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COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

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2026 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY CONTROL  
PLAN FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

**DRAFT STAFF REPORT**



August 2026

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## **1 Introduction**

This Staff Report is written in support of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Colorado River Basin Water Board) triennial review of its water quality standards (Triennial Review), which are contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan). The purpose of this Staff Report is to detail the Triennial Review process and to develop a three-year workplan for water quality standards projects.

The Triennial Review is a process conducted to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1), which requires the Colorado River Basin Water Board to hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards at least once each three-year period. Likewise, the Water Code section 13240 requires the periodic review and revision of regional water quality control plans. Water quality standards consist of beneficial uses for surface water and groundwater bodies and water quality objectives established to protect those uses. In addition to water quality standards, the Basin Plan also describes the water bodies and surrounding environments, actions and policies implementing the water quality standards, monitoring plans to ensure that water quality standards are being met, and other pertinent information. During the Triennial Review, possible additions and revisions to the Basin Plan are identified and prioritized at a public hearing. These prioritized additions and revisions are then developed and implemented through changes to the Basin Plan, as necessary, based upon available resources.

## 2 Triennial Review Process

In January 2026, staff began the Triennial Review for the period of January 2027 through December 2029 (2026 Triennial Review Period). On March 17, 2026, staff sent out a Public Notice to solicit potential Triennial Review projects from the general public. The Public Notice announced a comment period to provide project proposals, ending on April 20, 2026. During the comment period, staff also solicited projects internally from other Colorado River Basin Water Board programs. In total, two comment letters were received. Staff prepared a Response to Scoping Comments, provided in **Appendix A**.

After reviewing the comment letters submitted by the public, staff developed a preliminary list of proposed Triennial Review projects and systematically ranked them in order to develop a prioritized list (see section 4 below) of Basin Planning projects to pursue during the 2026 Triennial Review Period (Triennial Review List). Many of the proposed projects are carried over from the previous Triennial Review List completed in December 2023.

The approved Triennial Review List and associated administrative record will be transmitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Upon approval of this Final Staff Report by the Colorado River Basin Water Board (via the Tentative Resolution) and transmittal to USEPA, staff will work on developing the identified projects as appropriate throughout the 2026 Triennial Review Period of January 2027 to December 2029. Importantly, because resources are not available to complete all projects, as detailed in section 5 of this Staff Report, placement of a project on the Triennial Review List does not guarantee that the project will be completed, or that it will be completed as described. Additional public participation opportunities will be presented during the development of each project.

Triennial Review projects are implemented through Basin Plan Amendments, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans, and through policies. Basin Plan Amendments are changes to the Basin Plan. A Basin Plan Amendment project is complete when the amendment goes into effect, which happens when the project has been reviewed and approved by all appropriate agencies, which includes the Colorado River Basin Water Board, followed by the State Water Board, after which the process will vary depending on the project. TMDLs are water pollution control plans that must be developed to address water quality impairments, which are identified on the 303(d) list of impaired waters. TMDLs are also typically implemented through Basin Plan Amendments, but can be achieved through other regulatory means and for the purposes of this Staff Report they are considered separately. A TMDL project is considered complete after it goes into effect, which occurs after the TMDL has been approved by the USEPA. Policies are typically adopted by Resolution and may also be incorporated into the Basin Plan through a Basin Plan Amendment.

### 3 Status of 2023 Triennial Review

The previous review of the Basin Plan took place during the 2023 Triennial Review. The 2023 Triennial Review List was reviewed by the public and adopted by the Regional Water Board on December 12, 2023. The 2023 Triennial Review List consisted of 27 projects, as summarized in **Table 1**. Typically, Triennial Review Lists only contain water quality standards-related projects that may result in Basin Plan Amendments, including TMDLs. Of the 27 projects in the 2023 Triennial Review, fourteen projects were potential Basin Plan Amendments, of which two were assigned to staff. One of the Basin Plan Amendment projects that was assigned to staff has been completed. Pending projects include projects that were categorized as new during the 2023 Triennial Review but have since not been started or assigned to staff.

**Table 1. 2023 Triennial Review Projects and Status**

| No. | Rank | Item                                                                                                   | Project Type         | Status      | Expected Completion by Dec. 2026 |
|-----|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 1   | 1    | Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs                                | TMDL                 | In progress | No                               |
| 2   | 2    | Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia TMDLs                                                          | TMDL                 | In progress | No                               |
| 3   | 3    | Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs                                                        | TMDL                 | In progress | No                               |
| 4   | 4    | Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen and Toxicity TMDLs | TMDL                 | In progress | No                               |
| 5   | 5    | Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs                                                            | TMDL                 | In progress | Yes                              |
| 6   | 6    | Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review                                                                       | Basin Plan Amendment | In progress | No                               |

| No. | Rank | Item                                                                            | Project Type         | Status      | Expected Completion by Dec. 2026 |
|-----|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 7   | 7    | Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats          | Basin Plan Amendment | In progress | No                               |
| 8   | 8    | Salton Sea Watershed Bacteria TMDL                                              | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |
| 9   | 8    | Adopt Secondary MCLs as Ground- and Surface Water Quality Objectives            | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 10  | 8    | Adopt Region-Wide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria       | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 11  | 11   | Salton Sea Arsenic TMDL                                                         | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |
| 12  | 11   | Salton Sea Toxicity TMDL                                                        | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |
| 13  | 12   | Salton Sea DDT and DDE TMDLs                                                    | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |
| 14  | 13   | Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer    | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 15  | 14   | Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies                      | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 16  | 15   | Tribal Beneficial Uses Definitions and Administrative Updates to the Basin Plan | Basin Plan Amendment | Complete    | Yes                              |
| 17  | 16   | Administrative Update to the Basin Plan                                         | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |

