

2020 TRIENNIAL REVIEW  
OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

Draft Staff Report

September 2020

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Staff Report is written in support of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region's (Colorado River Basin Water Board) triennial review of its water quality standards (Triennial Review), which are contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan). The purpose of this Staff Report is to detail the Triennial Review process and to develop a three-year workplan for water quality standards projects.

The Triennial Review is a process conducted to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1), which requires the Colorado River Basin Water Board to hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards at least once each three-year period. Likewise, Water Code section 13240 requires the periodic review of regional water quality control plans. Water quality standards consist of beneficial uses for surface water and groundwater bodies and water quality objectives established to protect those uses, as well as an antidegradation policy. In addition to water quality standards, the Basin Plan also describes the water bodies and surrounding environments, actions and policies implementing the water quality standards, monitoring plans to ensure that water quality standards are being met, and other pertinent information. During the Triennial Review, possible additions and revisions to the Basin Plan are identified and prioritized. These prioritized additions and revisions are then developed and implemented through changes to the Basin Plan, as necessary, based upon available resources.

## 2 TRIENNIAL REVIEW PROCESS

In January 2020, staff began the Triennial Review for the period of January 2021 through December 2023 (2020 Triennial Review). The process was commenced by reaching out to California Native American Tribes that may have historical and ancestral lands within the Colorado River Basin Region to solicit early input on Triennial Review projects that might be of interest to the Tribes. On January 28, 2020, staff held a workshop for interested Tribal representatives to present information about the Triennial Review process, with a focus on potential projects to designate Tribal Beneficial Uses.

On April 7, 2020, staff sent out a Public Notice to solicit potential Triennial Review projects from the general public and the Tribes. The Public Notice announced a comment period to provide project proposals, ending on May 27. During the comment period, staff also solicited projects internally from other Colorado River Basin Water Board programs. In total, 16 comment letters were submitted. Staff prepared a table with responses to comment received, provided in [Appendix A](#) of this Staff Report.

After reviewing the comment letters submitted by the public, staff developed a preliminary list of Triennial Review proposed projects and systematically ranked them in order to develop a prioritized list (see Section 0 below) of proposed Basin Planning projects to pursue during the 2020 Triennial Review period, called the Triennial Review List. The 2020 Triennial Review period will start in January 2021 and last through December 2023, after which time a new Triennial Review List should be prepared.

This Staff Report has been released for public review along with the Triennial Review List for a 30-day comment period. During the comment period, staff will hold a public workshop on October 8 to provide more information about the Triennial Review process. After the comment period ends and staff responds to additional comments received, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board will consider adopting a Resolution to approve the 2020 Triennial Review list. The approved Triennial Review List and associated administrative record will be transmitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

After the Triennial Review List has been completed, reviewed by the public, approved by the Board and transmitted to USEPA, staff will work on developing the identified projects as appropriate throughout the 2020 Triennial Review period. Importantly, because resources are not available to complete all projects, as detailed in Section 5 of this Staff Report, placement of a project on the Triennial Review List does not guarantee that the project will be completed, or that it will be completed as described. Additional public participation opportunities will be presented during the development of the project.

Triennial Review projects are implemented through Basin Plan Amendments, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans, and through policies. Basin Plan Amendments are changes to the Basin Plan. A Basin Plan Amendment project is complete when the amendment goes into effect, which happens when the project has been reviewed and approved by all appropriate agencies, which includes the Colorado River Basin Water Board, followed by the State Water Board, after which the process will vary depending on the project. TMDLs are water pollution control plans that must be developed to address water quality impairments, which are identified on the 303(d) list of impaired waters. TMDLs are also typically implemented through Basin Plan Amendments but can sometimes be achieved through other regulatory means and for the purposes of this Staff Report they are considered separately. A TMDL project is considered complete after it goes into effect, which occurs after the TMDL has been approved by the USEPA. Policies are typically adopted by Resolution and may also be incorporated into the Basin Plan through a Basin Plan Amendment.

### **3 STATUS OF 2017 TRIENNIAL REVIEW**

The previous review of the Basin Plan took place during the 2017 Triennial Review. The 2017 Triennial Review List was reviewed by the public and adopted by the Regional Water Board on November 9, 2017. The 2017 Triennial Review List consisted of 15 projects, as summarized in Table 1 below. Typically, Triennial Review Lists only contain water quality standards-related projects that may result in Basin Plan Amendments, including TMDLs. The 2017 Triennial Review List did not include the TMDLs that staff were going to be developing during the 2017 Triennial Review period of January 2018 through December 2020 but did list several projects that would not lead to Basin Plan Amendments. Of the fifteen 2017 Triennial Review projects, eight projects were potential Basin Plan Amendments, of which five were assigned to staff. Two of the Basin Plan Amendment projects that were assigned to staff have been completed and one is expected to be considered by the Colorado River Basin Water Board before the end of the 2017 Triennial Review period. The top four priority projects included in the 2017 Triennial Review List are not expected to be completed during the 2017 Triennial Review period; and the two

projects that have been completed to date are ranked as 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The 2020 Triennial Review process will ensure that only projects that may result in Basin Plan Amendments are listed, that TMDLs are included, and that the ranking criteria are designed in a way that takes into account public input and is used to assign staff resources to projects.

**Table 1: 2017 Triennial Review Projects**

Rank	Item	Type of Project	Status	Expected Completion by December 2020
1	Groundwater Nitrate Assessment	Basin Plan Amendment <sup>1</sup>	Ongoing	No
2	Establish Groundwater Water Quality Objectives for Total Dissolved Solids	Basin Plan Amendment	Ongoing	No
3	Evaluate Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use in Saline Groundwater	Basin Plan Amendment	Not Assigned	No
4	Re-establish Groundwater Beneficial Use Boundaries	Basin Plan Amendment <sup>1</sup>	Not Assigned	No
5	Assess Bioaccumulation in Constructed Wetlands	Study	Ongoing	Yes
6	Monitor Harmful Algal Blooms at Salton Sea	Monitoring	Ongoing	Yes
7	Incorporate SWRCB Bacteria Water Quality Objectives	Basin Plan Amendment	Ongoing	No <sup>2</sup>
8	Assess Beneficial Use Attainment at Constructed Wetlands	Study <sup>3</sup>	Ongoing	Yes
9	Assess Pesticide Trends in Ag Drains	Study	Ongoing	Yes
10	Identify Sources of Ammonia and Toxicity in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Chanel	Basin Plan Amendment <sup>1</sup>	Ongoing	No
11	Monitoring at Salton Sea Aquatic Habitats	Study	Not Assigned	No
12	Update New River Language in the Basin Plan	Basin Plan Amendment	Not Assigned	No
13	Update Salton Sea Language in the Basin Plan	Basin Plan Amendment	Completed	Yes
14	Basin Plan Corrections and Updates	Basin Plan Amendment	Completed	Yes
15	Incorporate SWRCB Water Quality Objectives for Mercury	Basin Plan Amendment	Not Assigned	No

#### 4 PROPOSED PROJECTS

The proposed 2020 Triennial Review projects were compiled and ranked to develop the Triennial Review List, consisting of ongoing projects, summarized in Table 2, and new

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<sup>1</sup> This project is listed in the 2017 Triennial Review as a study; however, based on the project description, it is in fact a Basin Plan Amendment.

<sup>2</sup> Approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board in September 2020, but final approval will take place in 2021.

<sup>3</sup> This project is listed in the 2017 Triennial Review as a Basin Plan Amendment; however, based on the project description, it is in fact a study.

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projects, summarized in below. The complete Triennial Review List is provided with project descriptions and other details in [Appendix B](#) of this Staff Report.

The 2020 Triennial Review List contains 14 ongoing projects, listed in Table 2 below. Ongoing projects include 2017 Triennial Review projects that have not been completed, other water quality standards projects that were started since the 2017 Triennial Review list was approved, and TMDL projects, which were previously not included in the Colorado River Basin Water Board’s Triennial Review lists.

**Table 2: 2020 Triennial Review Ongoing Projects**

No.	Project Title
1	Salton Sea Watershed, Imperial Valley Organochlorine Compounds and Organophosphate Pesticides TMDLs
2	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Organochlorine Compounds TMDL Alternatives
3	Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride, Indicator Bacteria, and Toxicity TMDLs
4	Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia, Nutrients, and Toxicity TMDLs
5	Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs
6	Yucca Valley Septic System Prohibition Revision
7	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen, and Toxicity TMDLs
8	Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs
9	Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality
10	Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review
11	Regionwide Indicator Bacteria Basin Plan Amendment
12	Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in Indio Subbasin
13	Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs
14	Colorado River Toxicity TMDL

The 2020 Triennial Review List also contains 15 new projects, listed in Table 3 below. New projects include staff-proposed projects, projects proposed by other programs, and projects proposed in response to public comments. Note that new projects are not presently assigned and staff’s ability to start them during the 2020 Triennial Review period will depend on the completion of ongoing projects.

