

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-08-06
March 10, 2008

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) will hold a Public Workshop on April 23, 2008, to discuss the requirements of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Bacterial Indicators Total Maximum Daily Load (hereafter referred to as "CVSC TMDL"). The Regional Water Board adopted the CVSC TMDL as an amendment to its Basin Plan at a public hearing held on May 16, 2007. The Regional Water Board also directed staff to conduct three Public Workshops with affected stakeholders and other interested persons.

The first of the three Public Workshops was held on July 25, 2007, in accordance with Public Notice No. 7-07-42, dated June 27, 2007. The second workshop was held on November 19, 2007, in accordance with Public Notice No. 7-07-50, dated October 19, 2007. This is the Public Notice for the third and final workshop. Affected stakeholders and other interested persons are encouraged to participate in this workshop. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and avoid repetitive comments.

The workshops serve several purposes. First, the workshops enable Regional Water Board staff to discuss at greater depth the objectives, requirements, and other relevant aspects (such as monitoring requirements) of the CVSC TMDL. Second, the workshops give Regional Water Board staff an opportunity to update affected stakeholders and other interested persons on the status of the CVSC TMDL. Finally and foremost, the workshops provide a forum for affected stakeholders to discuss TMDL implementation concerns and to discuss how TMDL implementation can move forward in a timely manner.

Currently, the CVSC TMDL has been withdrawn from the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) consideration of adoption. The CVSC TMDL was originally scheduled to be considered by the State Water Board at its March 18, 2008 public meeting. Pursuant to oral and written comments made in connection with the first two workshops, however, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer determined that it would be appropriate to request the State Water Board withdraw the CVSC TMDL from its agenda for a period of 18 months. The withdrawal request letter, dated January 18, 2008, and addressed to the State Water Board Executive Director, explained that the withdrawal was needed to address comments and concerns raised by the Coachella Valley agricultural community regarding the appropriateness of being named as a Responsible Party in the TMDL Implementation Plan without sufficient data. To address this data gap, agricultural dischargers and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) proposed conducting the following tasks during the 18-month withdrawal period requested: (1) in the first three months following State Water Board approval of the withdrawal request, form a Task Force to develop a monitoring plan subject to Regional Water Board Executive Officer approval; (2) conduct monitoring for approximately one year,

and (3) prepare a report of the sampling results within three months following monitoring and submit it to the Regional Water Board for its consideration of approval. In a public notice, dated February 22, 2008, the State Water Board announced that the CVSC TMDL Basin Plan amendment was being returned to the Regional Water Board pursuant to its request.

As directed by the Regional Water Board, the third and final Public Workshop will be scheduled as follows:

Date: April 23, 2008
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Coachella Valley Water District
Palm Desert Office
75-525 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, California

As part of this Public Workshop, CVWD will be providing a bus tour of CVWD facilities and other facilities associated with the CVSC TMDL. CVWD is hosting the bus tour at no charge to the public. The bus tour will be leaving the CVWD Palm Desert Office at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of April 23, 2008, and returning to the same location at approximately 1:00 p.m. A complimentary lunch will be provided following the bus tour to those members of the public who attended the bus tour. Please arrive at the Palm Desert Office before 7:45 a.m. on April 23 and contact Lorraine Acosta at (760) 398-2651 by April 11 if you plan to attend the bus tour.

A meeting of the Regional Water Board is expected to occur for both the bus tour and the afternoon workshop since at least a quorum of the Regional Water Board members is planning on attending these two events.

The CVSC TMDL documents to be discussed at the workshop are available by contacting Mr. Nadim Zeywar at (760) 776-8942, or may be downloaded from the Regional Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/tmdl/TMDL_Status.htm

To ensure accuracy of the record, the Regional Water Board requests that any speakers who have prepared written statements for oral presentation at the workshop submit those statements to Regional Water Board staff before or during the workshop.

Filing of Written Comments

Persons wishing to file written comments concerning the CVSC TMDL for this workshop are requested to do so by April 9, 2008, so that the comments may be given sufficient consideration. Comments should be mailed to the attention of Mr. Nadim Zeywar at the following address:

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

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this Regional Water Board public workshop, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 346-7491 no later than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled workshop date.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

FILE: TMDL CV PATH