| No. | Rank | Item                                                                                                                                | Project Type         | Status      | Expected Completion by Dec. 2026 |
|-----|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 18  | 17   | Imperial Valley Drains Toxicity TMDL                                                                                                | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |
| 19  | 18   | OWTS Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality                                                                | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 20  | 19   | List Certain Unlisted Waterbodies and Applicable Beneficial Uses, And Designate Miscellaneous Beneficial Uses to Listed Waterbodies | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 21  | 20   | Designate COMM (Commercial and Sport Fishing) Beneficial Use in Applicable Regional Waters                                          | Basin Plan Amendment | In progress | No                               |
| 22  | 20   | General Prohibition of Unpermitted Waste Discharges that Pose a Threat to Water Quality                                             | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 23  | 21   | Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs                                                           | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |
| 24  | 21   | Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in Indio Subbasin                                                                      | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 25  | 22   | Colorado River Toxicity TMDL                                                                                                        | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |
| 26  | 23   | Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives                                                                                       | Basin Plan Amendment | Not started | No                               |
| 27  | 24   | Salton Sea Watershed Ammonia TMDL                                                                                                   | TMDL                 | Not started | No                               |



#### 4 Proposed Projects

The proposed 2026 Triennial Review projects were compiled and ranked to develop the Triennial Review List, consisting of in progress, pending, and new projects summarized in Tables 2 through 5 in this section.

The 2026 Triennial Review List also contains eight projects in progress, listed in **Table 2**. Projects in progress include 2023 Triennial Review projects that have not been completed and other water quality standards or TMDL projects that were started since the 2023 Triennial Review list was approved.

**Table 2. 2026 Triennial Review Projects in Progress**

| No. | Project Title                                                                                          |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs                                |
| 2   | Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia TMDL                                                           |
| 3   | Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs                                                        |
| 4   | Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen and Toxicity TMDLs |
| 5   | Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs                                                            |
| 6   | Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review                                                                       |
| 7   | Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats                                 |
| 8   | Designating COMM (Commercial and Sport Fishing) Beneficial Use in Applicable Regional Waters           |

There are 18 pending projects from the 2023 Triennial Review List, some of which will be incorporated into the 2026 Triennial Review List. Of the 18 pending projects, 11 will be included on the updated list and are shown in **Table 3**. Justification for deferring the remaining 7 projects is explained below.

**Table 3. 2026 Triennial Review Pending Projects**

| No. | Project Title                                                                                                                 |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Adopt Secondary MCLs as Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Objectives for the Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use |
| 2   | Adopt Region-Wide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria                                                     |
| 3   | Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer                                                  |
| 4   | Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies                                                                    |
| 5   | Administrative Update to the Basin Plan                                                                                       |
| 6   | Imperial Valley Toxicity TMDL                                                                                                 |
| 7   | OWTS Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality                                                          |
| 8   | List Certain Unlisted Waterbodies and Applicable Beneficial Uses, And Designate Miscellaneous Beneficial Uses to Listed       |
| 9   | Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in Indio Subbasin                                                                |
| 10  | Colorado River Toxicity TMDL                                                                                                  |
| 11  | Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives                                                                                 |

**Table 4** shows the seven projects that will not be included on the 2026 Triennial Review List. Of these deferred projects, most are TMDL projects. Specifically, the TMDLs for ammonia, arsenic, bacteria, toxicity, DDT, and DDE in the Salton Sea have been deferred at this time. This decision is based on current environmental conditions within the Salton Sea, where significantly elevated salinity levels have altered the system to such an extent that conventional water quality objectives (WQOs) are no longer appropriate or technically achievable.

The hypersaline conditions now present in the Salton Sea fundamentally limit the applicability and effectiveness of standard regulatory benchmarks, as the ecosystem no longer supports the designated beneficial uses that those objectives were originally intended to protect. As a result, pursuing these TMDLs under existing frameworks would not yield meaningful or implementable outcomes. Deferring these projects allows

resources to be more effectively allocated while broader management strategies and scientifically appropriate objectives for the Salton Sea's evolving conditions are evaluated. Salton Sea TMDLs will be re-evaluated once the lake has been assessed using saltwater standards. Additional impairments may be identified at which time staff will prioritize addressing them through TMDLs, Alternate Restoration Plans, or other applicable control plans.

The Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon chloride and indicator bacteria TMDLs have also been deferred at this time. A new project has been added to develop site-specific objectives for constituents in agricultural areas such as chloride. This should be completed prior to a TMDL as it may negate the need for a control plan. For indicator bacteria, there is an effort to provide sanitary sewer service to the Palo Verde area which may resolve the ongoing bacteria contamination present. Because there are viable alternatives to the TMDL, we have deferred this project until these efforts are developed.

The final project on the deferred project list is a Basin Plan Amendment that would prohibit unpermitted waste discharges. Through state and federal law, all discharges that are a threat to water quality are either permitted or unlawful. There is no need for an amendment to codify that in the Basin Plan.

**Table 4. Deferred Projects**

| No. | Project Title                                                                           |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Salton Sea Watershed Ammonia TMDL                                                       |
| 2   | Salton Sea Watershed Bacteria TMDL                                                      |
| 3   | Salton Sea Arsenic TMDL                                                                 |
| 4   | Salton Sea Toxicity TMDL                                                                |
| 5   | Salton Sea DDT and DDE TMDLs                                                            |
| 6   | Palo Verde Outfall Drain and Lagoon Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs               |
| 7   | General Prohibition of Unpermitted Waste Discharges that Pose a Threat to Water Quality |

Three projects have been added to the proposed 2026 Triennial Review List and are shown in **Table 5**. Two of those projects are from internal Regional Water Board solicitation and one from public comment.

