

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, California 92260  
Phone: (760) 346-7491  
Fax: (760) 341-6820

**Public Notice 7-25-22**  
Issued May 16, 2025

**Staff Contact:**  
Ryan Culhane

**Written Comment Deadline:**  
June 16, 2025

ryan.culhane@waterboards.ca.gov  
(760) 776-8925

**Workshop:**  
June 3, 2025

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND PUBLIC  
WORKSHOP FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER  
QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN,  
ESTABLISHING TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS AND  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR CHLORIDE, INDICATOR BACTERIA,  
AND TOXICITY IN ALAMO RIVER, IMPERIAL COUNTY**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the staff of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) will accept written and oral comments and hold a public workshop on a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan), establishing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and an Implementation Plan for chloride, indicator bacteria, and toxicity in Alamo River, Imperial County. More information on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment is provided below. The Board will accept written comments on the Draft Staff Report during a 30-day period beginning on **May 16, 2025**, and ending on **June 16, 2025**.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT**, at the Colorado River Basin Water Board's public meeting on June 3, 2025, the Board will hold a workshop on the Draft Staff Report.

**WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public workshop to provide information and receive oral comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and a separate public hearing to consider approval of Draft Staff Report, as specified below:

Workshop: June 3, 2025  
9:00 am

Location: Colorado River Basin Water Board's Boardroom  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100,  
Palm Desert, California 92260

***Remote Participation Option Available***  
(See Instructions Below)

## **REMOTE PARTICIPATION OPTION**

Although these public meetings will be conducted in-person, the public will also have the opportunity to participate remotely via the [ZOOM videoconferencing platform](https://zoom.us) (<https://zoom.us>), which is free to download. If you intend to comment or otherwise actively participate in either meeting, you will need to obtain ZOOM access prior to each meeting. For those who do NOT intend to actively participate, the meetings will be livestreamed via [Cal-Span](http://www.cal-span.org) ([www.cal-span.org](http://www.cal-span.org)).

Please refer to the Colorado River Basin Water Board's [Remote Meetings](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting) page ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board\\_info/remote\\_meeting](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting)) for instructions on remote participation via ZOOM.

## **ORAL COMMENTS**

All persons interested in the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment will be provided the opportunity to orally comment during the workshop provided that they have submitted **Speaker Request Cards** (or the equivalent for virtual participation). Such comments will be limited to three minutes, though the Board Chair may grant additional time on a case-by-case basis. To ensure accuracy of the record the Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that interested persons wishing to speak provide a summary of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing. However, interested persons do not need to submit written statements in order to speak. If your comments will incorporate a short slideshow presentation or visual aids, please email these materials to [Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov) no later than June 2, 2025 to be included and presented for the workshop.

## **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments on the Draft Staff Report during a 30-day public comment period ending on **June 16, 2025**. All written comments must be received no later than **5:00 pm**. Comments received prior to this deadline will be included in the administrative record. Untimely written comments will not be considered, though oral comments at the adoption hearing will still be permitted.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

By Mail: Colorado River Basin Water Board,  
Attn: Ryan Culhane  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, California 92260

By Email: [ryan.culhane@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ryan.culhane@waterboards.ca.gov)

By Fax: (760) 341-6820

## BACKGROUND

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (Basin Plan) is the guiding document that outlines the Colorado River Basin Water Board's plan for preserving and enhancing water quality in the region for the protection of beneficial uses for present and future generations. The Basin Plan contains the region's beneficial uses for groundwaters and surface waters, water quality objectives (WQOs) for protection of beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve WQOs.

This Project consists of a Basin Plan Amendment to establish TMDLs for the control of four impairments in the Alamo River: chloride, enterococcus, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), and toxicity. Chloride in the Alamo River is from irrigation water sourced from the Colorado River, deposited from agricultural runoff containing fertilizers, and naturally occurring in the soil. Indicator bacteria, *E. coli* and enterococcus, are from numerous sources from agriculture to wildlife. Toxicity in the Alamo River has been previously attributed to specific pesticides but may be a combination of pollutants including the variety of pesticides utilized by growers in the Imperial Valley. There may be multiple pesticides causing or contributing to toxicity in the Alamo River. Additional studies and monitoring as part of two other TMDLs, Imperial Valley Organophosphate and Organochlorine Compounds and Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDL, will be utilized to address the listed agricultural pesticides that are likely causing toxicity.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq., and applicable State Water Board-promulgated regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 6775 et seq.), the **Draft Staff Report** supporting the proposed Basin Plan Amendment constitutes the Substitute Environmental Document (SED). The Draft Staff Report contains, among other things, an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. Notably, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff have determined that the proposed Basin Plan Amendment will not result in any potential significant environmental impacts.

## DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft Staff Report has been posted to the Board's [Public Notice](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public_notices/) webpage ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public\\_notices/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public_notices/)). To receive a physical copy by mail, contact **Mary Castaneda** at (760) 776-8945 or [Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov).

## ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact **Mary Castaneda** via email at

WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION  
ALAMO RIVER CHLORIDE, INDICATOR BACTERIA, AND TOXICITY TMDL  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-(800) 735- 2929 or voice line at 1-(800) 735-2922.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Ryan Culhane at (760) 776-8925 or ryan.culhane@waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

COMMENT DEADLINE  
June 16, 2025

PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
June 3, 2025