
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF FILING OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

Proposed Action:

Amendment to Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Removing Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) as Beneficial Uses of Groundwater within Portion of Southern Lost Hills Oilfield within the Lower Member of the Tulare Formation and the Etchegoin Formation

Deadline for Written Comment:

9 May 2022

Hearing Date:

9-10 June 2022

Staff Contact:

Glenn Meeks
(209) 603-4056

Glenn.Meeks@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 Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) as designated beneficial uses of groundwater within a portion of the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield (Project Area). The proposed de-designation is further vertically delimited to the Lower Member of the Tulare Formation and the Etchegoin Formation, which is referred to in three-dimensional terms as the Project Zone. The proposed Basin Plan Amendment will have no effect on existing beneficial uses outside of the Project Zone, as described above.

Draft Staff Report for Public Comment

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).¹ 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.

The Draft Staff Report, sans appendices, has been posted on the Central Valley Water Board's webpage for the [Southern Lost Hills Oilfield Basin Plan Amendment](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/southern_lost_hills) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/southern_lost_hills).² A physical copy of the report and appendices 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, stakeholders, and representatives of other agencies to submit written comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and Draft Staff Report from 25 March 2022 through 9 May 2022. Written comments must be submitted by 6 May 2022. Comments may be submitted via one of the following methods:

Email to: Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov
(Subject: "Comment Letter on Southern Lost Hills Oilfield BPA")

Mail to: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn.: Glenn Meeks – Southern Lost Hills Oilfield BPA
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

All written comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and 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).)

¹ 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).)

² For accessibility reasons, appendices to the Draft Staff Report cannot be posted on the internet at this time. These materials will be promptly provided upon request via email to Glenn Meeks (Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov).

This Notice serves as the “Notice of Filing” for purposes of California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 6779, 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: 9-10 June 2022 (specific day to be determined³)
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Online Meeting
AND
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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 Board will provide members of the public, stakeholders, and representatives of other agencies the opportunity to present oral comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and the Final Staff Report (SED). The Board will consider all timely comments concerning the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and Draft/Final Staff Report, along with any 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 Board Chair. If a group will require more than three minutes, the group is strongly encouraged to designate a spokesperson and to contact [Glenn Meeks](mailto:Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov) (Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov) requesting additional no later than 26 May 2022.

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.

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All exhibits presented at the hearings, including charts, graphs, and other testimony, must be left with the Board and will become part of the administrative record.

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 [Glenn Meeks](mailto:Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov) (Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov) to schedule an appointment for inspection.

Accommodations for Disabilities

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call 916-464-4839 at least 5 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 Services

Individuals requiring language translation services are requested to contact Ms. Mindy Maxwell at (916) 464-4839 at least 14 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.

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 **Glenn Meeks** via telephone at (209) 603-4056, or via email at Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov.

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

Original Signed By Adam Laputz

Adam Laputz,
Assistant Executive Officer
25 March 2022

Comment Deadline
9 May 2022

Hearing Date
9-10 June 2022