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**Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

April 5, 2016

**Notice of CEQA Scoping Meeting**

*Regarding*

**Amendments of the Water Quality Control Plan for the  
Central Coastal Basin to Revise Beneficial Use Designations  
and to Make Editorial Changes**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek input on proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan). The purpose of the scoping meeting is to seek input from members of the public and public agencies on these proposed Basin Plan amendments and the scope of the environmental assessment.

Members of the public are invited to participate in the meeting. A quorum of Central Coast Water Board members may be present at the CEQA Scoping Meeting; however, the Central Coast Water Board will not be taking any action at the meeting.

**Time and Location of Meeting:**

**Date:** April 18, 2016 (Monday)  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Central Coast Water Board Hearing Room  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
**Phone:** (805) 549-3147

**Background**

The Basin Plan provides the foundation for water quality regulation and consists of water quality standards, including beneficial use designations, and control measures for surface waters and groundwaters within the Central Coastal Region of California. Central Coast Water Board staff received suggestions for changes to some beneficial use designations for specific waterbodies during the 2014 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. Staff reviewed the bases for the suggestions, and determined that some changes to beneficial use designations are warranted.

Additionally, comprehensive editorial changes of the Basin Plan are needed to correct some maps and figures, historical transcription errors, some regulatory citations, and to remove outdated language.

### **Project Description**

The proposed amendments include some with regulatory effect and some without regulatory effect as follows:

1. Regulatory amendments to revise beneficial use designations for specific waterbodies, and
2. Non-regulatory, editorial amendments to improve the clarity of the Basin Plan.

The regulatory portion of the proposed Basin Plan amendment consists of revising beneficial uses for ten surface waterbodies in six surface water hydrologic units.

The non-regulatory, editorial changes of the Basin Plan are needed to correct some maps and figures, historical transcription errors, some regulatory citations, and to remove outdated language. The need for these changes was described in the 2014 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. Further editorial changes are proposed by staff after a careful review of the Basin Plan, considering regulation and policy updates, and changes in terminology.

See pages three and four of this notice for more information on the proposed Basin Plan amendments.

### **CEQA Scoping Meeting and Public Workshop Purpose**

Pursuant to CEQA regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 3775 *et seq.*) the Central Coast Water Board must seek early public consultation through one or more scoping meetings. Scoping is an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of affected parties. Scoping is helpful to staff in identifying the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant or cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures to be considered prior to the decision-making process.

This meeting will provide participants with: 1) an explanation of the Basin Plan amendment project under development; 2) an opportunity for early public consultation on the Basin Plan amendment project; and 3) an opportunity for early public consultation on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis and environmental documentation for the project.

### **Proposed Schedule**

After the scoping meeting, staff will prepare a draft report (Substitute Environmental Document), including an environmental analysis of the project, the proposed Basin Plan amendments, and a completed environmental checklist. A 45-day written comment period will follow the release of the draft report. A public hearing to consider the Basin Plan amendment is tentatively scheduled for the July 28, 2016 meeting of the Central Coast Water Board.

### **Who Should Attend**

Public and private land owners, local, state, and federal, environmental groups, and water management agencies, and other groups or individuals interested in this project.

### **Contact Information**

Questions regarding CEQA scoping or the project should be directed to Steven G. Saiz at (805) 549-3879 or [Steve.Saiz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Steve.Saiz@waterboards.ca.gov). Also, individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact the Central Coast Water Board office at least five working days prior to the meeting.

**Amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin to  
Revise Beneficial Use Designations and to Make Editorial Changes**

*April 18, 2016 Scoping Meeting Information*

**Part 1. Regulatory Amendments of the Basin Plan:**

- Revise Beneficial Use Designations for Specific Waterbodies**

“Beneficial uses” are uses of waters of the state by humans and wildlife that should be protected from degradation in quality (CA Water Code section 13050(f)). Accurate and defensible beneficial use designations are important to ensure that the Basin Plan is a useful and credible document. Proposed Basin Plan amendments are shown in Table 1. Recreational and aquatic life beneficial uses of water are generally designated as presumptive uses under section 101(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act. Detailed rationale and support information will be provided in the staff report to justify the revised beneficial use designations.

**Table 1.** Proposed amendments (in red font) to Basin Plan Table 2-1, “Identified Uses of Inland Surface Waters.”

Hydrologic Unit	Waterbody Name	MUN	AGR	PRO	IND	GWR	REC-1	REC-2	WILD	COLD	WARM	MIGR	SPWN	BIOL	RARE	EST	FRESH	NAV	POW	COMM	AQUA	SAL	SHELL	ASBS	MAR
Big Basin (304)	Newell Creek	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X		X	X					
Bolsa Nueva (306)	<del>Los</del> Carneros Creek	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			X					
Salinas (309)	Old Salinas River Estuary, <u>downstream of Potrero Rd.</u>						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			X		
"	Tembladero Slough						X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X			X		
"	Salinas Reclamation Canal						X	X	X	X	X	X								X					
"	Gabilan Creek	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X					X					
"	<u>Old Salinas River</u>						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X					
"	Salinas River Lagoon (North)						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X					
Santa Maria (312)	Orcutt Creek	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X			X					
San Antonio (313)	Shuman Canyon Creek	X	X				X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X			X					
"	Casmalia Canyon Creek	X	X				X	X	X		X		X		X					X					
Santa Barbara (315)	Arroyo Paredon	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X					

<b>Part 2. Non-regulatory, Editorial Amendments of the Basin Plan:</b>
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Basin Plan Chapter 1

- Add Vision of Healthy Watersheds and Measurable Goals Language
- Revise Central Coast Region Map, Figure 1-1
- Delete 1988 Triennial Review Language

Basin Plan Chapter 2

- Revise Surface Waters Map and Table, Figure 2-1
- Revise Groundwater Basins Map and Table, Figure 2-2 and Table 2-4
- Correct Salinas River Beneficial Uses and Correct waterbody names in Table 2-1
- Correct Beneficial Use of Soda Lake
- Replace ASBS designations with BIOL

Basin Plan Chapter 3

- Correct references to Drinking Water Standards and remove outdated Tables 3-1 and 3-2
- Correct Table 3-3 footnote
- Correct Mercury Objective footnote in Tables 3-5 and 3-6
- Correct text referring to Table 3-7 Mean Water Quality Objectives

Basin Plan Chapter 4

- Remove reference to Road Spreading Policy
- Add list of Approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Basin Plan Chapter 5

- Remove unnecessary onsite wastewater systems language

Basin Plan Chapter 6

- Revise description of the GAMA program

All Chapters of the Basin Plan

- Revise use of “Basin” and “Subbasin” for surface and groundwaters
- Revise citations to Basin Plan Appendix
- Correct compound word and style inconsistencies
- Renumber headings
- Remove Table of Contents from Chapters 4 and 6
- Correct CCR Title 23 Chapter 15 Citations for solid wastes. (Regs are now in Title 27.)