



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING, AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin to Designate Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL) and Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM) Beneficial Uses to Certain Waters of the Central Valley Region

15 May 2026

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will hold a staff workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting¹ to seek early input on the development and potential environmental impacts of proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins Plan) and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Tulare Lake Basin Plan) to designate Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL) and Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM) beneficial uses for certain waters in the Central Valley.

During the meeting Central Valley Water Board staff will solicit comments on workshop materials and will consider this information prior to the decision-making process. Written comments will also be accepted following the meeting.

The Central Valley Water Board invites the public to submit comments regarding scoping elements. Written comments will be accepted through June 15th, 2026. Written comments received after the deadline may not be considered. Please see “How to submit written comments” below.

Meeting Information:

Participants may attend the CEQA scoping meeting either in person or remotely by registering at the link provided below.

The meeting will be held at the following location and time:

¹ Prior to circulating a draft Substitute Environmental Document, the Central Valley Water Board is required to seek early public consultation pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3775.5. Early public consultation may include one or more scoping meetings.

CEQA Scoping Meeting:
Proposed CUL and COMM Beneficial Use
Designations in Certain Water of the Central Valley

15 April 2026

15 May 2026

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Free parking is available, and the Board building is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Upon arrival, please check in at the front desk.

If you would like to attend this meeting in-person, please indicate this by emailing: RB5S-TBU@waterboards.ca.gov by Wednesday, May 13th, 2026.

Remote Meeting Instructions:

Pre-registration is required for remote participation. If you plan on attending remotely, please register by clicking on the [Zoom registration link](#):
https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_19v2Zix-Qh6CCnMWE4u_Dw

TO COMMUNICATE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING (VIA ZOOM):

If you need to participate and communicate with the meeting facilitator or need an enhanced video/audio connection during the meeting, please email:
RB5S-TBU@waterboards.ca.gov

Background:

The Central Valley Water Board is the agency responsible for regulating water quality in California's Central Valley region. The Central Valley Water Board carries out its work in accordance with two water quality control plans (Basin Plans): the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basin Plan and the Tulare Lake Basin Plan. Each Basin Plan identifies the waters of those basins, the beneficial uses designated to those waters, water quality objectives to ensure reasonable protection of those beneficial uses, and policies and plans for implementation thereof. The Central Valley Water Board recognized the need to designate Tribal Beneficial Uses (TBUs), where appropriate, during its December 2018 Joint Triennial Review of its Basins Plans. TBUs are water quality designations that recognize and protect the vital relationships between California Native American tribes and water. These uses are central to the health, identity, and sovereignty of tribal communities, supporting cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, and traditional lifeways that have existed since time immemorial and continue today.

On 18 February 2022, the Central Valley Water Board adopted the TBU definitions into the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins Plan and the Tulare Lake Basin

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15 April 2026

Plan. The Central Valley Water Board is now initiating consideration of Basin Plan amendments (BPAs) to designate the CUL and COMM beneficial uses in high quality surface waterbodies in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watershed and the Tulare Lake watershed.

The proposed BPA will also designate Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM) in the same waterbodies being proposed for CUL designation because there is overlap between these two categories of uses.

If the proposed BPAs are adopted and the CUL and COMM beneficial use designations are added to the Basin Plans, future Board actions to authorize discharges of waste and otherwise regulate water quality will include requirements intended to protect those designated CUL and COMM uses.

Additional information regarding this project will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at:

[\(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/tribal_beneficial_uses/\)](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/tribal_beneficial_uses/)

Purpose of CEQA Scoping:

The purpose of CEQA is to identify significant adverse environmental impacts, if any, associated with a particular action carried out or approved by a public agency (in this case, adoption of the proposed Basin Plan amendments), and how to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. CEQA scoping is an effective way to identify and resolve concerns of affected public agencies and interested persons. This meeting will provide participants with:

- 1) an explanation and understanding of the proposed Basin Plan amendments under development;
- 2) an opportunity to comment on the proposed Basin Plan amendments; and
- 3) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the proposed amendments and environmental documents to be prepared pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the Central Valley Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, section 3775 et seq.).

Accordingly, the CEQA scoping meeting will help Central Valley Water Board staff in developing the proposed Basin Plan amendments; identifying what, if any significant, unintended adverse environmental impacts could occur; and identifying alternatives that could reduce or minimize any significant, unintended adverse environmental impacts.

Who Should Attend:

Interested members of the public and representatives of responsible agencies, trustee agencies, other state, federal, and local agencies, environmental groups, Native American tribes, and any other interested persons or entities.

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How to Submit Written Comments:

Written comments on workshop materials will be accepted through June 15th, 2026. Please submit written comments to Sajleen Phagura at RB5S-TBU@waterboards.ca.gov or:

Attn: Sajleen Phagura
Central Valley Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Central Valley Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to each individual comment received but will incorporate written responses to all significant environmental points in the report that will be publicly available for review and comment on the Central Valley Water Board's Basin Plan Program website.

Procedural Matters

Participation will be hybrid, either remote via an online hosted platform (Zoom) or in-person (with RSVP). The presentation slides will be shared via video conferencing and available by request following the meeting. Questions, comments, and discussion items will be received during the meeting.

RSVP Required for In-Person Participation

If you would like to participate in person, please respond to Sajleen Phagura at RB5S-TBU@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 464-4700 by May 13th, 2026.

Registration Required for Virtual Participation

Pre-registration is required for remote participation. If you plan on attending remotely, please register by clicking on the [Zoom registration link](https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_19v2Zix-Qh6CCnMWE4u_Dw):
https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_19v2Zix-Qh6CCnMWE4u_Dw

Language Services:

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, if possible:

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- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.

Liên hệ chúng tôi để yêu cầu thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਭ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

请联系我们，以您的语言获取相关信息。

Accessibility:

Users of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or the teletype (TTY) voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Any person who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5254, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting.

Future Notices:

Central Valley Water Board staff will hold the meeting at the time, place, and link identified above. Any changes will be noticed through the “Tribal Beneficial Uses” e-mail distribution list. To receive future notices about the Basin Plan amendments please visit the Central Valley Water Board’s [Tribal Beneficial Uses email subscription list website](#), enter the subscriber’s email address, and then select “submit.”

Contact Information:

For questions regarding the meeting or proposed Basin Plan amendments please contact Sajleen Phagura at RB5S-TBU@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 464-4700.

Daniel Ellis Digitally signed by Daniel Ellis
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Water Boards

Daniel Ellis, Environmental Program Manager