
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND PUBLIC HEARING

2021 Triennial Review Workplan for the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Tulare Lake Basin

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board or Board) will hold a public hearing to adopt the Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plans). The Basin Plans cover all the watersheds of the Central Valley from the Oregon state border to the northern tip of Los Angeles County. The Basin Plans identify beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater, establish water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses, and describe an implementation plan to achieve the water quality objectives.

To meet requirements of section 303(c) of the federal Clean Water Act and Water Code section 13240, the Central Valley Water Board conducts the Triennial Review. The Triennial Review consists of solicitation for comments on water quality issues in the Central Valley that may need to be addressed through basin plan amendments and the preparation of a prioritized work plan for both Basin Plans which describes the actions the Central Valley Water Board may take over the next three years to investigate and respond to these issues.

The Board's Triennial Review solicitation process includes providing an opportunity for interested persons to provide written comments to the Board. After the Board receives public input, the Board develops and adopts a prioritized work plan that is used to direct basin planning efforts over the next three years. Though the list of issues raised through the public solicitation process typically far exceeds available resources, the Triennial Review helps the Board identify areas where the Board may pursue additional resources to address areas where existing resources are not sufficient. Implementation of the work plan depends upon the Board's program priorities, resources, and other mandates and commitments.

The Board uses information provided in the Triennial Review to prioritize basin planning activities, however the triennial review process does not itself amend the Basin Plans. The triennial review process also does not include consideration of waste discharge requirements, waivers of waste discharge requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, or other permitting matters.

The initial public comment period for the 2021 Triennial Review was 24 March 2021 to 10 May 2021. Board staff prepared a joint workplan (Workplan) that includes both Basin Plans, based on comments received in during the initial public comment period. The Workplan includes a review of Basin Plan Amendments since the 2018 Triennial Review, an overview of proposed projects, available Board resources, and project prioritization and ranking. Interested persons may [download the 2021 Triennial Review Workplan](#) in PDF format from the Central Valley Water Board's website at: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/triennialreviews/). Copies of the 2021 Triennial Review Workplan can also be obtained by contacting Robert L'Heureux at (916) 464-4736 or at Robert.LHeureux@waterboards.ca.gov.

More information on the Triennial Review process can be accessed at the [Central Valley Water Board's webpage on Triennial Reviews](#) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/triennialreviews.shtml).

The public hearing will be conducted during the February 2022 Central Valley Water Board meeting, which is tentatively scheduled as follows:

Date: 17 to 18 February 2022
(Please contact staff two weeks prior to the meeting for the exact date.)

Place: Virtually on Zoom and potentially in person at Cal/EPA Building
(More information will be available in the February 2022 Board Meeting Agenda.)

The [final meeting agenda](#) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) will be available online at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the hearing date for the proposed exemption resolution, indicate the anticipated order of agenda items, include all material related to this agenda item, and may include staff revisions.

The Board is inviting the public, stakeholders, California Native American Tribes, and representatives of other agencies to submit written comments on the 2021 Triennial Review Workplan from **6 December 2021** through **6 January 2022**.

Persons submitting written comments are encouraged to do so electronically by sending them to Robert.LHeureux@waterboards.ca.gov. Otherwise, written comments may be sent to:

Robert L'Heureux
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Materials received by **5:00 pm on 6 January 2022** will be included in the administrative record; submitted comments will be considered, and a written response to the comments will be prepared by Board staff.

At the hearing, Board staff will present a final recommendation for the Central Valley Water Board's consideration. All persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Central Valley Water Board at the hearing. Oral presentations will be limited to **3-minutes** at the discretion of the Board Chair. Groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson and to contact Robert L'Heureux at Robert.LHeureux@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 11 February 2022 if they anticipate requiring more than three minutes for oral comments. Persons making oral comments may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Central Valley Water Board members, counsel, staff, or others, at the discretion of the Board Chair. The Chair may, at his discretion, allow presenters to supplement their oral testimony with slides or other digital media. If you plan to use visual aids such as PowerPoint slides, contact staff prior to the meeting to arrange for equipment set-up. You must provide an electronic copy of any visual aids at least one day prior to the hearing.

Notice the [regulations governing adjudicatory hearings before the Central Valley Water Board](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq., and are available online. Copies of these regulations will be provided upon request. Except as provided in Section 648(b), Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedures Act (Gov. Code, section 11500 et seq.) does not apply to this hearing. For questions regarding the hearing procedure, please e-mail agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 464-3291.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

For Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer