).) The non-regulatory Amendment is necessary because the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board must have clear, current, and unambiguous information in the Basin Plan for the purposes of carrying out its regulatory activities, informing the public of regional water quality goals and requirements, and coordinating with other agencies on water quality issues.

3.3 Scientific Peer Review

The scientific basis of any Basin Plan amendment must undergo external scientific peer review before adoption by the State or Regional Water Board. The scientific basis is the foundation of a rule that is premised upon, or derived upon, empirical data or other scientific findings, conclusions, or assumptions establishing a regulatory level, standard, or other requirement for the protection of public health or the environment. (Health & Safety Code, § 57004.) This Amendment does not trigger the requirement for scientific peer review because it does not establish any regulatory level standard or other requirement for the protection of public health or the environment.

4 REFERENCES

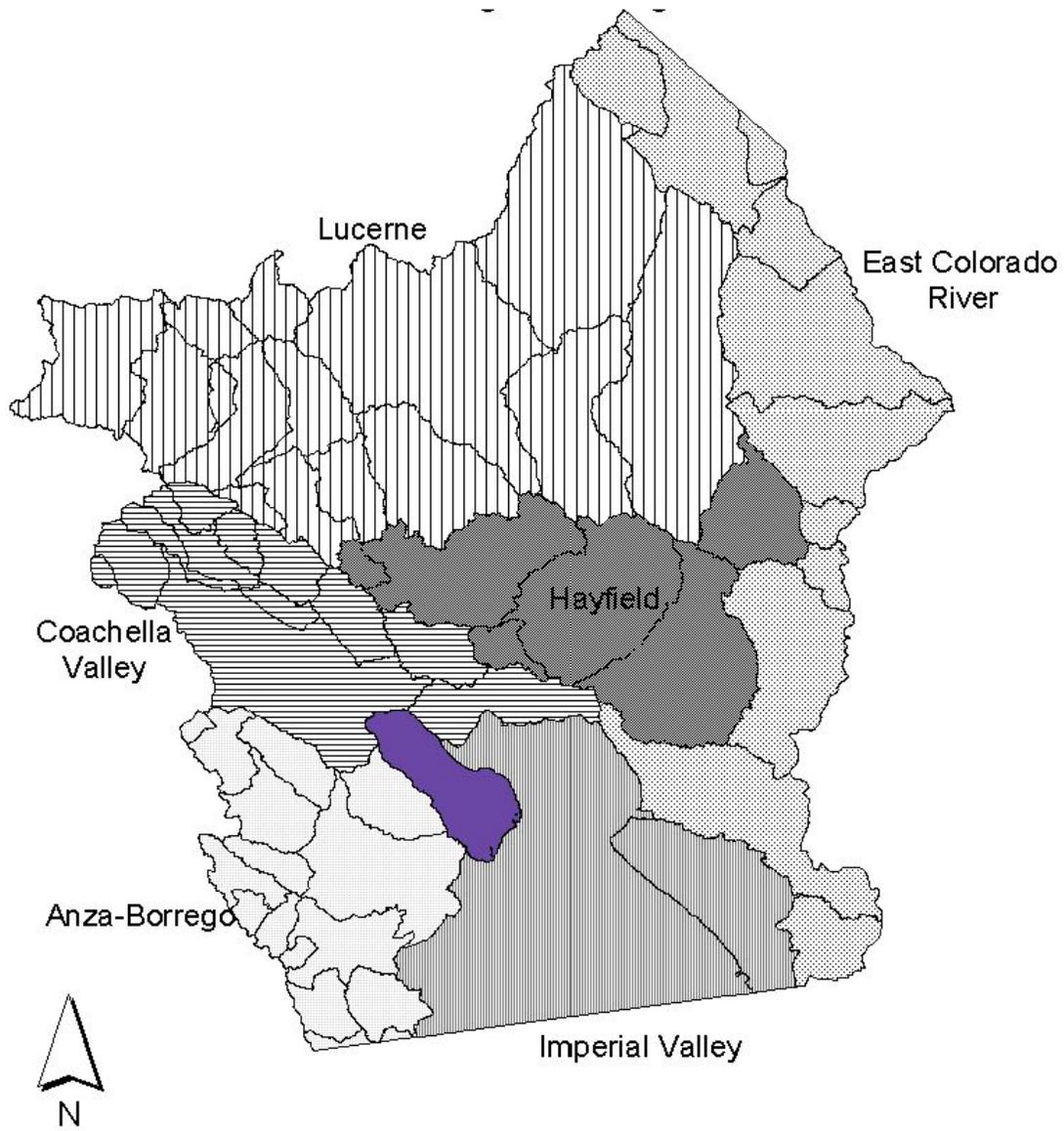
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 2017. Salton Sea Fisheries Long-term Monitoring Sampling Report: Summer 2017.
- California Department of Water Resources, California Natural Resources Agency, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2017. Salton Sea Management Program, Phase I: 10-Year Plan.
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin, 2017. Colorado River Basin Region Water Quality Control Plan.
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin, 2017. Triennial Review of the Colorado River Basin Water Board Basin Plan Staff Report.
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin, 2003. Colorado River Basin Region Water Quality Control Plan.
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin, 1993. Colorado River Basin Region Water Quality Control Plan.
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin, 2014. Staff Report in Support of Proposed Updates to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List and Preparation of the 2012 Integrated Report.
- California State Water Resources Control Board, 2015. Update of State Water Board's Mission Statement, Resolution No. 2015-0004.
- California State Water Resources Control Board, 2002. Water Rights Order 2002-0013 Revised in Accordance with order WRO 2002-0016.
- Quantification Settlement Agreement by and among Imperial Irrigation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Coachella Valley Water District, 2003.
- Riedel, R. (2016) Trends of Abundance of Salton Sea Fish: A Reversible Collapse or a Permanent Condition?. *Natural Resources*, 7, 535-543. doi: [10.4236/nr.2016.710045](https://doi.org/10.4236/nr.2016.710045).
- The Cadmus Group for U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2013. A Report on the Status and Vulnerability of Watershed Health in California.
- United States Geological Survey, Surface-Water Annual Statistics for the Nation, USGS 10254005 SALTON SEA NR WESTMORLAND CA, Annual Statistics Output table for years 1988-2016
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/uv?site_no=10254005
- United States Bureau of Reclamation, 2017. Salton Sea Monitoring Data 2004-2017 Monitoring Data Summary, Downloaded 09/21/2017.
- United States Bureau of Reclamation, 2017. Salton Sea Sampling Procedures.
- United States Bureau of Reclamation, 2015. A Salton Sea Chronology Prehistory – 2015.
- United States Bureau of Reclamation, 2000. Draft Alternatives Appraisal Report, Chapter 1.

