



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT, NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, AND NOTICE OF FILING¹ OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

Proposed Action:

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 Area Within and Surrounding the Administrative Boundaries of the South Belridge, Monument Junction, and Cymric Oil Fields in Kern County Near McKittrick, California

Deadline for Written Comment: 31 October 2025

Central Valley Water Board Hearing Date:
11-12 December 2025

Staff Contact:

Jennifer Fuller
(916) 464-4646

Jennifer.Fuller@waterboards.ca.gov

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) is proposing an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plan) to remove the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) as beneficial uses of groundwater within a designated horizontal and vertical area in Kern County near the unincorporated community of McKittrick, California (proposed Basin Plan Amendment). The horizontal and vertical de-designation area is located within and surrounding the administrative boundaries of the South Belridge, Monument Junction, and Cymric Oil Fields (Proposed De-designation Zone). The proposed Basin Plan Amendment will have no effect on existing beneficial uses outside of the Proposed De-designation Zone.

Draft Staff Report for Public Comment

The Central Valley Water Board's Basin Planning Program is a certified regulatory program exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement

¹ Notice of Filing submitted under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779.

McKittrick Area Oil Fields Beneficial Use Evaluation Proposed Basin Plan Amendment
Notice of Opportunity to Comment, Public Hearing,
and Filing of Draft Environmental Documents

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to prepare an environmental impact report. (Public Resource Code, section 21080.5; California Code Regulations, title 14, section 15251(g)). In accordance with applicable State Water Resources Control Board-promulgated regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 6775 et seq.), the Draft Staff Report supporting the proposed Basin Plan Amendment constitutes the Substitute Environmental Document (SED).² The Draft Staff Report contains, among other things, an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. Notably, Central Valley Water Board staff have determined that the proposed Basin Plan Amendment will not result in any potential significant environmental impacts. Additionally, an External Peer Review of the scientific conclusions of the Draft Staff Report was conducted and the staff report includes a response to the peer review comments.

The Draft Staff Report also includes the language that is proposed to be amended into the Basin Plan, and the proposed location of that language in the Basin Plan.

The Draft Staff Report and External Peer Review have been posted on the Central Valley Water Board's webpage for the [McKittrick Area Oil Fields Beneficial Use Evaluation Basin Plan Amendment](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/basin_plans/mckittrick/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/basin_plans/mckittrick/).

A physical copy of the Draft Staff Report may also be obtained on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Central Valley Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114.

The Board is inviting the public, interested parties, and representatives of other agencies to submit written comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and Draft Staff Report from 16 September 2025 through 31 October 2025. Written comments must be submitted by 31 October 2025. Comments may be submitted via one of the following methods:

Email to: Jennifer.Fuller@waterboards.ca.gov
(Subject: "Comment Letter on McKittrick Area Oil Fields BPA")

Mail to: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn.: Jennifer Fuller – McKittrick Area Oil Fields BPA
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

² The Central Valley Water Board's Proposed Basin Plan Amendment is part of a "certified regulatory program" that is exempt from the procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251, subd. (g).)

All written comments on the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment and supporting Draft Staff Report must be received no later than the above deadline, though untimely submittals may be accepted for good cause at the Board Chair's discretion. Unless accepted for good cause, untimely written comments will be excluded from the administrative record. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3779, subd. (b).)

This Notice additionally serves as the "Notice of Filing" for purposes of California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779, subdivision (a).

Public Hearing on Basin Plan Amendment

The Central Valley Water Board has scheduled a hearing to receive oral comments on, and consider adoption of, the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment and the supporting Final Staff Report (SED). The hearing will take place at the date, time and place below:

Date: 11-12 December 2025 (specific day to be determined³)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Online Meeting
AND
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Office
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Prior to the hearing, Central Valley Water Board staff will prepare a Final Staff Report that includes responses to timely written comments. The Proposed Basin Plan Amendment may also be revised based on input received during the comment period.

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will provide members of the public, interested parties, and representatives of other agencies the opportunity to present oral comments on the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment and the Final Staff Report (SED). The Central Valley Water Board will consider all timely comments concerning the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment and Draft/Final Staff Report, along with any Central Valley Water Board staff responses to written comments on the Draft Staff Report.

Oral comments at the hearing need not be limited in scope to those issues already raised during the public comment period. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3779, subd. (c).) However, comments/presentations will be limited to three minutes, subject to extensions at the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board Chair. If a group will require more than three minutes, the group is strongly encouraged to designate a spokesperson and

³ The hearing day will be specified in the Meeting Agenda, which will be posted [online](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings) at least 10 days beforehand.

to contact Jennifer Fuller by email at Jennifer.Fuller@waterboards.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 464-4646 requesting additional time for comments/presentations no later than 10 working days prior to the meeting.

All exhibits presented at the hearings, including charts, graphs, and other testimony, must be left with the Central Valley Water Board and will become part of the administrative record for the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment.

Review of Public File

The entire public file for the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment, including the Draft Staff Report and all appendices thereto, shall be available for inspection at the Central Valley Water Board's office in Rancho Cordova (address above). Interested persons should email Jennifer Fuller at Jennifer.Fuller@waterboards.ca.gov to schedule an appointment for inspection.

Accommodations for Disabilities

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call 916-464-4839 at least 10 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Translation and Interpretation Services

This hearing will be offered in English. To request translation of written documents, interpretation services in another language, or sign language services, please use one of the following options no later than 10 working days prior to the meeting:

- Submit an online language services request: [Language Access Form](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=JWoY_kl95kGZQQXSKB02wfWJjdV-pFxAojdV9OV8IE9UM0dPUTeYRk03QIBBTfG1VUo3MjIUUTgwNCQIQCNOPWcu&route=shorturl)
(https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=JWoY_kl95kGZQQXSKB02wfWJjdV-pFxAojdV9OV8IE9UM0dPUTeYRk03QIBBTfG1VUo3MjIUUTgwNCQIQCNOPWcu&route=shorturl)
- Call the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs at (916) 341-5254; or
- Email the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs at opp_languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Staff Contact

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment, or would like to obtain a copy of the Draft Staff Report, please contact **Jennifer Fuller** by email at Jennifer.Fuller@waterboards.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 464-4646. Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Adam Laputz,
Assistant Executive Officer