**Table 3: 2020 Triennial Review New Projects**

No.	Project Title
15	Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives
16	Salton Sea Watershed Ammonia TMDL
17	Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats
18	Salton Sea Watershed Bacteria TMDL
19	Adopt Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) as Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Objectives for the Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use
20	Adopt Regionwide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria
21	Salton Sea Arsenic TMDL
22	Salton Sea Toxicity TMDL
23	Salton Sea DDT and DDE TMDLs
24	Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer
25	Incorporate Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Use Definitions and Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies
26	Administrative Update to the Basin Plan
27	Imperial Valley Drains Toxicity TMDL
28	List Certain Unlisted Waterbodies and Applicable Beneficial Uses, And Designate Miscellaneous Beneficial Uses to Listed Waterbodies
29	General Prohibition of Unpermitted Waste Discharges that Pose a Threat to Water Quality

## 5 BASIN PLANNING RESOURCES

The Colorado River Basin Water Board is allocated limited staff resources to administer Water Quality Standards programs, which include implementation of Triennial Review projects. Staff resources are calculated in Personnel Years (PY), where one PY equates to the resources needed to fund one Colorado River Basin Water Board staff person for one year. Currently, 5.6 PYs are assigned to Water Quality Standards projects on an annual basis, which adds up to a total of 16.8 PYs over the course of the 2020 Triennial Review period. Of those resources, 5.2 PYs are expected to be used for program management and other efforts that do not result in Basin Plan Amendments, like the 2023 Triennial Review. 9.9 PYs are assigned to ongoing Triennial Review projects listed in Table 2 above. This leaves just 1.7 PYs available for new projects listed in Table 3. The ability to apply these resources to new projects is further limited by when the ongoing projects will be completed, which is subject to change. Based on projected resource availability, it is expected that no more than three to five new projects may be started during the 2020 Triennial Review period, of which only one may possibly be completed by December 2023. Staff estimates that to begin working on all new projects during the 2020 Triennial Review, an additional 11.5 PYs would be needed over the course of the Triennial Review period, which would require four new staff positions to be funded, filled and fully available for water quality standards projects.

## 6 PRIORITIZATION

In order to prioritize the use of limited staff resources, the Triennial Review List has been ranked using scoring criteria, which were developed based on public input and program priorities. The scoring criteria are described in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Prioritization Scoring Criteria**

Criterion	Question	Minimum Score	Middle Score	Maximum Score
Ongoing project	Is this an ongoing project that is already assigned to staff?	0 (no)	N/A	30 (yes)
Salton Sea	Does the project protect water quality at the Salton Sea?	0 (no)	5 (possibly or indirectly)	10 (yes, directly)
EJ or Tribal	Does the project address Environmental Justice or Tribal issues?	0 (no)	5 (possibly or indirectly)	10 (yes, directly)
Completion (ongoing)	For ongoing projects, how likely is the project to be completed before December 2023?	0 (not likely)	5 (somewhat likely)	10 (very likely)
Completion (new)	For new projects, how long will the project take once started?	0 (≤ 6 months)	5 (18 months)	10 (≥ 48 months)
Groundwater	Does the project address groundwater impairments?	0 (no)	5 (possibly or indirectly)	10 (yes, directly)
Public interest	Does the project address concerns expressed by the public?	0=not at all	5 (somewhat or some)	10 (yes, many)
Time sensitivity	When does the project need to be completed to meet commitments?	0 (≥ 2031)	5 (by 2024)	10 (≤ 2020)
Impairments	Does the project address 303(d) listed impairments?	0 (no)	3 (yes, indirectly)	5 (yes, directly)
Beneficial Uses	Does the project protect or designate beneficial uses?	0 (no)	3 (yes, indirectly)	5 (yes, directly)

The total scores were added up and then grouped into ranks 1 through 9 by increments of five points. The scores and rankings are represented by project in [Appendix C](#) of this Staff Report. The prioritization ranking is meant to serve as a guide to assigning resources. When resources become available, a higher-ranking new project may be considered before lower ranking projects. Likewise, when staff resources must be re-assigned, a lower ranking ongoing project would be more likely to be delayed than a higher-ranking ongoing project. Exceptions may be made to account for staff expertise, amount of staff time available, new projects not identified in the Triennial Review, and other emerging priorities.

## **APPENDICES**

## Appendix A: Response to Comments

Comment Deadline: May 27, 2020 at 12:00 pm

### Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment on the 2020 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin

Comment Letter #	Date	Commenter	Affiliation
Lahontan-01	4/24/2020	Eric Taxer	Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Water Board (Region 6)
Gertz-02	5/26/2020	Art Gertz	Public
Parker-03	5/26/2020	Chuck Parker	Public
Nunez-04	5/26/2020	Felicitas Nunez	Public
Silver-05	5/26/2020	Joy Silver	Public
Lakic-06	5/26/2020	Nicola Lakic	Graduate Eng. Architect, Geothermal Worldwide Inc.
Morongo-07	5/26/2020	Robert Martin	Chairman, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
St Louis-08	5/26/2020	Susan St Louis	Co-Chair, Climate Crisis Committee - Courageous Resistance of the Desert
Alianza-09	5/27/2020	Patricia Leal	Campaign Organizer, Alianza Coachella Valley
Campo-10	5/27/2020	Lisa Gover	Director, Campo Environmental Protection Agency
CRB-11	5/27/2020	Rich Juricich	Principal Engineer, Colorado River Board
ICFB-12	5/27/2020	Brea Mohamed	Executive Director, Imperial Valley Farm Bureau
IID-13	5/27/2020	Tina Shields	Manager, Water Department - Imperial Irrigation District
MSWD-14	5/27/2020	Arden Wallum	General Manager, Mission Springs Water District
CVWK-15	5/27/2020	Sarah Spinuzzi	Staff Attorney, Coachella Valley Water Keeper
St Louis-16	6/3/2020	Susan St Louis	Co-Chair, Climate Crisis Committee - Courageous Resistance of the Desert