APPENDICES

Appendix A-1

Planning Areas figure in the current Basin Plan (August 2017 edition)

FIGURE 1-1. COLORADO RIVER BASIN PLANNING AREAS



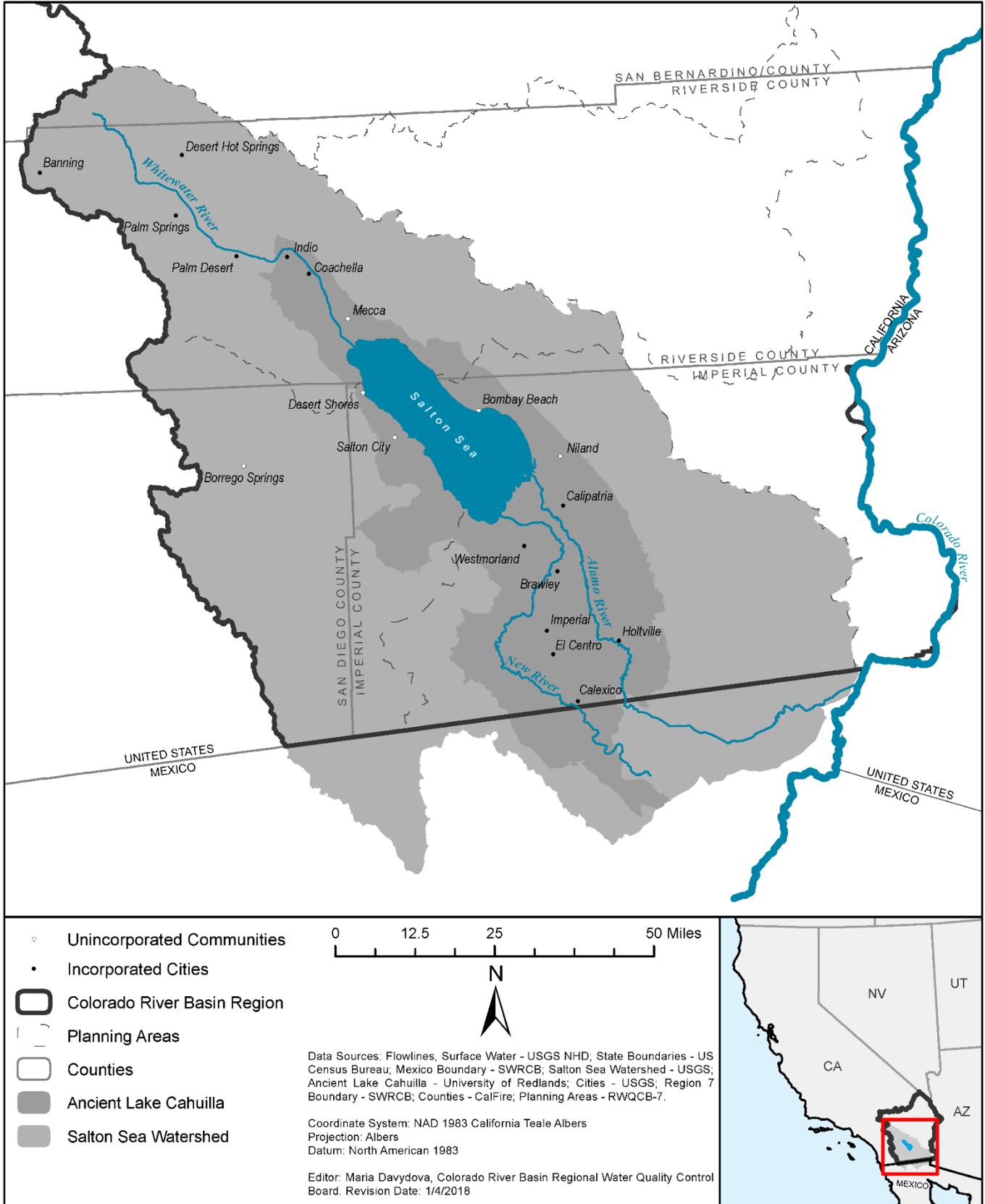
Appendix A-2

Proposed replacement for the Planning Areas figure.



Appendix B

Proposed new figure with map of Salton Sea Watershed.



Appendix C

Sample of proposed new heading numbering and formatting styles. The descriptions of numbering and formatting refer to the section headings only, not to section text.

I. LEVEL 1

Numbering: Uppercase roman numerals – I., II., III., ...

Formatting: uppercase, Arial font, bold, size 14, single line spacing, 14 pt before and 14 pt after

A. LEVEL 2

Numbering : uppercase alphabet – A., B., C., ...

Formatting: uppercase, Arial font, bold, size 13, single line spacing, 13 pt before and 13 pt after

1. Level 3

Numbering: numbers – 1., 2., 3., ...

Formatting: capitalize each word, Arial font, bold, size 12, single line spacing, 12 pt before and 12 pt after

i. Level 4

Numbering: lowercase roman numerals – i., ii., iii., ...

Formatting: capitalize each word, Arial font, bold, size 11, single line spacing, 11 pt before and 11 pt after

(a) Level 5

Numbering: lower case alphabet in prentices – (a), (b), (c), ...

