

**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. 7-18-17
April 30, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

In the Matter of a Proposed Non-Regulatory Amendment to the
Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region to
Make Editorial Changes that
Update Language and Graphics Related to the Salton Sea
and Correct General Errors (Amendment)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) will accept written comments and will hold a public hearing on the proposed Amendment to the Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), which is described in further sections of this Notice. The 30-day public comment period begins on **April 30, 2018** and ends on **May 30, 2018**. The public hearing will be held at the time and place indicated:

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Hi-Desert Water District
55439 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

BACKGROUND

The Basin Plan is designed to preserve and enhance water quality of the Region and to protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters. The Basin Plan contains the Region's beneficial uses for ground and surface waters, water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve the water quality objectives. The Basin Plan also contains non-regulatory descriptions of the Region regulated by the Basin Plan. In accordance with state and federal laws, the Regional Water Board is obligated to keep the Region's Basin Plan current and accurate by updating it as appropriate via the Basin Plan amendment process.

The proposed Amendment is an administrative update to the Basin Plan that incorporates editorial changes. The Amendment consists of two parts: (1) changes to update the Salton Sea discussion and (2) changes to correct general errors and style. Together, these changes will improve the accuracy and overall clarity of the Basin Plan, as outlined on page 3 of this Notice. This Amendment will affect every chapter of the Basin Plan, as well as the cover page, the foreword, and the table of contents. The need for these changes was described in the 2017 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. Please see the Staff Report in support of this proposed Amendment for more information.

Staff is soliciting public input regarding the proposed Amendment during the comment period noted at the beginning of this Notice. Written responses will be provided to comments received during the comment period.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will consider adoption of the Resolution for the non-regulatory Amendment as proposed, or as modified as a result of its deliberations.

DOCUMENTS

Draft versions of the proposed Amendment, Staff Report, and Resolution are available on the Board's Basin Planning program webpage at the bottom of the page at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/basin_planning/

These documents may also be reviewed by appointment at the Colorado River Basin Water Board office at the address listed at the beginning of this Notice. To schedule an appointment, please contact Maria Davydova by telephone at (760) 776-8947, or by email at maria.davydova@waterboards.ca.gov.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Interested persons must submit written comment by the comment deadline at **5:00 PM on Wednesday, May 30, 2018** as follows:

Email the comment letter to Maria Davydova at maria.davydova@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line: "Comment Letter: Administrative Basin Plan Amendment"

Mail should be postmarked by the comment deadline indicated above and addressed as follows:

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

Hand deliveries should be delivered by the comment deadline to the same address as listed above.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The meeting facility is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2929 or voice line at 1 (800) 735-2922.

Amendment Summary

Part 1: Non-regulatory, Editorial Changes to Update Salton Sea Discussion

The following changes are proposed in text pertaining to the Salton Sea in Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4:

- Update Salton Sea background information;
- Revise language for clarity;
- Update graphics in Chapter 1 figure titled “Colorado River Basin Planning Areas” and move it to the end of the chapter;
- Insert a map of the Salton Sea Watershed in Chapter 1, Section VI.F;
- Update information about Salton Sea’s current Clean Water Act 303(d) impairment listings and remove discussion of Selenium impairment, which was de-listed in 2012;
- Insert information about Salton Sea regulatory and policy changes and developments since 1992;
- Update information related to the current state of the Salton Sea; and
- Delete language that is redundant or obsolete.

Part 2: Non-regulatory, Editorial Changes to Correct General Errors

The following changes are proposed throughout the Basin Plan document:

- Standardize section heading formatting and numbering styles;
- Update the agency name of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Make global changes to update writing style and citation format to conform more closely to the California Style Manual (4th Edition);
- Standardize all references to the Regional Water Board and State Water Board;
- Revise the Foreword for clarity and to make it up-to-date;
- Update Chapter 1 Sections I, II and III to add clarity as to the purpose, function, and organization of the Basin Plan, clarify the relationship between the Regional Water Boards and other entities, clarify legal basis for enforcement of federal and state permits, and update descriptions of board member duties;
- Update the Table of Contents in accordance with page and heading changes in other portions of the amendment;
- Make typographical and editorial changes to improve clarity, correct typographical errors and remove unnecessary and obsolete language;
- Modify the column heading format in the Beneficial Use tables;
- Update the Hydrologic Unit names to be consistent with the California Interagency Watershed Map;
- Replace outdated Figure 4-1 “Sewer Master Plan Phases” with an updated version that is consistent with the 2016 amendment that revised the Yucca Valley septic system prohibition;
- Standardize and update cross-references; and
- Make paragraph and page break deletions and insertions to keep headings on the same pages with the text or to remove unnecessary blank spaces.