Triennial Review projects proposed in response to comments submitted prior to July 14, 2020 are included in the draft Triennial Review list, contained in [Appendix B](#) of this Staff Report. Please note that the draft Triennial Review list of projects has been ranked based on the Regional Water Board's priorities and must be approved by the Board. Due to limited staff resources, only the highest ranking new proposed projects will be undertaken during the 2020 Triennial Review period of January 2021 through December 2023.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Lahontan-01.01	Chapter 4, Section II	Adopt a regionwide Prohibition with similar language to the Region 6 Basin Plan Chapter 4, Regionwide Prohibition #3, to prohibit unregulated discharges to waters of the state that pose a threat to water quality, also accounting for ephemeral and intermittent water bodies.	This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt a general prohibition of unregulated discharges that pose a threat to water quality.
Gertz-02.01	N/A	Evaluate the 25 mile, West Shores, shoreline/habitat redevelopment project as presented by Gary Jennings.	<p>This comment appears to be related to the Salton Sea Management Program, which is managed by the California Natural Resources Agency.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Gertz-02.02	N/A	“Instead of spending \$19M in North Shore, spend it in West Shores.”	<p>This comment appears to be related to the Salton Sea Management Program, which is managed by the California Natural Resources Agency.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Parker-03.01	Chapter 4, Section V; Chapter 3, Section 3.C	Expresses discontent that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has not developed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address water quality impairments at the Salton Sea.	<p>Because most of the water and pollution at the Salton Sea comes from streams that discharge to it, called tributaries, the Colorado River Basin Water Board has been focusing on addressing pollution in those water bodies first. The Alamo River, New River, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, and Imperial Valley Drains all discharge to the Salton Sea and contain pollution. In order to solve the pollution at the Salton Sea, we have to improve the water quality in these streams first, and the Colorado River Basin Water Board has developed 7 TMDLs to do so. Staff will include projects to develop TMDLs for Salton Sea's impairments in the draft 2020 Triennial Review list.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing Triennial Review projects to adopt TMDLs or water quality standards (WQS) amendments that address Salton Sea impairments, and TMDLs that address Salton Sea tributary impairments that are also present at the Salton Sea.</p>
Nunez-04.01	N/A	Use funding to build wastewater plant(s) as needed.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board's parent agency, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), provides grants for wastewater treatment plant development and upgrades. The Colorado River Basin Water Board regulates all municipal wastewater discharges to ensure that they are compliant with water quality laws and regulations.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Nunez-04.02	Chapter 4	Use funding to invest in cleaning water for household and other uses.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board's parent agency, the State Water Board, provides grants and loans for drinking water treatment. Drinking water is regulated by State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and not directly by the Colorado River Basin Water Board.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Nunez-04.03		Use funding for immediate implementation of a long-term solution for ocean water import.	<p>The California Natural Resources Agency, which manages the Salton Sea Management Program, <a href="#">solicited Salton Sea water import proposals</a> in 2018 and is now seeking qualified applicants to provide independent third-party evaluation services and a feasibility analysis of those projects. The Colorado River Basin Water Board will review and evaluate the feasibility study and any selected projects as appropriate.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Nunez-04.04	N/A	Use funding to perform epidemiological studies on humans living in Salton City and its public schools.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board does not perform epidemiological studies. One of the agencies that carries out this work is the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Nunez-04.05	Chapter 4, Section V; Chapter 3, Section 3.C	Restore healthy water to all local rivers, drains and the Salton Sea.	<p>It is the Colorado River Basin Water Board's mission to protect and restore water quality in surface waters and groundwaters throughout the region.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing Triennial Review projects to adopt TMDLs or water quality standards (WQS) amendments that address Salton Sea impairments; TMDLs that address Salton Sea tributary impairments that are also present at the Salton Sea; and other TMDLs that are scheduled for adoption by 2025.</p>
Silver 05.01	N/A	Salton Sea conditions create the perfect breeding ground for the COVID-19 virus.	<p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Silver 05.02	Chapter 4	Funding is needed for wastewater systems and to purify water for household use.	<p>Comment noted. The Colorado River Basin Water Board's parent agency, the State Water Board, provides grants and loans for drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment. Drinking water is regulated by State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and not directly by the Colorado River Basin Water Board.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Silver 05.03	Chapter 4, Section V; Chapter 3, Section 3.C	Funding is needed to restore clean water to local rivers, drains, and ultimately, to the Salton Sea itself.	<p>It is the Colorado River Basin Water Board's mission to protect and restore water quality in surface waters and groundwaters throughout the region.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing Triennial Review project to adopt TMDLs or water quality standards (WQS) amendments that address Salton Sea impairments, and TMDLs that address Salton Sea tributary impairments that are also present at the Salton Sea.</p>
Silver 05.04	N/A	Support for ocean water import to the Salton Sea.	Please see response to comment Nunez-04.03.
Silver 05.05	Chapter 4, Section V; Chapter 3, Section 3.C	Protect the residents' health.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board's role in protecting residents' health is by developing and implementing water quality standards.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing Triennial Review projects to adopt TMDLs or water quality standards (WQS) amendments that address Salton Sea impairments, and TMDLs that address Salton Sea tributary impairments that are also present at the Salton Sea.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Lakic 06.01	N/A	The commenter asks the Board to review their proposed project for the Salton Sea.	<p>The California Natural Resources Agency, which manages the Salton Sea Management Program, <a href="#">solicited Salton Sea water import proposals</a> in 2018 and is now seeking qualified applicants to provide independent third-party evaluation services and a feasibility analysis of those projects. Mr. Lakic appears to have submitted his water import proposal to the California Natural Resources Agency, and therefore his proposal should be reviewed by the independent review panel when one is formed. The Colorado River Basin Water Board will review and evaluate the feasibility study and any selected projects as appropriate.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Morongo-07.01	Chapter 2, Table 2-1	The Tribe supports the inclusion of Tribal Beneficial Uses into the Basin Plan. While the Tribe does not request designation of these uses for any specific waterbodies at this time, the uses should be included in the Basin Plan to allow for the option to designate specific waterbodies in the future.	<p>Tribal Beneficial Uses are beneficial uses developed by the State Water Board and available for adoption and designation by the Regional Water Boards into their basin plans. These uses are Tribal Traditional Culture (CUL) and Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB). Tribal Beneficial Uses can be designated for waters within a Regional Water Board's jurisdiction. The incorporation of the Tribal Beneficial Use definitions can be accomplished during an amendment to designate the uses to specific water bodies. However, if the Tribe would find it meaningful as an acknowledgement of the potential existence of such uses, the definitions can be incorporated into the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan) as part of another amendment that would be adopted prior to Tribal Beneficial Uses being designated.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to incorporate Tribal Beneficial Use definitions and designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for specific water bodies.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Morongo-07.02	Chapter 2, Tables 2-2 through 2-4	The Tribe requests that waters within the current boundary of the Morongo Reservation be excluded from the Basin Plan. Designating beneficial uses to Tribal waters and placing Tribal waters on the 303(d) list infringes on tribal sovereignty and wastes resources of the Water Board where no jurisdiction exists.	This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an amendment to remove water bodies or segments of water bodies on Morongo Reservation from the beneficial uses tables.
St Louis-08.01	N/A	The Region 7 Water Board could really help the residents of the Coachella Valley by supporting an epidemiological study of the Salton Sea Basin.	Please see response to comment Nunez-04.04.
St Louis-08.02	N/A	We need a full set of data to mount a unified response to environmental and health threats, not more neglect and obfuscation.	This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.
St Louis-08.03	Chapter 4, Section V; Chapter 3, Section 3.C	Federal and state laws require toxins in the Salton Sea, the Alamo and New Rivers, and the Imperial County Irrigation Drains to be tested every 2 years, and mitigation plans designed and implemented for a very long list of pollutants. In 27 years, not a single mitigation plan, or TMDL, has been done for the Salton Sea. We need the Region 7 Water Board to do its job and help to clean up the pollution in the Salton Sea and its surrounding rivers.	The commenter appears to be referring to Total Maximum Daily Loads, or pollution control plans. Please see response to comment Parker-03.01.
St Louis-08.04	Chapter 5	This problem will only grow more urgent in the coming years, as climate change exacerbates the problems of the Salton Sea.	This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment to identify climate change adaptation and resilience as a Board priority.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
St Louis-08.05	N/A	Ocean water import is expensive, but it is the only solution that will both restore the Sea AND protect the health and livelihoods of people from Los Angeles to Arizona, from Nevada to the Mexican border.	Please see response to comment Nunez-04.03.
St Louis-08.06	N/A	“Please, will you be an advocate for at least opening a discussion of ocean water import to the Sea?”	The Colorado River Basin Water Board will engage in a discussion with the California Natural Resource Agency regarding Salton Sea water import projects as appropriate once the independent review of those proposals is complete. The Colorado River Basin Water Board will support selected projects if they can be implemented in accordance with the Board’s mission, the Basin Plan, and state and federal regulations.
Alianza-09.01	N/A	Notify the public, local community-based organizations and other stakeholders of all meetings, special requests or notices by utilizing different communication strategies to ensure public comment and participation during the pandemic.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board currently notifies all general stakeholders via its Board Meeting email distribution list, as well as specific stakeholders for individual agenda items. Please sign up for the Board Meeting email distribution list, which is available on our website <a href="https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/">https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/</a> under the upper, right-hand link "Subscribe."</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review. However, it addresses the effectiveness of the public participation program; we wish to engage the public more effectively and we are interested in any further suggestions.</p>
Alianza-09.02	N/A	Meeting agendas, instructions on how to participate and comment in the meetings, and meeting documents should be available in both English and Spanish and as early in advance as possible no later than 72 hours before the meeting to give enough time to the public to review.	Comment noted. Meeting agendas and instructions on how to participate in in-person meetings are made available in English and Spanish 10 days in advance of each Board meeting. For online meetings, participation instructions are also made available 10 days in advance and will be available in Spanish. Meeting materials are released more than 30-45 days in advance, depending on the item, and can be summarized and explained in Spanish upon request. The Colorado River Basin Water Board does not have resources available to translate all meeting materials into Spanish.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Alianza-09.03	N/A	An interpreter should be available to provide remote services during scheduled meetings.	Comment noted. Interpreter services are available upon request for each Board Meeting, but requests to use the service must be made in advance of each meeting.
Alianza-09.04	N/A	Hold a 2020 Triennial Review informational workshop at the June Board meeting and share public participation timeline and strategies planned to engage the larger public in this process through remote public meetings.	<p>Staff will not have materials ready to present at the June meeting as we are processing comments made during the April-May comment period and preparing the 2020 Triennial Review package for the September-October comment period and December public hearing.</p> <p>To address this comment, staff will hold a public workshop in October after releasing the draft 2020 Triennial Review list and staff report for public comment. Staff will also post the Triennial Review schedule on the Basin Planning program page.</p>
Alianza-09.05	Chapter 6, Section II	Update water quality standards and make publicly available results pertaining to the contaminant monitoring activities in the Salton Sea and tributaries. Community members are concerned about chlorpyrifos, pyrethrins, pyrethroids, and glyphosate; legacy pesticides found in the sediment including organophosphates, DDT, Aldrin, and Dieldrin; organisms that produce Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs); E.coli, Enterococcus, and other indicator bacteria; and gypsum.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board monitors water quality at the Salton Sea and its watershed and publishes the results at: <a href="https://ceden.waterboards.ca.gov/">https://ceden.waterboards.ca.gov/</a></p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment updating the description of monitoring activities to include trend monitoring for the Salton Sea and its tributaries.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Alianza-09.06	N/A	Request a summary of available water quality data that the Colorado River Basin Water Board routinely collects through the various surface water quality monitoring programs.	<p>A summary is not currently available, but all available data can be queried and downloaded at: <a href="https://ceden.waterboards.ca.gov/">https://ceden.waterboards.ca.gov/</a></p> <p>Reports on the monitoring results are available at: <a href="https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/">https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/</a></p> <p>Additionally, data on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) can be found on State Water Board's California HABs Portal at: <a href="https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/">https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/</a></p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Alianza-09.07	N/A	Prioritize remote community engagement by providing needed information, documents, and interpretation services in English and Spanish.	Please see response to comment Alianza-09.02.
Alianza-09.08	Chapter 6, Section II	Develop a water monitoring and data collection plan for pesticides and nutrients of the Salton Sea with easy data access to the public. The public is interested in Salton Sea monitoring for parameters in the categories of pesticides/herbicides, microbial water quality indicators, algal organisms, gypsum, sulfides and nutrients.	Please see responses to comments Alianza-09.05 and Alianza-09.06.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Alianza-09.09	Chapter 4, Section V; Chapter 3, Section 3.C	Prioritize the Salton Sea TMDL list with enforceable permits to improve water quality. The list of TMDLs should be available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website for public access.	<p>The list of TMDLs under development and in implementation are published online for public access on our <a href="#">TMDL Program Page</a>. The region's wastewater discharge permits already incorporate enforceable limitations based on wasteload allocations or load allocations made in adopted TMDLs.</p> <p>To address this comment, staff will prioritize Triennial Review projects that would support improvement and implementation of Salton Sea Watershed water quality standards.</p> <p>This comment will also be addressed by proposing Triennial Review projects to adopt TMDLs or water quality standards (WQS) amendments that address Salton Sea impairments, and TMDLs that address Salton Sea tributary impairments that are also present at the Salton Sea.</p>
Alianza-09.10	N/A	Review agricultural waivers and monitoring requirements of waivers, and make this information easily available for the public to access with links to related parameters and TMDLs.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board is in the process of reviewing all Conditional Waivers for discharges from irrigated agricultural lands and replacing them with more rigorous Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). WDRs have been completed for Palo Verde and Bard Valleys; WDRs are under development for Coachella and Imperial valleys. This information is available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: <a href="https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/">https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/</a> under Programs - Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Alianza-09.11	N/A	Enforcement of requirements pertaining to discharges of waste by local agricultural facilities and Concentrated Animal Feeding operations (CAFOs).	<p>Enforcement of permits regulating irrigated agricultural lands and CAFOs is ongoing and carried out by the Irrigated Lands and CAFO programs of the Colorado River Basin Water Board.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Alianza-09.12	N/A	Collaborate with responsible local water agencies to monitor and protect drinking water sources.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board does and will continue to collaborate with water agencies to monitor and protect drinking water sources through all of its programs.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
Alianza-09.13	Chapter 5, Section III	Local groundwater and surface water sources should be prioritized for protection of the municipal and domestic water supply beneficial use by local disadvantaged communities that currently struggle with obtaining safe drinking water.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board implements the Human Right To Water (HRTW) policy set forth in State Water Board Resolution 2016-0010. Drinking water is protected by a variety of Colorado River Basin Water Board programs, including the Underground Storage Tank, Site Cleanup, Discharge to Land, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System programs. These programs are designed to regulate pollutants discharged or to cleanup pollutants in a manner that is protective of the municipal and domestic supply (MUN) beneficial use as prescribed in the Basin Plan.</p> <p>The Board has also been soliciting project ideas for Substitute Environmental Projects (SEPs) that would allow dischargers in enforcement proceedings to use fines for discrete projects that would benefit disadvantaged communities (DACs), which could include drinking water projects. More information on submittal of SEP proposals is available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Enforcement Program webpage:  <a href="https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/enforcement/">https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/enforcement/</a></p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment incorporating the HRTW Policy into the Policies chapter of the Basin Plan.</p>
Alianza-09.14	Chapter 5, Section III	In partnership with local nonprofits, the public, the Board and staff, develop and adopt an Environmental Justice policy to restore and protect waters in underserved areas.	This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt administrative amendment to prioritize environmental justice communities by encouraging the use of Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's environmental justice screening tool CalEnviroScreen to prioritize Board resources.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Alianza-09.15	Chapter 5, Section III	Region 7 Water Board should be linked with the state's Human Right to Water portal and have a localized response to the needs in the region according to the rules in this legislation and align with Resolution NO 2016-0010.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board reports its HRTW activities to the State Water Board on an annual basis, In accordance with the <a href="#">State Water Board Resolution 2016-0010</a>. Additionally, it is worth noting that the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water directly regulates drinking water, not the Regional Water Board.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment incorporating the HRTW Policy into the Policies chapter of the Basin Plan.</p>
Alianza-09.16	Chapter 5, Section III	Include the most updated resolution for drinking water quality, and adopt a regional policy into the Basin Plan to further address drinking water quality concerns in environmental justice communities.	Please see responses to comments Alianza-09.13, 09.14, and 09.15.