Formatting: capitalize each word, Arial font, underline, size 10, single line spacing, 10 pt before and 10 pt after

(1) Level 6

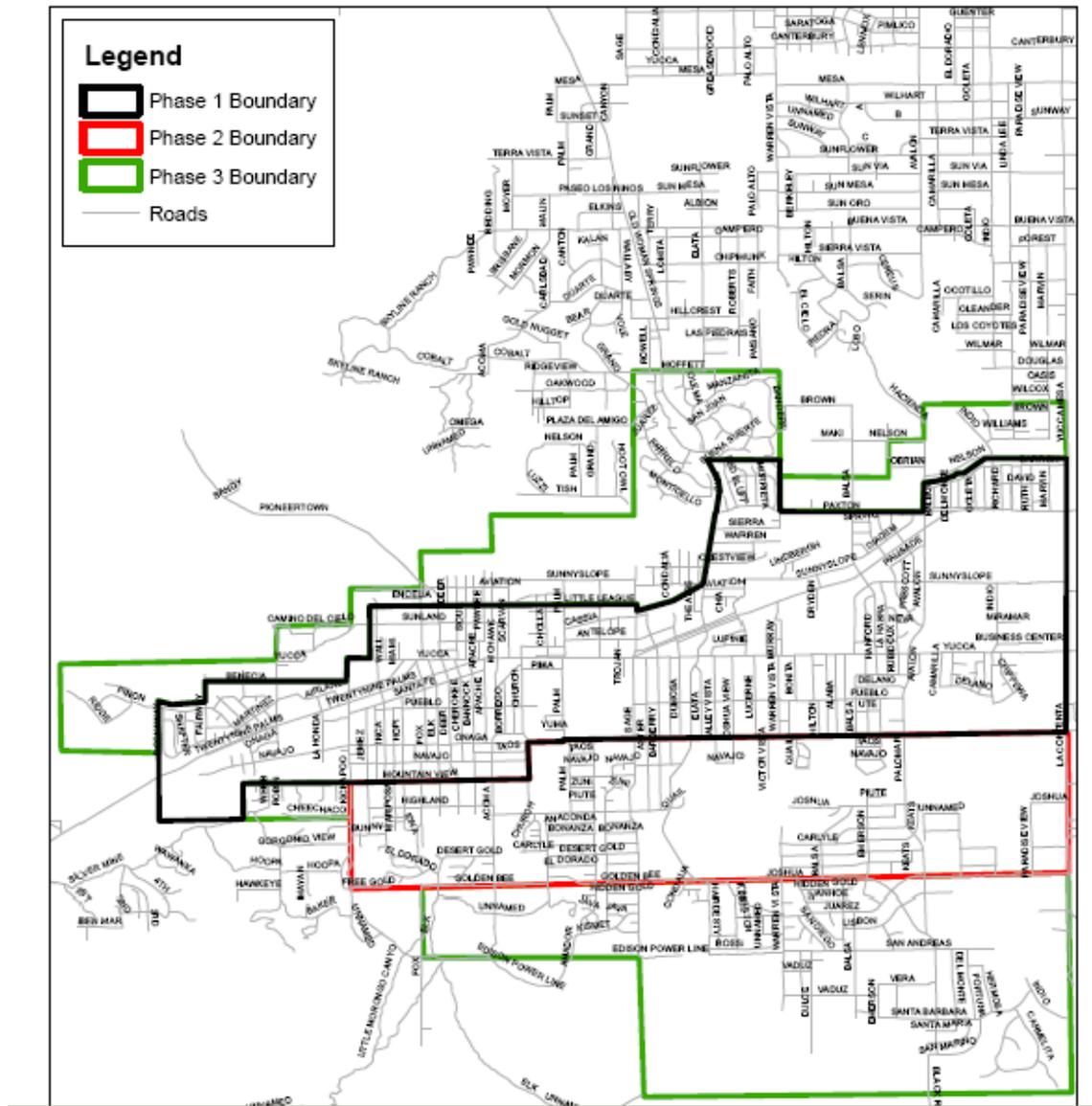
Numbering: numbers in prentices – (1), (2), (3), ...

Formatting: capitalize each word, Arial font, italics, size 10, single line spacing, 9 pt before and 9 pt after

Appendix D-1

Yucca Valley Prohibition phase figure in the current Basin Plan (August 2017 edition).

