

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

Public Notice 7-20-27
July 10, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

**In the matter of a Non-Regulatory Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan
for the Colorado River Basin Region to Update Bacteria Water Quality Objectives
for Waters Designated for Water Contact Recreation**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) will accept written comments and will hold a public hearing on the Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan), which is described below. The 30-day public comment period begins on **July 10, 2020** and ends on **August 10, 2020**. The Colorado River Basin Water Board intends to consider adopting the Proposed Amendment during a public hearing that will commence at the following date and time, by **video and teleconference only**:

Date:	September 3, 2020
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the public meeting will occur solely via remote presence. Links for the meetings, including a phone call option, will be posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Agendas](#).

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record.

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures](#).

BACKGROUND

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

protection of beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve water quality those objectives.

The Proposed Amendment is in response to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) adoption of new statewide bacteria objectives for coastal and non-coastal waters designated for water contact recreation (REC I). These numeric objectives are already effective statewide and supersede the objectives currently listed in the Basin Plan, except for site specific objectives and narrative water quality objectives. The updated objectives are based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) 2012 recommended Clean Water Act section 304(a) criteria for bacteria, and they are more protective of human health based on a risk protection level of 32 illnesses per 1,000 recreators.

The Proposed Amendment will amend the Basin Plan to reflect the new bacteria objectives established by the State Water Board, which will keep the Basin Plan current and improve clarity for all users. The Proposed Amendment will update the numeric bacteria water quality objectives for REC I in the Basin Plan, as well as make other administrative, non-regulatory changes, including adding a new beneficial use of limited contact recreation (LREC I) and moving the location site specific bacteria objectives for the Colorado River to a different section of the Basin Plan.

Staff is soliciting public input regarding the Proposed Amendment during the comment period noted at the beginning of this Notice. Written responses will be provided to comments received during the comment period.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments regarding this Proposed Order during the 30-day public comment period. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the Proposed Amendment are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **August 10, 2020**.

To submit comments electronically, please convert the signed original documents to Portable Document Format (PDF) and submit via email to Emma McCorkle at emma.mccorkle@waterboards.ca.gov using the subject line: "Comment Letter: Bacteria Basin Plan Amendment." Files larger than 50 MB will need to be transferred to a disk or USB drive and sent to the address for mailed comments. Hand deliveries and mailed comments should be sent to the address below:

Emma McCorkle, Environmental Scientist
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Written comments may also be faxed to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office at (760) 341-6820.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Draft versions of the Proposed Amendment, including Staff Report and Resolution, are available on the “Tentative Orders” page of the Colorado River Basin Water Board’s website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Tentative Orders](#).

Interested persons requiring a hard copy of the Proposed Amendment, Staff Report, or Resolution should contact Mary Castañeda at (760) 776-8945 or Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950.

ACCESSIBILITY

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or via email at hilda.vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castañeda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Emma McCorkle at (760) 340-4521. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.