Alianza-09.17	Chapter 4, Section II.H.2	Work with local water agencies and local nonprofits to assess current sewer infrastructure needs in environmental justice communities and seek state funding to support infrastructure implementation costs. These new sewers will serve several disadvantaged communities throughout the East Coachella Valley to replace the failing Septic tank or Cesspool systems.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board's parent agency, State Water Board, provides grants and loans for drinking water treatment, including to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. The State Water Board participates in the Coachella Valley Disadvantaged Communities Infrastructure Task Force. Colorado River Basin Water Board staff also reviews the Task Force meeting minutes and agendas.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed in a Triennial Review project to adopt Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) prohibitions in areas where a high OWTS density or failure rate poses a threat to water quality.</p>
Alianza-09.18	N/A	In collaboration with the Board, staff and the public, develop a prioritization criteria that is equitable and prioritizes basin planning projects in environmental justice communities such as and not limited to communities located in the East Coachella Valley.	To address this comment, staff will include Environmental Justice in Triennial Review project prioritization ranking criteria.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
Alianza-09.19	Chapter 2, Table 2-3	To prioritize using the original name of the Whitewater River in all documents including the Basin Plan and discontinue labeling it as the “Coachella Stormwater Channel.”	<p>The water body is referred to as the Whitewater River in the upstream portion of the stream, and as the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) from Palm Springs to its outlet at the Salton Sea.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment. However, this comment has brought to our attention the fact that based on Basin Plan footnotes 17 and 23, there is a segment of the CVSC from Palm Springs to Indio that does not have beneficial uses listed. This issue will be addressed in a proposed Triennial Review project to designate beneficial uses for certain water bodies and segments of water bodies that are currently not specifically listed by name.</p>
Campo-10.01	Chapter 2, Table 2-1  Chapter 2, Tables 2-2 through 2-4	Introduce the new beneficial uses for the water bodies under the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Water Board, and adopt and implement appropriate mercury water quality objectives to support the Tribal Beneficial Use designations for each waterbody. All water bodies should be designated with Tribal Beneficial Uses and corresponding water quality objectives. Sources of cultural and tribal subsistence uses are documented in a myriad of studies, books, articles etc. and all too numerous to submit here.	<p>Staff has been advised by the Tribal Beneficial Uses working group that it is not possible to do a blanket designation of Tribal Beneficial Uses for all water bodies, because some evidence is needed for each water body demonstrating that the use is an existing or potential beneficial use. Therefore, the uses must be designated individually for each water body. To designate Tribal Beneficial Uses, designation requests for specific water bodies must be made with supporting data.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to incorporate Tribal Beneficial Use definitions and designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for specific water bodies.</p>
CRB-11.01	Chapter 3, Section III.A.1	The comment proposes changes to Chapter 3, Section III.A.1. The changes requested are to the information provided along with the Colorado River water quality objectives. No change to the objectives themselves is proposed.	The changes requested are editorial revisions to non-regulatory information concerning the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control, which would not substantively change the Basin Plan. This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment, which would make the proposed changes.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
ICFB-12.01	Chapter 2, Table 2-5	As proposed in the 2017 Triennial Review, review municipal beneficial use designation in ground water with high salinity, especially Imperial Valley, and revise beneficial use designations to correspond with individual ground water basins and aquifers. This needs to be done before the Colorado River Basin Water Board imposes requirements on the farming community that are not needed to protect groundwater quality in basins that are highly saline and have no Municipal use.	<p>The two applicable 2017 Triennial Review projects will be re-considered for 2020 Triennial Review, but will be combined into one project. Until this project is completed, staff must use professional judgment to apply beneficial uses as currently designated in accordance with the current Basin Plan.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an amendment to delineate groundwater beneficial uses by groundwater subbasin and/or aquifer, as opposed to by hydrologic unit. This will allow for greater precision in the designation of beneficial uses for groundwaters.</p>
ICFB-12.02	N/A	Imperial Valley drains are neither sources of drinking water nor tributaries to a source of drinking water	<p>Imperial Valley drains are not designated for municipal and domestic use (MUN) and neither are any of the water bodies that they discharge to.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>
ICFB-12.03	N/A	Many of the Imperial Valley drains are not perennial and, therefore, do not support their designated beneficial uses year-round, if ever. In fact, most of the Imperial Valley minor drains are ephemeral and essentially dependent on agricultural tailwater and tilewater	<p>The ephemeral nature of some of these water bodies and their wastewater-dominated composition do not necessarily prevent them from supporting the respective beneficial uses.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
ICFB-12.04	Chapter 2, Chapter 2-3  Chapter 2, Chapter 2-3	Sections of the New and Alamo Rivers and major drains are not suitable for swimming because they have drop structures that are a hazard to anyone who attempts to swim there, and the REC I use is not an authorized use for Imperial Valley drains. Based on this, ICFB respectfully requests that the Colorado River Basin Water Board include in the Triennial Review the identification and designation of subcategories of beneficial uses for these drains based on the fact that they do not support REC I and/or REC II uses. Additionally, the designation should be coupled with the establishment of less stringent criteria consistent with the sub-categorical uses.	Water Contact Recreation (REC-I) and Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-II) beneficial uses are impaired at the Imperial Valley Drains and the New and Alamo river; however, impairment on its own is not cause for de-designation of a beneficial use. Since these water bodies discharge to the Salton Sea, REC-I and REC-II are appropriately designated for these water bodies, especially the New and Alamo rivers.  Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.
ICFB-12.05	Chapter 2, Chapter 2-3	The beneficial uses of the Salton Sea should be readdressed.	This comment will be addressed in a Triennial Review project to adopt an amendment to revise Salton Sea beneficial uses.
IID-13.01	Chapter 2, Table 2-5	Review the blanket designation of groundwater in the Imperial hydrologic unit as suitable for Municipal and Industrial beneficial use and delineate appropriate beneficial uses for individual aquifers and sub-basins based on actual conditions.	This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an amendment to delineate groundwater beneficial uses by groundwater subbasin and/or aquifer, as opposed to by hydrologic unit. This will allow for greater precision in the designation of beneficial uses for groundwaters.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
IID-13.02	Chapter 2, Chapter 2-3  Chapter 2, Chapter 2-3	The application of beneficial use designations to desert washes and constructed waterways (New River, Alamo River, and Imperial Valley Drains) is inappropriate, as the designations fail to consider the source, type, and quality of water supporting year round flow, aquatic life, and wildlife. IID requests that the Colorado River Basin Water Board develop a more suitable and consistent list of beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and an implementation process that is appropriate for these systems and does not undermine the intended purpose of the drains.	<p>There are two concerns stated in the comment: the need to review beneficial use attainment, and the need for site-specific water quality objectives. Both must be completed in a way that supports the beneficial uses of the Salton Sea in order to ensure that its water quality standards are adequately protected.</p> <p>The ephemeral nature of some of these water bodies and their wastewater-dominated composition do not necessarily prevent them from supporting these uses. The justification and information provided by the commenter is not sufficient to justify de-designating beneficial uses for these water bodies.</p> <p>The commenter has not provided any information regarding which site-specific objectives should be developed for these water bodies.</p> <p>Staff is proposing a Triennial Review project which may partially address this comment, to develop site-specific water quality objectives for the Salton Sea Watershed for certain pollutants.</p>
IID-13.03	Chapter 3, Section IV.A	IID requests that the Colorado River Basin Water Board prioritize development of SSOs for manganese and turbidity appropriate for the Colorado River to prevent the initiation of an expensive Total Maximum Daily Load development and Basin Plan amendment process that are unlikely to result in attainment of currently applicable water quality objectives.	<p>The 303(d) listings for manganese and turbidity have not yet been approved by the State Water Board or USEPA. Until the listings are finalized, it is premature to prioritize actions concerning these pollutants. Additionally, further evaluation of the relevant data and information will be necessary before making a final determination on whether to pursue site-specific objectives or TMDLs for these pollutants.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
MSWD-14.01	N/A	Comments urge the Colorado River Basin Water Board not to incorporate all Title 22 Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) as water quality objectives for groundwater designated with the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use, particularly for salts and nutrients.	<p>The commenter has not provided evidence that adopting SMCLs as groundwater objectives would be harmful to water quality or would not achieve the objective of protecting the municipal and domestic supply (MUN) beneficial use. Further, SMCLs do not contain limits for nutrients; groundwater objectives for nutrients are already adopted into the Basin Plan as Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>
CVWK-15.01	Chapter 3, Section IV.A	Implement numeric water quality objectives for ground waters with a designated use for domestic or municipal supply (MUN).	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board has developed and is implementing water quality objectives for groundwaters. Some numeric water quality objectives for groundwater with municipal and domestic supply (MUN) use have been developed, including by incorporating the Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) contained in title 22 of California Code of Regulations, incorporated into the Basin Plan by reference, see Chapter 3, Section 4C. Additionally, staff currently interprets narrative water quality objectives for MUN waters using the Secondary MCLs from section 64449 of title 22 and will continue to do so. These objectives are implemented through various groundwater permitting programs. The Colorado River Basin Water Board is in the process of developing specific numeric objectives for Indio Subbasin of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an amendment to develop numeric water quality objectives for the Indio Subbasin, and to expressly incorporate the Secondary MCLs table in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64449 into the Chemical Constituents objective for surface waters and Chemical and Physical Quality Objective for groundwaters.</p>
CVWK-15.02	Chapter 3, Section IV	Strengthen groundwater narrative water quality objectives.	See response to comment CVWK-15.01.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
CVWK-15.03	Chapter 6, Section II	Develop a monitoring program specifically designed to effectuate the state’s Human Right to Water Policy and ensure compliance with water quality objectives. Such a monitoring plan should focus on disadvantaged communities served by private wells and/or small water agencies and coordinate with tribes to conduct monitoring. Prioritize aquifers identified, or already known, to contain contaminants that exceed safe drinking water standards with connections which are outside or not connected to a public water system or connected to a small water system.	<p>The efforts of the Colorado River Basin Water Board are designed to protect the MUN beneficial use in surface waters and groundwaters within the region. Currently, groundwater quality is monitored through the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program. Monitoring of drinking water wells is overseen by the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water in coordination with counties, and the monitoring results are submitted to GAMA, where they are reviewed by the Colorado River Basin Water Board for the development and implementation of water quality standards. The Colorado River Basin Water Board also requires groundwater monitoring through discharge permits to ensure that the discharge is not degrading groundwater quality.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment which would prioritize environmental justice communities by encouraging the use of Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment’s environmental justice screening tool CalEnviroScreen to prioritize Board resources. This comment will also be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment revising and re-structuring Chapter 6, Section II of the Basin Plan to separate out groundwater and surface water monitoring programs and to describe GAMA, local cooperative relationships, and data usage.</p>
CVWK-15.04	N/A	Promote consolidation and regional solutions for safe, sustainable and affordable drinking water consistent with the State Board’s Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (“SAFER”) policy adopted on May 5, 2020.	<p>The State Water Board administers the SAFER Drinking Water Program through its Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), and Office of Public Participation (OPP). Specific requests for the SAFER program should be directed to the State Water Board.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
CVWK-15.05	Chapter 3, Section IV.A	Amend groundwater narrative water quality objectives to include taste and odor problems caused by non-human activity for MUN designated water supplies as well as coloration or turbidity.	<p>The Basin Plan does contain groundwater narrative objectives for taste and odor, see Chapter 3, Section IV.A. The Basin Plan also includes a narrative objective for turbidity. Although staff currently interprets narrative water quality objectives for MUN waters using the Secondary MCLs from section 64449 of title 22 and will continue to do so, the Basin Plan could be clarified by expressly incorporating the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Limits as numeric groundwater objectives, which contain numeric limits for turbidity, color, odor, and for taste- and odor-producing substances.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to expressly incorporate the Secondary MCLs table in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64449 into the Chemical Constituents objective for surface waters and Chemical and Physical Quality Objective for groundwaters.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
CVWK-15.06	Chapter 4	Affirm Colorado River Basin Water Board's commitment to take an active role in permitting, regulating, and enforcing its authority over discharges of pollutants to ground water to meet water quality objectives, by acknowledging its authority to regulate discharges of pollutants to ground water supplies.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board does affirm its commitment to take an active role in permitting through every Waste Discharge Requirements order issued, which includes monitoring requirements and/or effluent limitations. This commitment is further reinforced by the enforcement actions initiated when dischargers fail to meet permit requirements. However, upon review of Basin Plan Chapter 4 "Implementation," it is evident that the organization and language in this chapter lack clarity regarding the Colorado River Basin Water Board's authority to regulate groundwater and other discharges; groundwater and surface water programs are presented in mixed order, and the introductory section of Point Source Controls addresses NPDES implementation at length, instead of providing general information applicable to all programs later discussed in subsections.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment re-structuring and revising Chapter 4 to separate out Surface Water and Groundwater Programs, and describe the Colorado River Basin Water Board's permitting, regulatory, and enforcement authority in the introductory paragraphs for each set of programs.</p>
CVWK-15.07	Chapter 3, Section III.C.1	According to the Basin Plan, the "primary purpose" of the Salton Sea is "to receive and store agricultural drainage, seepage, and storm waters." Rather than identify the "primary purpose" of the Salton Sea as a quasi-terminal for agricultural pollution, the Regional Board should instead expand the beneficial uses to reflect the significant biological, cultural, and recreational functions of the Sea.	<p>An iteration of this language was removed from Chapter 2 in 2017 administrative amendment. This language is inconsistent with the Clean Water Act and should be removed from the Basin Plan. The commenter does not propose any specific changes to the Salton Sea's beneficial uses.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment removing language describing the Salton Sea's primary purpose as conveyance of wastewater.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
CVWK-15.08	Chapter 3, Section III.C.1	References within the Basin Plan to the Salton Sea's significant and undeniable Total Dissolved Solids (Salinity) challenges should be updated to reflect current restoration plans and information.	<p>Salton Sea language was recently updated in a 2017 administrative amendment, but additional changes may be necessary to address this comment.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment revising Salton Sea language to reflect current restoration plans and other pertinent information.</p>
CVWK-15.09	Chapter 3, Section III.C.1	Language within the Basin Plan should reflect the urgency necessary to stabilize the situation instead of shifting the responsibility for the Salton Sea's water quality onto other agencies or responsible parties.	This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment revising language concerning responsibility for Salton Sea's water quality.
CVWK-15.10	Chapter 3, Section III.C.1	Eliminate all language suggesting that the Salton Sea's primary purpose is to accept agricultural return flows.	Please see response to comment CVWK-15.08.
CVWK-15.11	Chapter 4, Section V	Prioritize the development and implementation of TDMLs to address each impairment to the Sea.	<p>To address this comment, staff will use improvement and implementation of Salton Sea Watershed water quality standards as Triennial Review project prioritization ranking criteria, with the highest score assigned to projects addressing water quality directly in the Salton Sea itself.</p> <p>This comment will also be addressed by proposing Triennial Review projects to adopt TMDLs or water quality standards (WQS) amendments that address Salton Sea impairments, and TMDLs that address Salton Sea tributary impairments that are also present at the Salton Sea.</p>
CVWK-15.12	Chapter 4, Section V	The existing TMDLs for the tributaries to the Sea should be incorporated into all NPDES permits, waste discharge requirements, and agricultural waivers.	<p>The existing TMDLs for the tributaries to the Sea are already incorporated into NPDES permits, agricultural waivers, and waste discharge requirements.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
CVWK-15.13	Chapter 5, Section III	Prioritize identification of all unpermitted CAFOs and industrial dischargers within the region and prioritize enforcement of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.	<p>Identifying and bringing into compliance unpermitted dischargers is a Board priority. The referenced section of the Basin Plan is lists and references adopted Board policies and is not the appropriate location for identifying a single enforcement priority, nor does every single enforcement priority need to be enumerated in the Basin Plan. The enforcement role of the Colorado River Basin Water Board is emphasized in Chapter 4 Section II, particularly for point source discharges.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>
CVWK-15.14	Chapter 4, Section II.E	Acknowledge the existence of equestrian and other types Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) not currently recognized in the Basin Plan, and to acknowledge that CAFOs are point sources that are ineligible for WDRs.	<p>Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) are agricultural operations where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. AFOs that meet the regulatory definition of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) are regulated by the NPDES permitting program under General Order R7-2013-0800. The definitions of AFOs and CAFOs are set forth under NPDES regulations. AFOs that do not meet the definition of a CAFO pose a lower threat to water quality and are not currently regulated by the Colorado River Basin Water Board. Chapter 4, Section II.E referenced by the commenter does not currently reflect this information and needs to be amended to make the terminology and information consistent with NPDES regulations.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing a Triennial Review project to adopt an administrative amendment making the changes as described above.</p>
CVWK-15.15	Chapter 4, Section II	There are a variety of other unregulated industrial facilities that require NPDES permits. While it is important to maintain cooperation with dischargers, the Basin Plan should be updated to emphasize the enforcement role of the Regional Board and prioritize NPDES Permit compliance.	<p>NPDES compliance is a high priority for the Colorado River Basin Water Board. Our ability to identify unregulated discharges is limited by staff resources. We do perform enforcement activities for industrial facilities permitted under the State Water Board's Industrial General Permit 2014-0057-DWQ for the industrial stormwater program. The enforcement role of the Colorado River Basin Water Board is emphasized in Chapter 4 Section II, especially concerning NPDES permit compliance.</p> <p>Staff does not propose any action in response to this comment.</p>

