Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMNETAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin to Revise and Clarify Existing Language Related to Salt Management and the Recycled Water Policy

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region ("Santa Ana Water Board") will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting regarding a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan). The proposed project seeks to amend the Basin Plan to revise and clarify existing language in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 related to salt management and updates to the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Recycled Water Policy.

Members of the public are invited to participate in the meeting. The scoping meeting will provide participants with the opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) that will be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251(g), and title 23, section 3777 for the proposed Basin Plan amendment.

The CEQA scoping meeting will be held on the following date and time, in person and virtually:

DATE:	**December 2, 2026**
TIME:	**11:00 a.m.**
LOCATION:	**Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority** **11615 Sterling Ave** **Riverside, CA 92503**

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Meeting Access Via Computer (Zoom):	
https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/87874194309?pwd=wZq0jjmaGcEwBBnIau6Dbm5qTzjmUy.1	
Meeting Access Via Telephone: 1(669) 900-9128	
Meeting ID: 878 7419 4309	Meeting Password: 117171

The purpose of the scoping meeting is for Santa Ana Water Board staff to seek input from public agencies and members of the public on the range of project actions and alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant and cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures, if any, to be analyzed prior to the decision-making process on the proposed Basin Plan amendment. Comments received regarding the scope and content of environmental issues will be considered in the SED that will be prepared for the proposed Basin Plan amendment. Scoping may also assist the Santa Ana Water Board in resolving concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies and other interested persons. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775.5.) During the CEQA scoping meeting, Santa Ana Water Board staff will provide an overview of the SED process and the proposed Basin Plan amendment. Santa Ana Water Board staff will then solicit questions and written and verbal comments from the public regarding potential alternatives for the proposed Basin Plan amendment, potential significant environmental impacts, and mitigation measures for the proposed amendment that should be considered as part of the decision-making process. No formal action by the Santa Ana Water Board will be taken at the CEQA Scoping meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Ana Water Board has proposed a Basin Plan amendment to revise and clarify language in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 of the existing Basin Plan. The Basin Plan amendment makes clarifying changes within the Basin Plan related to Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) that are consistent with updates to the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy. Key revisions include, but are not limited to, clarifying objectives for Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) and TDS for Reach 2 and Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River. Additional revisions include defining when baseflow conditions apply for TDS and TIN as well as administrative clarifications to the assessment process to meet existing TDS and TIN compliance requirements within the Basin Plan. It is anticipated that the Basin Plan amendment would be considered for adoption by the Santa Ana Water Board in early 2027.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Santa Ana Water Board will accept oral comments immediately following the CEQA scoping meeting and written comments. Persons wishing to submit written comments are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than 12:00 p.m. on December 10, 2026.

Interested persons may submit written comments electronically to Lauren Hubbell at Lauren.Hubbell@waterboards.ca.gov using the subject line: "**Comment Letter: CEQA Scoping: Salt Management BPA.**"

Alternatively, comments may be submitted by hand delivery and mailed to:

Santa Ana Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Lauren Hubbell
3737 Main Street, Suite 500 Riverside CA
92501-3348

Santa Ana Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to comments received at this meeting or to written comments submitted. However, Santa Ana Water Board staff will address all significant environmental impacts in the draft and final environmental documents.

LANGUAGE SERVICES
This meeting 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 at least 10 business days before the meeting, if possible:

- Submit a Language Services Request online (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/language-access.html)

- Contact the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA) at: (916) 341-5254 or at: LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov.

ACCESSIBILITY
Telecommunications Devises for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For questions regarding the CEQA scoping meeting or the proposed project, please contact Lauren Hubbell, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (951) 320-6375, or by e-mail at Lauren.Hubbell@waterboards.ca.gov

FUTURE NOTICES
Any change in the date, time, and place of the scoping meeting will be publicly noticed through GovDelivery e-mail list and on the Santa Ana Water Board's Public Notice webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/public_notices/public_notices.html).

Any person desiring to receive future notices regarding the Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 Salt Management Basin Plan amendment should sign up on the GovDelivery e-mail list by Subscribing to our Electronic Mailing List and selecting "Salt and Nutrient Management Plan" in the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board section on the subscription webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg8_subscribe.html)