
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE TULARE LAKE BASIN TO REMOVE THE MUNICIPAL AND DOMESTIC SUPPLY (MUN) AND AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY (AGR) BENEFICIAL USES FROM GROUNDWATER WITHIN A DESIGNATED HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL PORTION OF THE SOUTHERN LOST HILLS OILFIELD AND SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”) is seeking written public comments on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board’s (Central Valley Water Board) amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plan) that would remove MUN and AGR beneficial uses from groundwater within a horizontal and vertical designated portion of the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield (Basin Plan Amendment) and the supporting final Substitute Environmental Documentation (“SED”).

BACKGROUND

To ensure appropriate beneficial use protection, the Central Valley Water Board adopted the Basin Plan Amendment and approved the SED on June 10, 2022, by [Resolution No. R5-2022-0035](#).

The Central Valley Water Board adopted the amendment as part of a multi-year process under which it is evaluating the beneficial uses assigned to surface and groundwaters by the Regional Board's Basin Plans. As a part of that process, the Central Valley Water Board:

- Evaluated whether a portion of the groundwater in the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield actually supports the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use, and determined it is eligible for de-designation consistent with State Water Board [Resolution No. 88-63](#) (Sources of Drinking Water Policy).
- Evaluated whether a portion of the groundwater in the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield supports the Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial use and determined de-designation is appropriate.
- De-designated the MUN and AGR beneficial uses from groundwater in portions of the Southern Lost Hills where those beneficial uses have not been historically supported and/or where those beneficial uses are not currently supported.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A link to electronic copies of the [Basin Plan Amendment and SED](#) are available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/southern_lost_hills/

Alternatively, a copy of the Basin Plan Amendment and SED can also be received by mail by contacting Glenn Meeks at (916) 464-4701 or glenn.meeks@waterboards.ca.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING WRITTEN COMMENTS

Persons interested in the Basin Plan Amendment are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Comment letters must be received by **12:00 noon on October 15, 2022**. Comment letters received after that deadline will not be accepted unless the State Water Board determines otherwise.

Address comments to Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board. Please indicate in the subject line: "**Comment Letter – Southern Lost Hills Oilfield Basin Plan Amendment**".

Written comments may be submitted electronically in pdf format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size) to the Board Clerk via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in size, then the written comments may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted by hand delivery or mail to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-0100 (hand delivery)
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)

Couriers delivering written comments must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS

In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779, subdivision (f), the State Water Board may refuse to accept any comment that does not satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Comments must specifically address the final version of the Basin Plan Amendment adopted by the Central Valley Water Board.
2. If the Central Valley Water Board previously responded to a similar or identical comment, the commenter must explain why and in what manner the commenter believes each of the responses provided by the Central Valley Water Board to each comment was inadequate or incorrect.

3. The commenter also must include either a statement that each of the comments was timely raised before the Central Valley Water Board, or an explanation of why the commenter was unable to raise the specific comment before the Central Valley Water Board.

POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES TO THE NOTICED ITEM

Any change to the information noticed above will be provided via the State Water Board's email distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices must subscribe to the list serve e-mail distribution list by accessing the following [e-mail list subscription form](#):

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.html

To subscribe, select "Southern Lost Hills Oilfield Basin Plan Amendment".

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Glenn Meeks, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (916) 464-4701 or by e-mail at glenn.meeks@waterboards.ca.gov.

September 13, 2022

Date

Courtney Tyler

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board