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
CVWK-15.16	Chapter 5, Section III.A  Chapter 4, Section II.H.2	Prioritize the identification of septic systems (also known as OWTS) that discharge waste with the reasonable potential to cause a violation of water quality objectives, or to impair present or future beneficial uses of water, to cause pollution, nuisance, or contamination of waters of the state.	<p>Septic system elimination is prioritized in Chapter 5, Section III.A. The section currently focuses on investigations.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing Triennial Review projects to adopt an administrative amendment revising this section to identify next steps and provide more detail. The comment will also be addressed by a Triennial Review project to adopt OWTS prohibitions in areas where a high OWTS density poses a threat to water quality.</p>
CVWK-15.17	Chapter 4, Section II.H	Prioritize in the Basin Plan the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy) requirements for minimum monitoring and corrective action when OWTS fail to meet the requirements of the OWTS policy.	<p>Chapter 4, Section II.H.1 incorporates State Water Board's OWTS Policy in its entirety, including local agency responsibility and duties, monitoring and reporting requirements, and corrective actions. Writing out some of the key requirements of the OWTS Policy in this section of the Basin Plan may provide some additional clarity; however, revising this section in the Basin Plan would not be a high priority.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed by proposing Triennial Review projects to adopt an administrative amendment revising this section to specify the responsible parties under OWTS Policy and highlight local agency monitoring and reporting requirements. The comment will also be addressed by a Triennial Review project to adopt OWTS prohibitions in areas where a high OWTS density poses a threat to water quality.</p>
CVWK-15.18	Chapter 4, Section II.H.2.iii	Update the Basin Plan OWTS prohibition section to reflect the current state of the prohibitions and anticipated projects.	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board is in process of updating the Basin Plan OWTS prohibition section, specifically by revising the Yucca Valley prohibition to reflect current conditions and anticipated projects. Other OWTS prohibitions will be updated as needed. The commenter has not identified any specific changes that should be reflected.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed in a Triennial Review project to adopt an amendment to revise the Yucca Valley OWTS Prohibition.</p>
CVWK-15.19	Chapter 4, Section II.H	Submit a Water Code Section 13267 Order to septic system operators believed to be in violation of the OWTS policy so that it can obtain information necessary to protect water quality.	Please see response to comment CVWK-15.17.

