

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

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

Public Notice 7-22-29
March 9, 2022

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

Proposed Action:

Amendment to Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin,
Establishing a Total Maximum Daily Load and Implementation Plan
for Organophosphate and Organochlorine Compounds
in Imperial Valley Waters

Deadline for Written Comments:

April 25, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board or Board) will accept written and oral comments, hold a public workshop, and hold a separate public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan), establishing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Implementation Plan for Organophosphate (OP) and Organochlorine (OC) Compounds in Imperial Valley surface waters. More information on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment is provided below.

INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public workshop to provide information and receive oral comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. The workshop will take place at the following date, time and location:

Date: April 12, 2022
Time: 9:00 am
Location: 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100,
Palm Desert, California 92260

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the workshop and/or the subsequent public hearing (written comments may be submitted until April 25, 2022). Although there may be a quorum of Board members present, **no actions will be taken at the workshop.**

The workshop shall be conducted in accordance with the General Meeting Rules and Procedure for Informational Items as specified in the Board's [Meeting Procedures](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf). (See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 649 et seq.)

At the workshop, oral presentations will be limited to **three minutes per speaker**, with extensions granted at the discretion of the Board Chair. To ensure accuracy of the record, the Board requests that speakers provide a written copy of their comments before or during the hearing, to the extent possible.

ADOPTION HEARING

Following the public workshop, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will conduct a separate hearing on whether to adopt the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. This hearing shall take place at the following date, time and location:

Date: May 10, 2022
Time: 9:00 am
Location: 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92260

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will be presented with a Tentative Resolution for adoption. An unnumbered draft of this resolution has been posted online for public review.

The hearing on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment shall be conducted in accordance with the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Procedure for Contested Agenda Items that are quasi-legislative matters, as specified in the Board's [Meeting Procedures](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf). (See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 649 et seq.)

At the hearing, oral presentations will be limited to **three minutes per speaker**, with extensions granted at the discretion of the Board Chair. To ensure accuracy of the record, the Board requests that speakers provide a written copy of their comments before or during the hearing, to the extent possible.¹

¹ Written copies of oral comments at the hearing shall not constitute "written comments" for the purposes of California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779, subdivision (b) and (d).

OPPORTUNITY FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the public will have the opportunity to participate remotely in the workshop (April 12, 2022) and hearing (May 10, 2022), via the ZOOM teleconferencing platform. If you intend to speak at either meeting, you will need ZOOM access.

Please refer to the Colorado River Basin Water Board's [Remote Meetings](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting) page (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting) for instructions on remote participation via ZOOM. These meetings will also be livestreamed via [Cal-Span](http://www.cal-span.org) (www.cal-span.org).

PROPOSED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT

Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (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 (WQOs) for protection of beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve WQOs.

The proposed Basin Plan Amendment was developed in response to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) adoption of toxicity, chemical constituents, and pesticide wastes objectives for all Imperial Valley waters. A review of collected water quality data from Imperial Valley waters indicates the presence of organophosphate (OP) and organochlorine (OC) compounds in various environmental compartments. To address these impairments, numeric targets for water, fish, and sediment were selected to protect benthic and aquatic organisms, and wildlife from potentially harmful effects (toxicity) associated with OP and OC compounds. Numeric targets are based on toxicity guidelines of pollutants outlined in other federal and state regulations, plans, and policies, and published peer reviewed scientific reports as screening values.

The proposed Basin Plan Amendment language is set forth in "Attachment A" to the unnumbered Draft Resolution posted online.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq., and applicable State Water 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).

The Draft Staff Report contains, among other things, an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Basin Plan Amendment. Notably, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff have determined that the proposed Basin Plan Amendment will not result in any potential significant environmental impacts.

This document serves as the “Notice of Filing” for purposes of California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 6779, subdivision (a).

At the hearing on May 10, 2022, the Final Staff Report will be included as “Attachment B” to the Tentative Resolution presented to the Colorado River Basin Water Board for adoption. The Final Staff Report will

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments regarding the proposed Basin Plan Amendment and Draft Staff Report during a 45-day public comment period ending on **April 25, 2022**.

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).)

To submit comments electronically, please convert the signed original documents to Portable Document Format (PDF) and submit via email to **Lauren Briggs** at lauren.briggs@waterboards.ca.gov using the subject line: “Comment Letter: OP-OC 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:

Lauren Briggs, 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

The proposed Basin Plan Amendment, Draft Staff Report and Draft Resolution are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board’s [Tentative Orders](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders) page (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders).

To obtain physical copies of these materials, please contact **Mary Castañeda** at (760) 776-8945 or **Hilda Vasquez** at (760) 776-8950.

ACCESSIBILITY

If any disabled persons require special accommodations to participate in a scheduled public meeting, contact **Hilda Vasquez** at (760) 776-8950 or Hilda.Vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov at least ten (10) working days prior to the meeting.

If interpreter services are needed, contact Mary Castañeda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least ten (10) working days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Lauren Briggs** at (760) 313-1291.