**Table 5. 2026 Triennial Review New Projects**

| No. | Project Title                                        |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Protection of Exceptionally High-Quality Groundwater |
| 2   | Site-specific Objectives in Agricultural Areas       |
| 3   | Review of Established TMDLs                          |

The complete Triennial Review List is provided with project descriptions and other details in **Appendix B**.

## 5 Basin Planning Resources

The Colorado River Basin Water Board is allocated limited staff resources to administer Water Quality Standards programs, which include implementation of Triennial Review projects. Staff resources are calculated in Personnel Years (PY), where one PY equates to the resources needed to fund one Colorado River Basin Water Board staff person for one year.

Currently, 5.1 PYs are assigned to Basin Planning and TMDL Projects for this fiscal year on an annual basis, which adds up to a total of 15.3 PY's over the course of the 2026 Triennial Review period. Currently, 3.3 PYs are assigned to ongoing Triennial Review projects listed in **Table 2**. The remaining 1.8 PYs are assigned to program support and other non-Triennial Review projects. Up to four of the ongoing projects are scheduled to be completed during the 2026 Triennial Review period and will free up PYs to begin projects in Tables 3 and 5. However, the ability to apply these resources to these projects is further limited by when the ongoing projects will be completed, which is subject to change. Based on projected resource availability, it is expected that no more than two to four pending or new projects may be started during the 2026 Triennial Review period. To begin working on all pending projects an estimated 17.2 PY's are required. This means, that to begin working on all pending and new projects during the 2026 Triennial Review, an additional 13.9 PYs would be needed over the course of the Triennial Review period, which would require five to six new staff positions to be funded, filled and fully available for water quality standards projects.

## 6 Prioritization

In order to prioritize the use of limited staff resources, the Triennial Review List has been ranked using scoring criteria, which were developed based on public input and program priorities. The scoring criteria are described in **Table 6**.

**Table 6. Prioritization Scoring Criteria**

| Criterion        | Question                                                         | Min Score         | Middle Score                   | Max Score             |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Groundwater      | Does the project address groundwater impairments?                | 0<br>(no)         | 10<br>(possibly or indirectly) | 15<br>(yes, directly) |
| Salton Sea       | Does the project protect water quality at Salton Sea?            | 0<br>(no)         | 5<br>(possibly or indirectly)  | 10<br>(yes, directly) |
| EJ or Tribal     | Does the project address Environmental Justice or Tribal issues? | 0<br>(no)         | 5<br>(possibly or indirectly)  | 10<br>(yes, directly) |
| Completion (new) | For new projects, how long will project take once started?       | 0<br>(≤ 6 months) | 5<br>(18 months)               | 10<br>(≥ 48 months)   |
| Public interest  | Does project address concerns expressed by public?               | 0<br>(not at all) | 5<br>(somewhat or some)        | 10<br>(yes, many)     |

| Criterion        | Question                                                    | Min Score     | Middle Score           | Max Score            |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Time sensitivity | When does project need to be completed to meet commitments? | 0<br>(≥ 2031) | 5<br>(by 2031)         | 10<br>(≤ 2029)       |
| Impairments      | Does project address 303(d) listed impairments?             | 0<br>(no)     | 3<br>(yes, indirectly) | 5<br>(yes, directly) |
| Beneficial Uses  | Does project protect or designate beneficial uses?          | 0<br>(no)     | 3<br>(yes, indirectly) | 5<br>(yes, directly) |

The scores and rankings are shown by project in **Appendix C**. The prioritization ranking is meant to serve as a guide to assigning resources. When resources become available, a higher-ranking new project may be considered before lower ranking projects. Likewise, when staff resources must be re-assigned, a lower ranking ongoing project would be more likely to be delayed than a higher-ranking ongoing project.

Exceptions may be made to account for staff expertise, amount of staff time available, new projects not identified in the Triennial Review, and other emerging priorities.

## **7 Section 304(a) Criteria**

Title 40, section 131.20 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requires that Colorado River Basin Water Board provide an explanation when it does not adopt new or revised criteria for parameters for which USEPA has published new or updated Clean Water Act section 304(a) criteria recommendations, adopted since May 30, 2000.

Due to the limited resources available and higher priorities present, staff does not recommend updating the Basin Plan to reflect updated section 304(a) criteria at this time. Revising such criteria involves considerable effort most efficiently done by the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality, since a change to the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (Statewide Basin Plan or ISWEBE) would supersede all regional Basin Plans.

The State Water Board has initiated a review of State Plans and Policies with the intent of reviewing 304(a) criteria recommendations. This process will conclude after the Colorado River Basin's 2026 Triennial Review is adopted. Because of this, any changes recommended by the State Water Board's review will be included in the Colorado River Basin's 2029 Triennial Review.



## **Appendix A—Response to Scoping Comments**

Colorado Basin Water Board staff solicited input from interested persons during a 30-day public comment period that ended on April 20, 2026. In total, two comment letters were received. On April 20, 2026, Castulo Estrada submitted a comment letter on behalf of the City of Coachella. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Aydee Rodriguez submitted a comment letter on behalf of Alianza Coachella Valley. No other comments were submitted as part of the scoping process.

### **Comments from City of Coachella**

**Subject:** CVSC Bacterial Indicators TMDL Compliance Deadline Extension Request

**Comment:** The City of Coachella requests that the Basin Plan be amended for a 10-year extension of the CVSC Bacterial Indicators TMDL compliance deadline from April 2022 to April 2032. This would allow for continued evaluation of monitoring data trends, development of implementation strategies and consideration of site-specific conditions and restraints. The City requests that the Regional Water Board considers the following key factors:

1. Dry Weather Conditions and Recreational Use- Recreational use is mostly limited to dry weather conditions. Therefore, dry weather monitoring data is the most representative of potential human exposure scenarios.
2. Uncontrollable Sources of Bacteria- There are several factors contributing bacterial indicator presence within the CVSC that are beyond the City's control. These sources significantly influence observed bacteria levels and limit the effectiveness of traditional controls.
3. Limited Flow and Sampling Constraints- The City's stormwater outflows don't exhibit flow during dry weather conditions due to the dry wells which prevent the City from contributing to the CVSC. This absence of flow limits the ability to perform representative and consistent sampling. Additionally, the City has no jurisdiction over the maintenance of the CVSC as this falls to CVWD.