Comment Number	Location in the Basin Plan	Comment Summary	Response
CVWK-15.20	N/A	Consider how the California Water Code's "waste or unreasonable use" doctrine would or could apply to the use of scarce drinking water for more and more surf parks in the Coachella Valley and whether a surf lagoon policy is necessary	<p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board does not have jurisdiction over water use. Concerns regarding construction of surf parks should be addressed to your local planning office. Water used in these facilities would likely be secured from the local water purveyor.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
St Louis-16.01	N/A	"I have been told that the Water Board is only planning to do an assessment of the Salton Sea in 2030."	<p>The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board staff administers a water quality monitoring program of key water bodies including the Salton Sea, solicits any additional available water quality data, and every 2 to 6 years performs assessments of water quality using data gathered through the Integrated Report process. Staff has asked the commenter for a clarification on this statement to address any misinformation or misunderstanding but did not receive a response.</p> <p>This comment is not related to water quality standards and cannot be addressed in the Triennial Review.</p>
St Louis-16.02	N/A	"As concerned citizens, we want the Board to undertake an epidemiological study of the Salton Sea ASAP. We need to know how severely we will be impacted by the pollutants in the Salton Sea as it begins to dry up."	Please see response to comment Nunez-04.04.

## Appendix B: 2020 Triennial Review List

1

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed, Imperial Valley Organochlorine Compounds and Organophosphate Pesticides TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	Imperial Valley water bodies Alamo River, New River, and Imperial Valley Drains are 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including organochlorine compounds chlordane, chlorpyrifos, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), diazinon, dieldrin, malathion, toxaphene, and PCB, and organophosphate pesticides chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion; they are also proposed to be listed for dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) under the 2018 Integrated Report. Staff is developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address these impairments. The Salton Sea is also impaired for DDT and chlorpyrifos and proposed to be listed for DDE under the 2018 Integrated Report; developing these TMDLs at the Salton Sea's Imperial Valley tributaries will work toward addressing these impairments at the Salton Sea.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	1
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

2

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Organochlorine Compounds TMDL Alternatives
<b>Project Description</b>	The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including organochlorine compounds DDT, dieldrin, toxaphene and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Staff is developing TMDLs to address these impairments. The Salton Sea is also impaired for DDT and developing these TMDLs at the CVSC, which discharges to the Salton Sea, will work toward addressing this impairment at the Salton Sea.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	1
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Alt
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

3

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride, Indicator Bacteria, and Toxicity TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	The Alamo River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including chloride, indicator bacteria ( <i>Enterococcus</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> ), and toxicity. Staff is developing TMDLs to address these impairments. The Salton Sea is also impaired for chloride and indicator bacteria and developing these TMDLs at the Alamo River, which discharges to the Salton Sea, will work toward addressing these impairments at the Salton Sea. The Alamo River toxicity TMDL may -also contribute to addressing the Salton Sea toxicity impairment if the two impairments are caused by the same pollutants.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	2
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

4

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia, Nutrients, and Toxicity TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	The New River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including ammonia, nutrients, and toxicity. Staff is developing TMDLs to address these impairments. The Salton Sea is also impaired for ammonia and nutrients and developing these TMDLs at the New River, which discharges to the Salton Sea, will work toward addressing these impairments at the Salton Sea. The New River toxicity TMDL will also contribute to addressing the Salton Sea toxicity impairment if the two impairments are caused by the same pollutants.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	2
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

5

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	The Salton Sea is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including dissolved oxygen and nutrients. Projects are already underway to develop TMDLs for nutrients at the New River and for dissolved oxygen at the CVSC. Under this project, staff is developing TMDLs for nutrients and dissolved oxygen for the entire Salton Sea Watershed. This project will incorporate the New River and CVSC proposed TMDLs after they are approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	2
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

6

<b>Project Title</b>	Yucca Valley Septic System Prohibition Revision
<b>Project Description</b>	Staff is developing an amendment to revise the Yucca Valley Septic System Prohibition, which first went into effect in 2012 and was revised effective in 2017. This revision was requested by the Hi-Desert Water District to extend certain deadlines. The amendment will also clarify applicability of the <i>Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems</i> (OWTS Policy) and simplify and clarify various requirements.
<b>Public Comments</b>	CVWK-15.18
<b>Rank</b>	2
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section II.H.2.iii
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

7

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen, and Toxicity TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	The CVSC is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including ammonia and toxicity, and it is proposed to be listed for dissolved oxygen under the 2018 Integrated Report. Staff is developing TMDLs to address these impairments. The Salton Sea is also impaired for ammonia and dissolved oxygen and developing these TMDLs at the CVSC, which discharges to the Salton Sea, will work toward addressing these impairments at the Salton Sea. The CVSC toxicity TMDLs will also contribute to addressing the Salton Sea toxicity impairment if the two impairments are caused by the same pollutants.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	3
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

8

<b>Project Title</b>	Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	The New River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including pyrethroids bifenthrin, cypermethrin, and lambda cyhalothrin. The Alamo River is also 303(d) listed for cypermethrin and lambda cyhalothrin. Staff is developing TMDLs to address these impairments. Addressing these impairments at the tributaries may contribute to improving water quality at the Salton Sea.
<b>Public Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Rank</b>	3
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

<b>Project Title</b>	OWTS Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality
<b>Project Description</b>	This project was included in the 2017 Triennial Review as Item 1, "Evaluate Potential Sources of Nitrates in Prioritized Basins." Staff has been collecting data and information to identify areas where nitrate pollution from Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), also referred to as septic systems, may be posing a threat to groundwater quality. In areas where the density of existing OWTS may be contributing to nitrate and other pollution, and the OWTS density cannot be mitigated by existing regulations, staff plans to propose a prohibition of discharge from OWTS.
<b>Public Comments</b>	CVWK-15.16, CVWK-15.17, CVWK-15.19, Alianza-09.17
<b>Rank</b>	3
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section II.H.2
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review
<b>Project Description</b>	The Salton Sea is an endorheic (terminal) lake without an outlet, which means that certain pollutants have been concentrating in it since 1905 when it was first formed. Such pollutants include salinity and one of its components, chloride, which are both 303(d) listed impairments that are impairing the Salton Sea's Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM) beneficial use. The Salton Sea is not a freshwater and because of its endorheic nature may never meet the current water quality objectives for these pollutants associated with the WARM beneficial use. Under this amendment, staff will determine whether WARM is attainable for these pollutants and establish whether the Salton Sea should be considered to be a saltwater body for the purposes of applicable water quality objectives. Other pollutants and/or beneficial uses may be included as data is gathered and analyzed. Based on the results of this analysis, changes to the Salton Sea's beneficial uses may be proposed.
<b>Public Comments</b>	ICFB-12.05, IID-13.02
<b>Rank</b>	4
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 2, Table 2-3
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

