

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

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Public Notice 7-21-26
March 23, 2021

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN TO REVISE THE SEPTIC TANK PROHIBITION
FOR THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY – SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

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, will hold a public workshop, and will separately hold a public hearing concerning the proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan) to Revise the Septic Tank Prohibition for the Town of Yucca Valley – San Bernardino County (Draft Amendment), which is described in the “Background” section below.

The 45-day public comment period begins on **March 23, 2021** and ends on **May 7, 2021**. Draft Amendment documents have been released for public review during this comment period and are described and linked in the “Document Availability” section below.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board staff will provide information about the Draft Amendment during a public workshop that will commence at the following date and time, by **video and teleconference only**:

Date: April 13, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference

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

Date: June 15, 2021
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, these public meetings will occur solely via remote presence. Links for the meetings, including a phone call option, will be posted on our website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Agendas](#). Interested persons who wish to express their views or ask questions orally on this matter at either meeting should complete a speaker request card by following the [“Virtual Blue Speaker Card” instructions provided on our website](#). The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to submit a public comment at the hearing

NANCY WRIGHT, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record. At the workshop and at the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on our website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures](#).

BACKGROUND

The Basin Plan is designed to preserve and enhance water quality in the Colorado River Basin Region and to protect all regional waters for the benefit of present and future generations and is implemented by the Colorado River Basin Water Board. The Basin Plan contains the region's beneficial uses for groundwater and surface waters, water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve the water quality objectives. The Basin Plan currently includes a septic tank discharge prohibition for the Town of Yucca Valley in areas that overlie the Warren Valley Groundwater Subbasin (Prohibition). The Basin Plan amendment adopting the original Prohibition was approved by the Colorado River Basin Water Board on May 19, 2011 (Resolution No. R7-2011-0004) and went into effect on November 13, 2012 upon approval by the State Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The Prohibition and a subsequent revision thereto required the Hi-Desert Water District (HDWD) to construct a centralized sewage collection system (collection system) and wastewater treatment and reclamation facility (WRF), and prohibited wastewater discharges from septic tanks in three phases as the collection system and WRF got constructed. Financial, legal, economic, and technical issues have caused delays in the construction of the collection system in Phase 1, and design and construction of the collection system for Phases 2 and 3. HDWD requested the Colorado River Basin Water Board to revise the Prohibition to combine Phases 2 and 3 into a single Phase 2, to extend the overall deadlines for the Prohibition, and to identify additional deferred parcels. In addition to these requests, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff identified changes that needed to be made to the Prohibition for consistency, clarity, and accuracy, to protect water quality, and to streamline the requirements, where possible, for HDWD and the property owners. In summary, this Draft Amendment proposes to revise Basin Plan Chapter 4, Section II.H.2.iii as follows:

- Combines Phases 2 and 3 into a single Phase 2;
- Extends the deadline for Phase 1 from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2023;
- Extends the deadline for Phase 2 from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2031;
- Adds deferred parcels with a net increase of 625 parcels;
- Provides a 180-day compliance period after the collection system becomes available when the dischargers need to connect to it;
- Adds compliance date extensions for parcels with recently installed Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS);
- Adds a connection criterion for deferred parcels that will require all parcels to connect 15 years after their phase deadline;
- Requires Advanced Treatment Units (ATU) for new and replacement OWTS on exempt parcels;

- Revises reporting requirements to include additional information but less frequent reports;
- Provides an updated map to show the revised phases and deferred parcels; and
- Revises the language for clarity, accuracy, and consistency.

Following adoption by the Colorado River Basin Water Board, the Amendment and associated administrative record will be submitted for review and approval to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and to OAL. The Amendment shall become effective upon OAL approval.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Draft Amendment documents, including the Staff Report in support of the Amendment, the Amendment language, and the Resolution, are available for public review on the [Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board's Basin Planning Program Page](#), under the section titled "Amendments Under Development." Interested persons requiring a hard copy of these documents should contact Maria Davydova-Flores at (760) 776-8947.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

All public comments should be submitted to the Colorado River Basin Water Board no later than 5:00 pm on May 7, 2021. Please submit your comments via email with the subject line "Yucca Valley Prohibition" to Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov or via postal service to the following address:

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

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this workshop, should contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least ten (10) days prior the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Maria Davydova-Flores, Environmental Scientist, at (760) 776-8947 or by email at: Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov.

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