

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
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Public Notice 7-23-14
Revised Notice Date: January 17, 2023

**REVISED: COMMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION
INFORMATION PROVIDED**

NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING MEETINGS

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION ESTABLISHING TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY
LOADS FOR NUTRIENT IMPAIRMENTS AND LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN IN THE
SALTON SEA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) staff will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to discuss the development of a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan). The proposed Basin Plan Amendment (Project) would establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for low dissolved oxygen and nutrient impairments within the Salton Sea. Once adopted, these TMDLs would be incorporated into Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan.

This scoping meeting will provide participants with opportunities to comment on: (1) the scope of the proposed Basin Plan Amendment; and (2) the scope and content of the “functionally equivalent” Substitute Environmental Document (SED) to be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251, subdivision (g) and title 23, section 3777.

IN-PERSON MEETING

A CEQA scoping meeting will be held at the following date and time in person:

Date: January 31, 2023
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Coachella Valley Water District Coachella Office
51501 Tyler Street
Coachella, CA 92236

VIRTUAL MEETING

A second CEQA scoping meeting will be held at the following date and time, by video and teleconference:

Revised Notice of CEQA Scoping Meeting

Date: February 2, 2023
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference
Meeting ID: 993 9771 1444
Passcode: 331518

To join the Zoom meeting, you may use the [Direct Meeting Link](#), or enter the meeting ID and passcode provided above in the Zoom app, in a web browser at <https://zoom.us/join>, or over the phone at +1 669 444 9171.

BACKGROUND

The Basin Plan is the Colorado River Basin Water Board's guiding document for preserving and enhancing water quality in the region for the protection of beneficial uses for present and future generations. The Basin Plan specifies beneficial uses of groundwaters and surface waters, water quality objectives (WQOs) for protection of such uses, and implementation programs to achieve WQOs.

The Salton Sea is listed on section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), also known as the 303(d) List, for several pollutants including nutrient impairments and low-dissolved oxygen, exceeding WQOs and impairing the beneficial uses of the water body.

Pursuant to section 303(d) of the CWA, the State of California is required to develop TMDLs to address impairments of surface waterbodies and submit the TMDLs to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for approval. This Project would address the above impairments in the Salton Sea with the development of TMDLs for these pollutants.

The Salton Sea is a closed basin lake with inflows primarily from agricultural drainage from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. The Salton Sea is impaired by excessive nutrient loading which results in low dissolved oxygen, high ammonia levels, and foul odors. Nutrients are discharged into the Salton Sea from agricultural and municipal waste sources in Mexico and the U.S. Because the Salton Sea has no outlet, salts concentrate, and nutrients enhance eutrophic conditions. Low oxygen concentrations lead to decreasing fish populations. Nutrient inputs into the Salton Sea must be managed and addressed in any meaningful restoration scenarios.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the scoping meeting is for Colorado River Basin Water Board staff to seek inputs 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. Scoping may also assist the Colorado River Basin Water Board in resolving concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies and other interested persons. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775.5.).

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written and oral comments. Staff will solicit oral comments at the CEQA scoping meeting. Persons wishing to submit written comments are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **5:00 pm on February 13, 2023 (previously February 10, 2023.)**

Interested persons may submit written comments via email to Hajer Dawoody at hajer.dawoody@waterboards.ca.gov, with the subject line: "**Comment Letter: CEQA Scoping Salton Sea TMDL.**" Hand deliveries and mailed comments should be sent to the following address:

Hajer Dawoody
Engineering Geologist
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.

Colorado River Basin Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to comments received at this meeting or to written comments submitted during the comment period. However, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff will address all significant environmental impacts in the draft and final environmental documents.

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this workshop, please contact CJ Jasieniecki via email CJ.Jasieniecki@Waterboards.ca.gov at least fourteen days prior the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1 (800) 735- 2929 or voice line at 1 (800) 735-2922.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Hajer Dawoody** at (760) 313-1293 or by email at hajer.dawoody@waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

PROJECT VICINITY MAP: SALTON SEA WATERSHED