11

<b>Project Title</b>	Regionwide Indicator Bacteria Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Project Description</b>	This project was included in the 2017 Triennial Review as Item 7, "Adoption of 2012 USEPA Recreational Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria Revision." On August 7, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted new statewide bacteria water quality objectives and implementation options to protect recreational users from the effects of pathogens in California water bodies. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is updating its Basin Plan to reflect these new objectives. This amendment has been approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board and will be up for State Water Board adoption and USEPA and OAL approval during the 2020 Triennial Review period.
<b>Public Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Rank</b>	4
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 3, Section II.I
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

12

<b>Project Title</b>	Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in Indio Subbasin
<b>Project Description</b>	This project was included in the 2017 Triennial Review as Item 2, "Establish Water Quality Objectives for Ground Water Throughout the Coachella Valley." Staff is developing site-specific numeric water quality objectives for TDS and other constituents in the Indio Subbasin, located in Coachella Valley . To help establish appropriate water quality objectives, a 3-year contract with USGS to determine existing water quality is scheduled to begin in 2020.
<b>Public Comments</b>	CVWK-15.01
<b>Rank</b>	4
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 3, Section IV.A
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

13

<b>Project Title</b>	Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	The Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon are 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including chloride and indicator bacteria. Staff is developing TMDLs to address these impairments.
<b>Public Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Rank</b>	4
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	Yes

14

<b>Project Title</b>	Colorado River Toxicity TMDL
<b>Project Description</b>	The Colorado River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including toxicity. Staff is developing a TMDL to address the toxicity impairment.
<b>Public Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Rank</b>	5
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>The Basin Plan lists site-specific selenium water quality objectives for the Salton Sea and its tributaries as .005 mg/L four-day average and .02 mg/L one-hour average, stating that these criteria are based on USEPA's National Ambient Water Quality Criteria, also known as the 304(a) criteria. These objectives may have been based on the 1987 USEPA selenium water column criteria. Since 1987, USEPA selenium criteria have been updated repeatedly, including in 1999 for saltwater and 2016 for freshwater. Because of these updates, the Salton Sea watershed selenium objectives should also be updated, either by removing the site-specific objectives to ensure that USEPA criteria apply, or by developing new site-specific objectives. It should also be determined whether freshwater or saltwater objectives apply.</p> <p>The Basin Plan also lists a site-specific water quality objective for salinity at 35,000 mg/L; however, it is stated in the same paragraph that this objective "may not be realistically achievable." Due to the Salton Sea's endorheic nature, its salinity has reached almost double that value and will continue to rise. Staff recommends re-evaluating this objective.</p> <p>Chloride, a component of salinity, also concentrates at the Salton Sea. Because numeric water quality objectives for chloride are not listed in the Basin Plan, 304(a) aquatic life criteria are used to interpret narrative water quality objectives, which are 860 mg/L for the acute criterion and 230 mg/L for the chronic criterion, both for freshwater. Chloride criteria for saltwater have not been established.</p> <p>Staff recommends developing site-specific water quality objectives for the Salton Sea and/or its tributaries for selenium, salinity, chloride, and/or other pollutants as necessary.</p>
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	6
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 3, Section 3.C
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

16

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed Ammonia TMDL
<b>Project Description</b>	The Salton Sea, CVSC, New River, Alamo River, and Imperial Valley Drains are 303(d) listed for ammonia. Projects are already underway to develop TMDLs for ammonia at CVSC and at the New River. Staff proposes to develop a TMDL for ammonia for the entire Salton Sea Watershed. This project will incorporate the CVSC and New River proposed TMDLs after they are approved by USEPA.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	6
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

17

<b>Project Title</b>	Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats
<b>Project Description</b>	The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in coordination with other Salton Sea stakeholders, is developing plans for and building a series of constructed aquatic habitats as part of the Salton Sea Management Program. The aquatic habitats will be filled with mixed water from the existing tributaries and the Salton Sea and used to provide wildlife habitat while suppressing dust from the exposed playa, as the Sea recedes. Because the habitats will be using mixed water and will be different in type from both the Salton Sea and the tributaries, they may have different beneficial uses from those parent water bodies, and possibly from each other. As the CNRA develops plans for these habitats, the Colorado River Basin Water Board should coordinate with CNRA to identify and designate beneficial uses for these aquatic habitats.
<b>Public Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Watershed Bacteria TMDL
<b>Project Description</b>	The Salton Sea is 303(d) listed for the multiple impairments, including indicator bacteria (enterococcus). The CVSC and New River are also impaired for indicator bacteria and currently have associated TMDLs that are being implemented, which may need to be revised to make consistent with the new statewide bacteria objectives. A TMDL for Alamo River indicator bacteria is also under development and can be incorporated once it is approved by USEPA. Staff proposes to develop a new TMDL for indicator bacteria for the Salton Sea Watershed, including revised TMDLs for CVSC and the New River.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Adopt Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels as Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Objectives for the Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>Numeric water quality objectives for groundwater and surface water with municipal and domestic supply use (MUN) have been developed as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) contained in title 22 of California Code of Regulations, incorporated into the basin plan by reference in the Chemical Constituents objective for surface waters (Chapter 3, Section II.N) and the Chemical and Physical Quality objective for groundwaters (Chapter 3, Section IV.C). The MCL values expressly incorporated by reference are those in California Code of Regulations, title 22, sections 64431, 64444, and 64678. In equivalent objectives, other Regional Water Boards have also expressly incorporated Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) contained in California Code of Regulations section 64449. SMCLs contain numeric limits for turbidity, color, metals, and other pollutants. While narrative taste, odor, and turbidity water quality objectives for MUN waters in the Basin Plan are currently interpreted and implemented in permits using the SMCLs from section 64449 of title 22, adding an explicit reference in the Basin Plan to the SMCLs would be beneficial.</p> <p>Staff proposes to expressly incorporate the SMCLs table in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64449 to protect the MUN beneficial use in both surface waters and groundwaters where site-specific objectives for the same pollutants have not been established. Exclusions or site-specific water quality objectives may be considered for certain water bodies where appropriate.</p>
<b>Public Comments</b>	CVWK-15.01, CVWK-15.02, CVWK-15.05
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 3, Section IV.C; Chapter 3, Section II.N
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Adopt Regionwide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria
<b>Project Description</b>	Staff recommends considering adopting surface water quality objectives (WQOs) based on USEPA 304(a) criteria for pollutants that do not have a California Toxics Rule criterion or an existing Basin Plan WQO. Staff recommends consideration of adoption of aquatic life criteria for ammonia, arsenic, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, iron, and malathion. Adoption of these objectives may help address existing impairments as it would trigger the development of water quality-based effluent limitations for discharges to surface waters. These pollutants are associated with a total of 17 impairments, with 14 of those being located in the Salton Sea Watershed. Among them, ammonia and chlorpyrifos are associated with the greatest number of impairments, with five and four impairments, respectively, all located in the Salton Sea Watershed.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 3, Section 3.C
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Arsenic TMDL
<b>Project Description</b>	The Salton Sea is 303(d) listed for the multiple impairments, including arsenic. None of the tributaries are currently listed as impaired for arsenic. Staff proposes to develop a TMDL to address the arsenic impairment at the Salton Sea.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

22

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea Toxicity TMDL
<b>Project Description</b>	The Salton Sea is 303(d) listed for the multiple impairments, including toxicity. Salton Sea tributaries are also impaired for toxicity; however, these impairments may need to be addressed separately if they are caused by different pollutants. Staff proposes to develop a TMDL to address the toxicity impairment at the Salton Sea.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