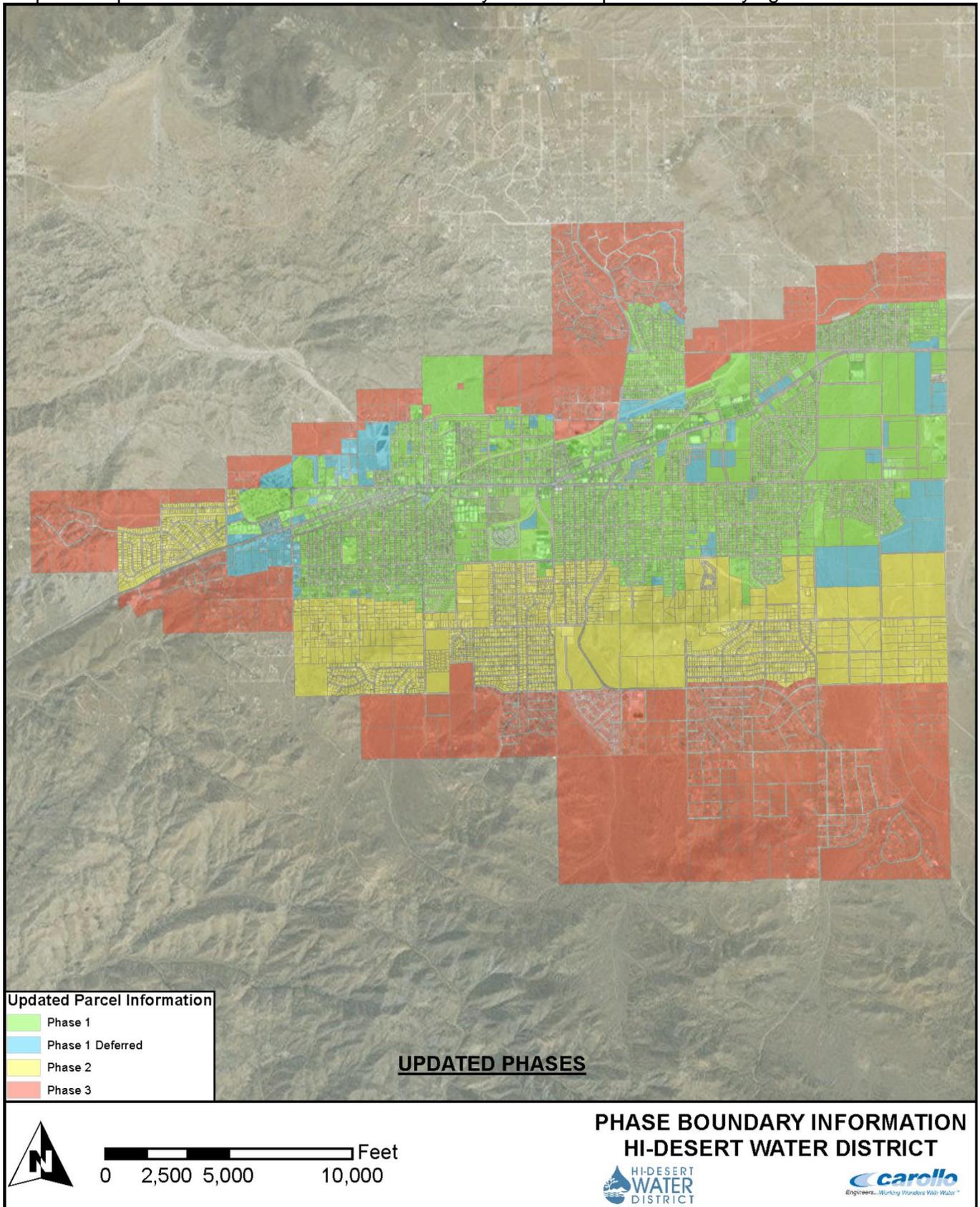
Figure 4-1 HDWD SEWER MASTER PLAN PHASES [sic]¹



¹ This figure is outdated. Refer to the [March 2017 Note About the Basin Plan](#) for more information.

Appendix D-2

Proposed replacement for the outdated Yucca Valley Prohibition phase boundary figure.



Appendix E

A demonstration of accurate nomenclature for Hydrologic Units 710 and 713.

CalWater Hydrologic Units and Areas

Data Sources: CalWater - California Interagency Watershed Mapping Committee; California - SWRCB; Region 7 Boundary - SWRCB

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 California Teale Albers
 Projection: Albers
 Datum: North American 1983

Editor: Maria Davydova, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board.



- CalWater Hydrologic Areas
- Homer HU 713
- Route Sixty Six HU 710