**Response:** Staff have added a project to the 2026 Triennial Review to review established TMDLs including the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Bacteria Indicators TMDL. A TMDL review may include changes to compliance deadlines, water quality objectives, or other aspects of the TMDL to reflect updated information.

### **Comments from Alianza Coachella Valley**

**Subject:** Prioritizing TMDLs addressing Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrient Pollution, with a focused and expanded effort for the Salton Sea.

**Comment:** The Basin Plan provides a strong framework for water quality protection, but additional emphasis on TMDL development—particularly for dissolved oxygen and nutrients—is necessary to address persistent impairments. Prioritizing comprehensive and integrated TMDLs for the Salton Sea will significantly strengthen the Plan’s effectiveness and better protect beneficial uses.

1. Develop and Strengthen TMDLs for the Salton Sea (Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients): The Basin Plan should explicitly commit to the development and/or strengthening of TMDLs for the Salton Sea that address:
  - Nitrate (nitrogen) loading
  - Phosphate (phosphorus) loading
  - Dissolved oxygen depletion, including oxygen-demanding substances and eutrophication dynamics
2. Expand Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs and Integrate with Nutrient Controls: The Basin Plan should identify all waterbodies failing to meet dissolved oxygen objectives and establish a clear schedule for TMDL development. This integrated approach is particularly important for systems like the Salton Sea, where oxygen depletion is driven by algal productivity and subsequent decomposition. In assessing the necessity of the dissolved oxygen TMDLs, impacts on surrounding communities including hydrogen sulfide production should be prioritized.
3. Strengthen Monitoring and Adaptive Management for the Salton Sea: Given the dynamic and rapidly changing conditions at the Salton Sea, the Basin Plan should include enhanced monitoring requirements for nutrients and dissolved oxygen, including spatial and seasonal variability.

**Response:** The Regional Water Board has started the process of establishing TMDLs for dissolved oxygen and nutrients in the Salton Sea. That will include targets for nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll a. The Regional Water Board is also changing the aquatic habitat beneficial use of the Salton Sea to Inland Saline Water Habitat from Warm Freshwater Habitat. That change will reflect the true conditions of the Salton Sea and allow a more accurate assessment of water quality beginning with the next 305(b) condition report as part of the 2032 Integrated Report.

There is an established TMDL for dissolved oxygen in the New River and two projects started to establish additional TMDLs for dissolved oxygen in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and the Salton Sea. These projects will address the existing

impairments for dissolved oxygen in the Salton Sea watershed. Completion of these projects is subject to staff availability and resources, however, in progress projects do have a higher priority than new projects.

The Regional Water Board is also continuing its partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to sample the Salton Sea on a quarterly basis. Staff are working to secure additional funding to make the efforts permanent as few others are able to access the Salton Sea. As part of these efforts, the Regional Water Board is also supporting the projects of the Salton Sea Program from the California Department of Natural Resources by issuing permits, conducting water quality sampling for the Monitoring and Implementation Plan, and participating in project planning workshops.

## **Appendix B—2026 Triennial Review List**

The Triennial Review List contains the following information:

**Description:** Purpose and justification for the project.

**Public Comments:** List of public comments, listed in Appendix A and Appendix D, interpreted to be in support of the entire project or of specific elements of the project.

**Rank:** The ranking of the project as defined in Appendix C.

**Status:** “Ongoing” projects are currently assigned to staff, whereas “New” projects are not currently assigned to staff.

**Type:** Each project will be one of the following three options:

**TMDL Plan:** Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan that will likely be proposed to be adopted as a Basin Plan amendment.

**TMDL Plan Alternative:** Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan that will be implemented without a Basin Plan Amendment

**Basin Plan Amendment:** Change to the Basin Plan; for the purposes of this list, this refers to amendments other than TMDL Plans.

**Basin Plan:** Specifies the Basin Plan provisions that may be amended or affected.

**Projected Staff Resources:** An estimate of staff resources required to complete the project, calculated from beginning to completion for new projects, or from January 2027 to completion for ongoing projects. Projected staff resources are presented in Personnel Years (PY), where one PY equates to the resources needed to fund one staff person for one year. Note that actual required staff resources are likely to vary, especially for new projects where a greater number of unknown factors will determine the actual complexity of the project.

**Expected Completion or Expected Duration:** For ongoing projects, Expected Completion provides an estimate of when the project is expected to be completed. For new projects, Expected Duration provides an estimate of the duration of the project from start to completion. A project is considered to be “completed” when the amendment or TMDL goes into effect, which occurs after it has been reviewed and approved by all applicable parties. The actual completion date is subject to change due to factors that may increase the complexity of the project or due to a need to divert resources to other projects.