23

<b>Project Title</b>	Salton Sea DDT and DDE TMDLs
<b>Project Description</b>	The Salton Sea is 303(d) listed for the multiple impairments, including DDT; it is also proposed to be listed for DDE under the 2018 Integrated Report. TMDLs for DDT and DDE are under development for its tributaries and can be incorporated once they are approved by USEPA. Staff proposes to develop TMDLs for DDT and DDE for the Salton Sea.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Parker-03.01, Silver 05.03, Silver 05.05, St Louis-08.03, Alianza-09.09, CVWK-15.11, Nunez-04.05
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer
<b>Project Description</b>	This project was included in the 2017 Triennial Review under two projects: item 3, "Review of Municipal Beneficial Use Designation in Ground Water With High Salinity," and item 4, "Revise Beneficial Use Designations to Correspond with Individual Ground Water Basins and Aquifers." The groundwater beneficial uses are currently designated based on hydrologic units, or watersheds. Staff proposes to review the appropriate groundwater data and revise groundwater beneficial uses designations so that they will correspond to individual groundwater subbasins within the various hydrologic units, and to aquifers in areas where additional precision is necessary. The proposed changes in designations would also be consistent with the State Water Board's <i>Sources of Drinking Water Policy</i> , Resolution 88-63. These changes would result in an updated version of Table 2-5 (Chapter 2) and a more detailed map of the regional groundwater aquifers in Basin Plan Appendix B. This project is consistent with Chapter 5, Section III.B of the Basin Plan, where the need for these changes is identified as a key Regional Water Board issue.
<b>Public Comments</b>	ICFB-12.01, IID-13.01
<b>Rank</b>	7
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 2, Table 2-5
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Incorporate Tribal Beneficial Use Definitions and Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>Tribal Beneficial Uses are beneficial uses developed by the State Water Board and available for adoption and designation by the Regional Water Boards into their Basin Plans. These uses are Tribal Traditional Culture (CUL) and Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB). Tribal Beneficial Uses can be designated for waters within a Regional Water Board's jurisdiction.</p> <p>The Colorado River Basin Water Board received comment letters from Campo Environmental Protection Agency and from Morongo Band of Mission Indians stating that it would be appropriate to designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for water bodies within the Colorado River Basin regions. However, the commenters did not name specific water bodies that should be designated with which of the two beneficial uses. To designate Tribal Beneficial Uses, designation requests for specific water bodies must be made with supporting data. Morongo Band of Mission Indians also requested to remove Tribal water bodies or segments of water bodies from the Basin Plan beneficial uses tables.</p> <p>Staff proposes to adopt an amendment incorporating Tribal Beneficial Use definitions into the Basin Plan, to work with the Tribes in the region to identify specific water bodies that should be designated with Tribal Beneficial Uses, and to identify water bodies or segments of water bodies that are on Morongo Reservation that the Tribe would wish to be removed from the Basin Plan beneficial uses tables. For expediency, the incorporation of definitions and/or the removal of Tribal water bodies could be accomplished separately from Tribal Beneficial Use designation, by incorporation into amendments that would be adopted sooner.</p>
<b>Public Comments</b>	Campo-10.01, Morongo-07.01, Morongo-07.02
<b>Rank</b>	8
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 2, Tables 2-1 through 2-4
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	Administrative Update to the Basin Plan
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>This amendment would make various non-regulatory updates and revisions to the Basin Plan which can be accomplished administratively, without California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation or peer review. This amendment would incorporate changes proposed by staff and in public comments. All changes proposed below are tentative and subject to change upon further research. These changes may be adopted under a single amendment, multiple amendments, or some changes may be incorporated into other amendments.</p> <p>The following changes were proposed by staff: Incorporate statewide mercury objectives; update New River description language; in beneficial uses tables, correct water body spelling, remove any non-Region 7 water bodies, and map out the springs consistently with the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD); update Appendix A and B maps.</p> <p>The following changes are proposed in response to public comments: revise Salton Sea language to reflect current restoration plans and other pertinent information; remove language describing the Salton Sea's primary purpose as conveyance of wastewater; revise language concerning responsibility for Salton Sea's water quality; prioritize environmental justice communities by encouraging the use of Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's environmental justice screening tool CalEnviroScreen to prioritize Board resources; incorporate the Human Right to Water (HRTW) Policy into the Policies chapter; revise Chapter 5, Section III.A "Septic System Impacts to Ground Water Basins" to identify next steps and provide more detail; revise Chapter 4, Section II.H.1 "Statewide Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Requirements" to specify the responsible parties under OWTS Policy and highlight local agency monitoring and reporting requirements; re-structure and revise Chapter 4 to separate out Surface Water and Groundwater Programs, and describe the Colorado River Basin Water Board's permitting, regulatory, and enforcement authority in the introductory paragraphs for each set of programs; make changes to Chapter 4, Section II.E "Confined Animal Facilities" to make the terminology consistent with NPDES definitions, to distinguish CAFO's from smaller AFO's, and expand the list of possible types of AFO's; revise Table 2-3 footnotes 17 and 23 to clarify where Whitewater River ends and Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel begins; revise and re-structure Chapter 6 Section II "Regional Water Board Monitoring" to separate out groundwater and surface water monitoring programs, and under groundwater monitoring programs describe GAMA and local cooperative relationships and how that data is used; update monitoring activities to be reflective of current needs for water quality data; make changes to language in Chapter 3, Section III "Specific Water Quality Objectives" as proposed by Colorado River Board; and identify climate change adaptation and resilience as a Board priority.</p>
<b>Public Comments</b>	CVWK-15.03, CVWK-15.06, CVWK-15.07, CVWK-15.08, CVWK-15.09, CVWK-15.10, CVWK-15.14, CVWK-15.16, CVWK-15.17, CVWK-15.19, Alianza-09.05, Alianza-09.08, Alianza-09.13, Alianza-09.14, Alianza-09.15, Alianza-09.16, Alianza-09.19, CRB-11.01, Campo-10.01, St Louis-08.04
<b>Rank</b>	8
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment

<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapters 2-6
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

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<b>Project Title</b>	Imperial Valley Drains Toxicity TMDL
<b>Project Description</b>	Imperial Valley Drains are 303(d) listed for the multiple impairments; they are also to be listed for toxicity under the 2018 Integrated Report. Salton Sea and its other tributaries are also impaired for toxicity; however, these impairments may need to be addressed separately if they are caused by different pollutants. Staff proposes to develop a TMDL to address the toxicity impairment at the Imperial Valley Drains.
<b>Public Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Rank</b>	8
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	TMDL Plan
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section V
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	List Certain Unlisted Waterbodies And Applicable Beneficial Uses, And Designate Miscellaneous Beneficial Uses to Listed Waterbodies
<b>Project Description</b>	The Basin Plan lists beneficial use definitions in table 2-1 and designates beneficial uses for water bodies in tables 2-2 though 2-5. These tables do not include all water bodies within the region, and certain existing beneficial uses may not be identified for certain water bodies that are listed. Water bodies and beneficial uses should be added to these tables as information becomes available. Staff proposes to make changes to the beneficial uses tables, including, but not limited to, the following: add Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM) beneficial use definition to table 2-1 and designate it to all REC II waters; add Freshwater Replenishment (FRSH) beneficial use to Cadiz Hydrologic Unit; list beneficial uses for Gieselmann lake and Imperial Valley Canals, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel from Palm Springs to Indio; identify general beneficial uses for unnamed lakes; list beneficial uses for 303(d)-listed water bodies not currently in beneficial use tables; list beneficial uses for water bodies monitored by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) not currently in beneficial use tables; list beneficial uses for Old Woman Springs Creek and Long Canyon Channel. Additionally, to protect beneficial uses of any unlisted tributaries to listed water bodies, staff proposes to incorporate a tributary clause, which would specify that beneficial uses of a listed water body apply to any of its tributaries that are not listed in the Basin Plan.
<b>Public Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Rank</b>	8
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 2, Table 2-3
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

<b>Project Title</b>	General Prohibition of Unpermitted Waste Discharges that Pose a Threat to Water Quality
<b>Project Description</b>	Currently, the Basin Plan does not include a general prohibition against waste discharges and threatened waste discharges to waters of the state. To address this, staff proposes to adopt a general prohibition of unpermitted waste discharges and threatened waste discharges that pose a threat to water quality. This will aid in future enforcement actions against unpermitted discharges.
<b>Public Comments</b>	Region 6-01.01
<b>Rank</b>	9
<b>Project Status</b>	New
<b>Project Type</b>	Basin Plan Amendment
<b>Location in the Basin Plan</b>	Chapter 4, Section II
<b>Expected Completion by December 2023?</b>	No

## Appendix C: 2020 Triennial Review List Prioritization Ranking

No.	Project Title	Ongoing project (30)	Salton Sea (10)	EU or Tribal (10)	Completion (10)	Groundwater (10)	Public interest (10)	Time sensitivity (10)	Impairments (5)	Beneficial Uses (5)	Total Score	Rank
1	Salton Sea Watershed, Imperial Valley Organochlorine Compounds and Organophosphate Pesticides TMDLs	30	9	8	5	0	9	8	5	3	77	1
2	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Organochlorine Compounds TMDL Alternatives	30	8	7	6	0	9	8	5	3	76	1
3	Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride, Indicator Bacteria, and Toxicity TMDLs	30	8	8	2	0	9	8	5	3	73	2
4	Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia, Nutrients, and Toxicity TMDLs	30	8	8	3	0	9	5	5	3	71	2
5	Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs	30	10	10	0	0	10	2	5	3	70	2
6	Yucca Valley Septic System Prohibition Revision	30	0	6	9	10	4	8	0	3	70	2
7	Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen, and Toxicity TMDLs	30	8	7	0	0	9	5	5	3	67	3
8	Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs	30	7	8	3	0	5	5	5	3	66	3
9	OWTS Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality	30	2	6	0	10	7	6	0	3	64	3
10	Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review	30	10	6	0	0	6	3	2	5	62	4
11	Regionwide Indicator Bacteria Basin Plan Amendment	30	5	4	10	0	0	8	2	2	61	4
12	Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in Indio Subbasin	30	3	5	0	10	4	5	0	4	61	4
13	Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs	30	0	7	4	0	2	10	5	3	61	4
14	Colorado River Toxicity TMDL	30	2	7	0	0	2	5	4	3	53	5
15	Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives	0	10	10	9	0	10	6	4	3	52	6
16	Salton Sea Watershed Ammonia TMDL	0	10	10	9	0	10	2	5	3	49	6
17	Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats	0	8	10	9	0	2	10	3	5	47	7
18	Salton Sea Watershed Bacteria TMDL	0	10	10	7	0	10	2	4	3	46	7
19	Adopt Secondary MCLs as Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Objectives for the Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use	0	6	7	6	10	5	5	3	4	46	7

No.	Project Title	Ongoing project (30)	Salton Sea (10)	EJ or Tribal (10)	Completion (10)	Groundwater (10)	Public interest (10)	Time sensitivity (10)	Impairments (5)	Beneficial Uses (5)	Total Score	Rank
20	Adopt Region-Wide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria	0	7	5	8	0	8	10	4	4	46	7
21	Salton Sea Arsenic TMDL	0	10	10	6	0	10	2	4	3	45	7
22	Salton Sea Toxicity TMDL	0	10	10	6	0	10	2	4	3	45	7
23	Salton Sea DDT and DDE TMDLs	0	10	10	5	0	10	2	4	3	44	7
24	Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer	0	2	4	8	10	6	8	0	5	43	7
25	Incorporate Tribal Beneficial Use Definitions and Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies	0	4	10	9	1	6	5	2	5	42	8
26	Administrative Update to the Basin Plan	0	5	9	4	3	10	6	0	2	39	8
27	Imperial Valley Drains Toxicity TMDL	0	6	10	6	0	5	2	4	3	36	8
28	List Certain Unlisted Waterbodies and Applicable Beneficial Uses, And Designate Miscellaneous Beneficial Uses to Listed	0	3	4	7	5	2	5	2	5	33	8
29	General Prohibition of Unpermitted Waste Discharges that Pose a Threat to Water Quality	0	4	5	5	5	4	6	0	3	32	9