

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

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Public Notice No. 7-20-25
June 25, 2020

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC HEARING
FOR
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OF WASTE
FROM IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL LANDS FOR DISCHARGERS THAT ARE
MEMBERS OF A COALITION GROUP IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY, RIVERSIDE
COUNTY
TENTATIVE ORDER R7-2020-0026**

Staff of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has prepared tentative Order R7-2020-0026, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Lands for Dischargers that are Members of a Coalition Group in the Coachella Valley* (Tentative Order).

The Tentative Order proposes to regulate owners and/or operators of irrigated agricultural lands (Dischargers) in Coachella Valley with the potential to discharge waste that may impact the quality of the waters of the state. The Tentative Order also establishes substantive and procedural requirements for third-party representatives of the Dischargers formed to assist with compliance with the order (Coalition Groups).

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public workshop to discuss and solicit input on the Tentative Order. Staff will provide an overview of key proposed order provisions and updates, including those relating to precedential requirements from State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WQ 2018-0002, *In the Matter of Review of Waste Discharge Requirements General Order No. R5-2012-0116 for Growers Within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group* (Eastern San Joaquin Order). There will be an opportunity for comment from stakeholders and members of the public.

The public workshop will be held at the following date and time, by **video and teleconference only**:

Date: July 9, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and
Teleconference

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the July 9, 2020 public workshop will occur solely via remote presence. Links for the meetings, including a phone call option, will be posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Agendas](#).

There may be a quorum of Colorado River Basin Water Board members present at the workshop; however, no Board action will be taken at the workshop.

At the workshop, there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the Colorado River Basin Water Board may ask clarifying questions. The Board will provide an opportunity for interested persons to make oral presentations to the Board. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral presentations may be limited to 3-minutes at the discretion of the Board Chair.

A video of the workshop can be watched at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/board_info/agenda/

PUBLIC HEARING

The Colorado River Basin Water Board intends to consider adopting the Tentative Order during a public hearing that will commence at the following date and time, by **video and teleconference only**:

Date:	September 3, 2020
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the September 3, 2020 Board meeting will occur solely via remote presence. Links for the meetings, including a phone call option, will be posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Agendas](#).

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record.

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures](#).

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Copies of the Tentative Order are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Tentative Orders](#).

Interested persons requiring a hard copy of the Tentative Order should contact Mary Castañeda at (760) 776-8945.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments regarding the Tentative Order during a sixty-day public comment period, which begins **June 25, 2020** and ends **August 24, 2020**. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the Tentative Order are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **August 24, 2020**.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has implemented an electronic records management system to reduce paper consumption and improve overall accessibility to records and documents. To submit comments electronically, please convert the signed original documents to Portable Document Format (PDF) and submit via email to Jennie Snyder at Jennie.Snyder@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk or portable USB drive and mailed to:

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

Mailed written comments may be sent to the address above. Written comments may also be faxed to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office at (760)341-6820.

EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287. Please be advised that ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the Board meeting at which the Tentative Order is scheduled for Board action. For communications concerning any issue in this proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited starting on **August 20, 2020**. If the Colorado River Basin Water Board does not take action on **September 3, 2020**, the ex parte prohibition will remain in place until the Board, the Chair, or the Executive Officer directs otherwise. Once lifted, the prohibition on ex parte communications may be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the Board meeting to which the decision is continued. The Board will provide notice if the prohibition is lifted and/or reinstated.

ACCESSIBILITY

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2929 or voice line at 1 (800) 735-2922. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Jennie Snyder at Jennie.Snyder@waterboards.ca.gov; or phone: 760-776-8936.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.