**Project 1: Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | <p>The Alamo River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including chloride and indicator bacteria (<i>Enterococcus</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i>). Staff are developing TMDLs to address these impairments.</p> <p>The Salton Sea is also impaired for chloride and indicator bacteria and developing these TMDLs at the Alamo River, which discharges to the Salton Sea, will work toward addressing these impairments at the Salton Sea.</p> |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Status                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Project 2: Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia TMDL**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The New River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including ammonia. Staff are developing TMDLs to address this impairment. The Salton Sea is also impaired for ammonia and developing these TMDLs at the New River, which discharges to the Salton Sea, will work toward addressing that impairment at the Salton Sea. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Status                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### **Project 3: Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The Salton Sea is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including dissolved oxygen and nutrients. Projects are already underway to develop TMDLs for nutrients at the New River and for dissolved oxygen at the CVSC. Under this project, staff are developing TMDLs for nutrients and dissolved oxygen for the entire Salton Sea Watershed. This project will incorporate the New River and Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) proposed TMDLs after they are submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). |
| Public Comments                      | Alianza-06.09                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Status                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 2.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Project 4: Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen, and Toxicity TMDLs**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including ammonia, dissolved oxygen, and toxicity. Staff are developing TMDLs to address these impairments. The Salton Sea is also impaired for ammonia and dissolved oxygen and developing these TMDLs at the CVSC, which discharges to the Salton Sea, will work toward addressing these impairments at the Salton Sea. The CVSC toxicity TMDLs will also contribute to addressing the Salton Sea toxicity impairment if the two impairments are caused by the same pollutants. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Status                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



**Project 5: Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The New River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including pyrethroids bifenthrin, cypermethrin, and lambda cyhalothrin. The Alamo River is also 303(d) listed for cypermethrin and lambda cyhalothrin. Staff are developing TMDLs to address these impairments. Addressing these impairments at the tributaries may contribute to improving water quality at the Salton Sea. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Status                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 0.6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### Project 6: Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The Salton Sea is a terminal lake without an outlet, which means that certain pollutants have been concentrating in it since 1905 when it was first formed. Such pollutants include salinity and one of its components, chloride, which are both 303(d) listed impairments that are impairing the Salton Sea's Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM) beneficial use. The Salton Sea is not a freshwater and because of its terminal nature may never meet the current water quality objectives for these pollutants associated with the WARM beneficial use. Under this amendment, staff will determine whether WARM is attainable for these pollutants and establish whether the Salton Sea should be considered a saltwater body for the purposes of applicable water quality objectives. Other pollutants and/or beneficial uses may be included as data is gathered and analyzed. Based on the results of this analysis, a change the Salton Sea's beneficial uses may be proposed. |
| Comments                             | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Status                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 2, Table 2-3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Project 7: Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in coordination with other Salton Sea stakeholders, is developing plans for and building a series of constructed aquatic habitats as part of the Salton Sea Management Program. The aquatic habitats will be filled with mixed water from the existing tributaries and the Salton Sea and used to provide wildlife habitat while suppressing dust from the exposed playa, as the Sea recedes. Because the habitats will be using mixed water and will be different from both the Salton Sea and the tributaries, they may have different beneficial uses from those parent water bodies, and possibly from each other. As the CNRA develops plans for these habitats, the Colorado River Basin Water Board should coordinate with CNRA to identify and designate beneficial uses for these aquatic habitats. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Status                               | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Type                                 | Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Basin Plan                           | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### Project 8: Adopt Secondary MCLs as Ground- and Surface Water Quality Objectives

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description     | <p>For surface and groundwater with Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial uses, the Basin Plan currently specifies a series of <i>numeric</i> water quality objectives for chemical constituents, as well as <i>narrative</i> water quality objectives for tastes and odors.</p> <p>The chemical constituents-based objectives incorporate the Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (Primary MCLs) for drinking water within California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22), sections 64431, 64444 and 64678. (Basin Plan, Ch. 3, § II.N, p. 3-5; § IV.C, p. 3-10.) These Primary MCLs reflect the maximum concentration or amount of a constituent that will be allowed in drinking water for it to be considered safe.</p> <p>The narrative “tastes and odors” objective for groundwater specifies that it “shall not contain taste or odor-producing substances in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses as a result of human activity.” (Ch. 3, § IV.A, p. 3-10.) There is a similar objective for surface waters: “All waters shall be free from substances attributable to wastewater of domestic or industrial origin or other discharges which adversely affect beneficial uses ... [¶] Producing objectionable color, odor, taste, or turbidity.” (Ch. 3, § II.A, p. 3-2.) The Basin Plan does not specify any numeric limits that are applicable to, or supportive of, these narrative objectives.</p> <p>Other regions have incorporated all or some of the Title 22 Secondary MCLs, which function as “Consumer Acceptance Levels” for evaluating taste, odors and aesthetics of drinking water. (See Title 22, § 64449.) For example, the Secondary MCL for total dissolved solids [i.e., salinity] specifies a <i>recommended</i> range between 500 mg/L and 1,000 mg/L.</p> <p>Regional Water Board staff have proposed incorporating all or some of the Secondary MCLs as numeric objectives for groundwater and/or surface waters, as appropriate. Establishment of numeric objectives for salinity may be done on an aquifer-specific basis in connection with other basin planning projects.</p> |
| Public Comments | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Status          | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Type            | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                      |                                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 3, Section IV.C; Chapter 3, Section II |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.9                                            |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                             |

**Project 9: Adopt Region-Wide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | <p>Staff recommends considering adopting surface water quality objectives (WQOs) based on USEPA 304(a) criteria for pollutants that do not have a CA Toxics rule criterion or an existing Basin Plan WQO. Staff recommends consideration of adoption of aquatic life criteria for ammonia, arsenic, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, iron, and malathion.</p> <p>Adoption of these objectives may help address existing impairments as it would trigger the development of water quality-based effluent limitations for discharges to surface waters. These pollutants are associated with 17 impairments, with 14 of those being located in the Salton Sea Watershed. Among them, ammonia and chlorpyrifos are associated with the greatest number of impairments, with five and four impairments, respectively, all located in the Salton Sea Watershed.</p> |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 3, Section 3.C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Project 10: Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer<sup>1</sup>**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The groundwater beneficial uses are currently designated based on hydrologic units, or watersheds. Staff proposes to review the appropriate groundwater data and revise groundwater beneficial uses designations so that they will correspond to individual groundwater subbasins within the various hydrologic units, and to aquifers in areas where additional precision is necessary. The proposed changes in designations would also be consistent with the State Water Board's Sources of Drinking Water Policy, Resolution 88-63. These changes would result in an updated version of Table 2-5 (Chapter 2) and a more detailed map of the groundwater aquifers in this Region in Basin Plan Appendix B. This project is consistent with the Basin Plan Chapter 5, Section III.B, where the need for these changes is identified as a key Regional Water Board issue. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 2, Table 2-5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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<sup>1</sup> This project was included in the 2017 Triennial Review under two projects: item 3, "Review of Municipal Beneficial Use Designation in Ground Water With High Salinity," and item 4, "Revise Beneficial Use Designations to Correspond with Individual Ground Water Basins and Aquifers."

**Project 11: Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | <p>Tribal Beneficial Uses are beneficial uses developed by the State Water Board and available for adoption and designation by the Regional Water Boards into their Basin Plans. These uses are Tribal Traditional Culture (CUL) and Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB). Tribal Beneficial Uses can be designated to waters within a Regional Water Board's jurisdiction. Colorado River Basin Water Board received comment letters in previous Triennial Reviews from Campo Environmental Protection Agency and Morongo Band of Mission Indians stating that it would be appropriate to designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for water bodies within the Colorado River Basin regions. However, the commenters did not name specific water bodies that should be designated with which of the two beneficial uses. To designate Tribal Beneficial Uses, designation requests for specific water bodies must be made with supporting data. Morongo Band of Mission Indians also requested to remove Tribal water bodies or segments of water bodies from the Basin Plan beneficial uses tables.</p> <p>Staff proposes to work with the Tribes in the region to identify specific water bodies that should be designated with Tribal Beneficial Uses, and to identify water bodies or segments of water bodies that are on Tribal land that the Tribes would wish to be removed from the Basin Plan beneficial uses tables.</p> |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 2, Tables 2-2 through 2-4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



**Project 12: Tribal Beneficial Uses Definitions and Administrative Updates to the Basin Plan**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | <p>This amendment would add Tribal Beneficial Uses to the Basin Plan and make various non-regulatory updates and revisions to the Basin Plan which can be accomplished administratively, without California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation or peer review. Tribal Beneficial Uses are beneficial uses developed by the State Water Board and available for adoption and designation by the Regional Water Boards into their Basin Plans. These uses are Tribal Traditional Culture (CUL) and Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB). Tribal Beneficial Uses can be designated to waters within a Regional Water Board's jurisdiction.</p> <p>This amendment would also incorporate statewide mercury objectives, the HRTW Policy into the Policies chapter, revise Salton Sea language to reflect current restoration plans and other pertinent information, and other minor errors.</p> |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Status                               | New                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapters 1-6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 0.9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

### Project 13: Administrative Update to the Basin Plan

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description | <p>This amendment would make various non-regulatory updates and revisions to the Basin Plan, which may be accomplished environmental or peer review (to the extent authorized by law). This amendment would incorporate changes proposed by staff and in public comments. All changes proposed below are tentative and subject to change upon further research. These changes may be adopted under a single amendment, multiple amendments, or some changes may be incorporated into other amendments.</p> <p>The following changes were proposed by Regional Water Board staff:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Update New River language; in beneficial uses tables, correct water body spelling, any non-region 7 water bodies, and map out the springs consistently with NHD maps; update Appendix A and B maps.</li> </ol> <p>The following changes are proposed in response to public comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Incorporate Environmental Justice as a Regional Water Board priority.</li> <li>(2) Incorporate DAC community water and wastewater infrastructure as a Regional Water Board priority.</li> <li>(3) Revise Ch. 5, § III.A ("Septic System Impacts to Ground Water Basins") to identify next steps and provide more detail.</li> <li>(4) Revise Ch. 4, § II.H.1 ("Statewide Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Requirements") to specify the responsible parties under OWTs Policy and highlight local agency monitoring and reporting requirements.</li> <li>(5) Restructure and revise Ch. 4 to separate Surface Water Program and Groundwater Program, and describe the Colorado River Basin Water Board's permitting, regulatory and enforcement authority in the introductory paragraphs for each set of programs.</li> <li>(6) In Ch. 4, § II.E ("Confined Animal Facilities"), revise the terminology for consistency with NPDES definitions; to distinguish Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) from other Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs); and to expand the list of possible types of AFOs.</li> <li>(7) Revise Table 2-3, fns. 17 and 23 to clarify where</li> </ol> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                      | <p>Whitewater River ends and Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel begins;</p> <p>(8) Revise and restructure Ch. 6 § II ("Regional Water Board Monitoring") to separate monitoring programs for groundwater and surface water; within the groundwater monitoring programs section, describe GAMA and local cooperative relationships and how that data is used; update monitoring activities;</p> <p>(9) Changes to language in Ch. 3, Section III ("Specific Water Quality Objectives") as proposed by Colorado River Board.</p> |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapters 2-6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Project 14: Imperial Valley Toxicity TMDL**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | Imperial Valley waterbodies are 303(d) listed for the multiple impairments, including toxicity. Salton Sea and its other tributaries are also impaired for toxicity, however these impairments may need to be addressed separately if they are caused by different pollutants. Staff proposes to develop a TMDL to address the toxicity impairment at the Imperial Valley waterbodies. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 0.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**Project 15: OWTS Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality<sup>2</sup>**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | Staff has been collecting data and information to identify areas where nitrate pollution from Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), also referred to as septic systems, may be posing a threat to groundwater quality. In areas where the density of existing OWTS may be contributing to nitrate and other pollution, and the OWTS density cannot be mitigated by existing regulations, staff plans to propose a prohibition of discharge from OWTS. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section II.H.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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<sup>2</sup> This project was included in the 2017 Triennial Review as Item 1, "Evaluate Potential Sources of Nitrates in Prioritized Basins."

**Project 16: List Certain Unlisted Waterbodies and Applicable Beneficial Uses, And Designate Miscellaneous Beneficial Uses to Listed**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The Basin Plan lists beneficial use definitions in table 2-1 and designates beneficial uses for water bodies in tables 2-2 through 2-5. These tables do not include all water bodies within the region, and certain existing beneficial uses may not be identified for certain water bodies that are listed. Water bodies and beneficial uses should be added to these tables as information becomes available. Staff proposes to make changes to the beneficial uses tables, including, but not limited to, the following: add Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM) beneficial use definition to table 2-1 and designated it to all REC II waters; add Freshwater Replenishment (FRSH) beneficial use to Cadiz Hydrologic Unit; list beneficial uses for Gieselmann Lake and Imperial Valley Canals, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel from Palm Springs to Indio; identify general beneficial uses for unnamed lakes; list beneficial uses for 303(d)-listed water bodies not currently in beneficial use tables; list beneficial uses for water bodies monitored by the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) not currently in beneficial use tables; Old Woman Springs Creek; Long Canyon Channel. Additionally, to protect beneficial uses of any unlisted tributaries to listed water bodies, staff proposes to incorporate a tributary clause, which would specify that beneficial uses of a listed water body apply to any of its tributaries that are not listed in the Basin Plan. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 2, Table 2-3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 0.7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Project 17: Designate COMM (Commercial and Sport Fishing) Beneficial Use in Applicable Regional Waters**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | This project would add the beneficial use for COMM (Commercial and Sport Fishing) to the Basin Plan. The Regional Water Board will review all waterbody designations and add the COMM beneficial use to any freshwaters that should be covered for recreational/sport fishing for consumption. |
| Public Comments                      | Comment on 2023 Triennial Review                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Status                               | New                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

**Project 18: Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives for Salinity in Indio Subbasin**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | This project was included in the 2017 Triennial Review as Item 2, "Establish Water Quality Objectives for Ground Water Throughout the Coachella Valley." Staff are developing site-specific numeric water quality objectives for TDS and other constituents in the Indio subbasin. To help establish appropriate water quality objectives, a 3-year contract with USGS to determine existing water quality was completed in 2023. Analysis of findings and determination of next steps has begun. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Status                               | New                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 3, Section IV.A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 0.9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



**Project 19: Colorado River Toxicity TMDL**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | The Colorado River is 303(d) listed for multiple impairments, including toxicity. Staff is developing a TMDL to address this impairment. 2018 Integrated Report identifies TMDL for this pollutant as due to be implemented by 2025. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 0.8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Project 20: Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                      | <p>The Basin Plan lists site-specific selenium water quality objectives (WQOs) for the Salton Sea and its tributaries as 0.005 mg/L four-day average and 0.02 mg/L one-hour average, stating that these criteria are based on USEPA's National Ambient Water Quality Criteria, also known as the 304(a) criteria. These objectives may have been based on the 1987 USEPA selenium water column criteria. Since 1987, USEPA selenium criteria have been updated repeatedly, including 1999 for saltwater and 2016 for freshwater. Because of these updates, the Salton Sea watershed selenium WQOs should also be updated, either by removing the site-specific objectives to ensure that USEPA criteria apply, or by developing new site-specific WQOs.</p> <p>The Basin Plan also lists a site-specific WQO for salinity at 35,000 mg/L, however it is stated in the same paragraph that this objective "may not be realistically achievable." Due to the Salton Sea's terminal nature, its salinity has reached nearly triple that value and will continue to rise. Staff recommend reevaluating this WQO.</p> <p>Chloride, a component of salinity, also concentrates at the Salton Sea. Because WQO for chloride are not listed in the Basin Plan, 304(a) aquatic life criteria apply, which are 860 mg/L for the acute criterion and 230 mg/L for the chronic criterion, both for freshwater. Chloride criteria for saltwater have not been established.</p> <p>Staff recommend developing site-specific WQOs for the Salton Sea and/or its tributaries for selenium, salinity, chloride, and/or other pollutants as necessary.</p> |
| Public Comments                  | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Status                           | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Type                             | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Basin Plan                       | Chapter 3, Section 3.C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Project Staff Resources          | 2.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Expected Completion by Dec. 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### Project 21: Protection of Exceptionally High-Quality Groundwater

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | <p>Although some groundwater aquifers within the Colorado River Basin Region contain exceptionally high concentrations of salinity or total dissolved solids, other aquifers contain exceptionally low concentrations.</p> <p>The State Water Board's <i>Antidegradation Policy</i> (Resolution 68-16, Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California) provides in relevant part that any degradation in water quality, even if otherwise consistent with water quality objectives, only be permitted to the extent that it will be to the maximum benefit to the people of the State of California.</p> <p>In furtherance of the <i>Antidegradation Policy</i>, Regional Water Board staff will evaluate whether the Basin Plan should be amended to establish an enhanced framework for evaluating whether a proposed discharge to exceptionally high-quality groundwater would be consistent with the <i>Antidegradation Policy</i>. Potential examples may include new beneficial uses, water quality objectives or other permitting limitations (e.g., discharge prohibition).</p> |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 3, Section IV                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

**Project 22: Site-Specific Objectives in Agricultural Areas**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | Agriculture is one of the largest land uses in the region and is mostly irrigated using the Colorado River. Due to existing soil conditions and the use of Colorado River water, there is an abundance of salts. The recommended aquatic freshwater standard is not adapted for this type of system making a site-specific numeric objective needed. This amendment would use data from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program to determine viable objectives for salts in areas where there is irrigated agriculture present. |
| Public Comments                      | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Type                                 | Basin Plan Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 3, Section III                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Project 23: Review of Established TMDLs**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description                          | TMDLs require periodic review after implementation plans have been in effect for some time. Many of the TMDLs included in the Basin Plan are 10-20 years old and should be updated to reflect new information, data, and water quality objectives. This project would review and update existing TMDLs to ensure that implementation plans are adequate to address impairments. This project was added at the request of the City of Coachella and will include the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Bacterial Indicators TMDL as requested. |
| Public Comments                      | City of Coachella                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Status                               | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Type                                 | TMDL Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Basin Plan                           | Chapter 4, Section V                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Projected Staff Resources            | 1.8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Expected Completion by December 2029 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Appendix C—2026 Triennial Review List Prioritization Ranking for Pending Projects**

| Project Title                                                                | Groundwater (15) | Salton Sea (10) | EJ or Tribal (10) | Completion (10) | Public Interest (10) | Time Sensitivity (10) | Impairments (5) | Beneficial Uses (5) | Total Score |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Adopt Secondary MCLs as Ground and Surface Water Quality Objectives          | 15               | 0               | 5                 | 5               | 5                    | 0                     | 0               | 5                   | 35          |
| Adopt Region-wide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria    | 0                | 5               | 5                 | 5               | 0                    | 0                     | 3               | 3                   | 21          |
| Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer | 0                | 0               | 5                 | 10              | 5                    | 5                     | 0               | 5                   | 30          |
| Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies                   | 0                | 5               | 10                | 5               | 5                    | 0                     | 0               | 5                   | 30          |
| Administrative Updates to the Basin Plan                                     | 0                | 0               | 0                 | 5               | 5                    | 0                     | 3               | 3                   | 16          |
| Imperial Valley Toxicity TMDL                                                | 0                | 5               | 10                | 5               | 5                    | 5                     | 5               | 5                   | 40          |
| OWTS Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality         | 15               | 5               | 5                 | 5               | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 3                   | 33          |

| Project Title                                                                                                                               | Groundwater (15) | Salton Sea (10) | EJ or Tribal (10) | Completion (10) | Public Interest (10) | Time Sensitivity (10) | Impairments (5) | Beneficial Uses (5) | Total Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Designate Beneficial Uses for Listed and Unlisted Waterbodies and Apply Beneficial Uses of Listed Waterbodies to Their Unlisted Tributaries | 10               | 5               | 5                 | 5               | 5                    | 0                     | 3               | 3                   | 36          |
| Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in the Indio Subbasin                                                                          | 15               | 5               | 5                 | 5               | 5                    | 10                    | 3               | 5                   | 53          |
| Colorado River Toxicity TMDL                                                                                                                | 0                | 5               | 5                 | 5               | 5                    | 0                     | 5               | 5                   | 30          |
| Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives                                                                                               | 0                | 10              | 5                 | 0               | 10                   | 0                     | 5               | 5                   | 35          |
| Protection of Exceptionally High-Quality Groundwater                                                                                        | 15               | 0               | 5                 | 5               | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 5                   | 30          |
| Site-Specific Objectives in Agricultural Areas                                                                                              | 10               | 10              | 5                 | 0               | 10                   | 5                     | 5               | 5                   | 50          |
| Review of Established TMDLs                                                                                                                 | 0                | 5               | 5                 | 0               | 10                   | 5                     | 5               | 5                   | 35          |

## Appendix D—2026 Ranked Triennial Review List

**Table 7. 2026 Triennial Review Ongoing Projects**

| Project No. | Project Title                                                                                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1           | Salton Sea Watershed, Alamo River Chloride and Indicator Bacteria TMDLs                                |
| 2           | Salton Sea Watershed, New River Ammonia TMDL                                                           |
| 3           | Salton Sea Dissolved Oxygen and Nutrients TMDLs                                                        |
| 4           | Salton Sea Watershed, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Ammonia, Dissolved Oxygen and Toxicity TMDLs |
| 5           | Imperial Valley Pyrethroid Pesticides TMDLs                                                            |
| 6           | Salton Sea Beneficial Use Review                                                                       |
| 7           | Beneficial Use Designation for Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats                                 |
| 8           | Designating COMM (Commercial and Sport Fishing) Beneficial Use in Applicable Regional Waters           |



**Table 8. 2026 Triennial Review Pending Projects Ranked**

| Rank | Project No. | Project Title                                                                                                                               |
|------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 18          | Groundwater Numeric Water Quality Objectives in the Indio Subbasin                                                                          |
| 2    | 22          | Site-Specific Objectives in Agricultural Areas                                                                                              |
| 3    | 14          | Imperial Valley Toxicity TMDL                                                                                                               |
| 4    | 16          | Designate Beneficial Uses for Listed and Unlisted Waterbodies and Apply Beneficial Uses of Listed Waterbodies to Their Unlisted Tributaries |
| 5    | 9           | Adopt Secondary MCLs as Ground and Surface Water Quality Objectives                                                                         |
| 5    | 20          | Salton Sea Watershed Site-Specific Objectives                                                                                               |
| 5    | 23          | Review of Established TMDLs                                                                                                                 |
| 6    | 15          | OWTS Prohibitions in Areas Where OWTS Pose a Threat to Water Quality                                                                        |
| 7    | 11          | Delineate Groundwater Beneficial Uses by Groundwater Subbasin and/or Aquifer                                                                |
| 7    | 12          | Designate Tribal Beneficial Uses for Specific Water Bodies                                                                                  |
| 7    | 19          | Colorado River Toxicity TMDL                                                                                                                |
| 7    | 21          | Protection of Exceptionally High-Quality Groundwater                                                                                        |
| 8    | 10          | Adopt Region-Wide Water Quality Objectives Based on USEPA 304(a) Criteria                                                                   |
| 9    | 13          | Administrative Updates to the Basin Plan                                                                                                    |

See Section 6 for ranking criteria and Appendix C for scoring.