
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Evaluation of Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in the Southern Portion of the Lost Hills Oilfield – Notice of Online Public Workshop and California Environmental Quality Act Public (CEQA) Scoping Meeting

30 November 2020
9:00AM to 12:00 PM

Video and Teleconference Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency: *As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, this meeting will occur solely via remote presence.*

How to Attend This Meeting:

REMOTE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Control click on the following links to get instructions on how to join meeting via computer or phone:

[Joining Meeting Via Computer](#)

[Joining Meeting via Phone](#)



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-SouthernLostHillsProjectComments@Waterboards.ca.gov** for further instructions on how to obtain a Zoom Meeting ID and Password.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will hold an online public workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to discuss and solicit comments and suggestions from the public regarding a proposal to:

- Evaluate the appropriate designation of the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use and application of the State Water Resources Control

KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Board Sources of Drinking Water Policy (Resolution 88-63) in determining the appropriateness of the MUN beneficial use of groundwater in the southern portion of the Lost Hills Oilfield within the Lower Tulare and Etchegoin Formations.

- Evaluate the appropriate designation of the Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial use and application of various maximum salinity threshold concentrations used for AGR beneficial uses to determine the appropriateness of the AGR beneficial use designation of groundwater in the southern portion of the Lost Hills Oilfield within the Lower Tulare and Etchegoin Formations.
- Amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Tulare Lake Basin Plan) as appropriate for MUN and AGR beneficial use for groundwater in the southern portion of the Lost Hills Oilfield within the Lower Tulare and Etchegoin Formations.

This MUN and AGR beneficial use evaluation is one phase of a larger effort to develop a systematic procedure for addressing the appropriate protection of all applicable beneficial uses in the areas of the Central Valley Water Board's Basin Plans.

BACKGROUND:

As with all surface waters and groundwater within the Central Valley Region, groundwater within the Tulare Lake Basin, is designated to have both MUN and AGR beneficial use, unless specifically de-designated by a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA). The Central Valley Water Board recognized the need for evaluating appropriate MUN and other beneficial uses, such as AGR, during its March 2010 Tulare Lake Basin Triennial Review. In addition, the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative also identified the need to evaluate the level of protection of MUN and AGR beneficial use as an essential activity of the CV-SALTS initiative to find solutions to the salt problem in the Central Valley.

Seneca Resources (Seneca) operates four underground injection wells in the southern portion of the Lost Hills Oilfield in Kern County within the Tulare Lake Basin (See Figures 1 and 2). The wells receive produced water from adjacent production wells completed in the Reef Ridge and Monterey Formations and inject that produced water into the Lower Tulare and Etchegoin Formations under permit from the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). The receiving water has total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration exceeding 10,000 mg/L and is not considered an underground source of drinking water (USDW) under Federal regulations.

Although the subject groundwater is not considered a USDW by Federal definition, as indicated above, the groundwater is designated to have MUN and AGR beneficial uses. Seneca has requested to have the Central Valley Water Board evaluate the study area and consider the removal of MUN and AGR beneficial uses from the groundwater in the southern portion of the Lost Hills Oilfield, within the Lower Tulare and Etchegoin Formations.

Additional information regarding this study and proposed amendment is available at the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at:

PUBLIC SCOPING/EARLY CONSULTATION MEETING PURPOSE:

This meeting will provide participants with: (1) Background on previous work conducted on evaluating appropriate beneficial uses, application of Resolution 88-63 with regards to MUN beneficial use designation; (2) background on evaluating AGR beneficial use designation based on existing groundwater quality and maximum salinity concentrations in literature shown to be appropriate for the various AGR uses; (3) an overview of conditions in the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield study area; (4) the opportunity to comment, not limited to the potential alternatives that have been identified to evaluate the MUN and AGR beneficial uses in the groundwater within the southern portion of the Lost Hills Oilfield study area, but any comments on other potential alternatives, significant impacts, and/or mitigation measures; and (5) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the proposed amendment 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.).

Written comments should be submitted no later than 12:00PM 30 November 2020 to Glenn Meeks (contact information provided below) or during meeting to:

RB5S-SouthernLostHillsProjectComments@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Written comments and comments provided at the workshops will be reviewed and considered to draft recommendations for Basin Plan Amendments and draft staff report for Central Valley Water Board's consideration in 2021. All comments will be included in the final administrative record.

ONLINE CEQA SCOPING MEETING TIME AND LOCATIONS:

**Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting
30 November 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
No Physical Meeting Location
Video and Teleconference Meeting Only**

<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/96401497760?pwd=a1k5ZVdGVG1JblBBUnJrN1ZDS1poUT09>

Individuals requiring special accommodations or language translation services are requested to contact Glenn Meeks at (916) 464-4701 **at least 14 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Questions regarding this issue should be directed to Glenn Meeks at (916) 464-4701 or

glenn.meeks@waterboards.ca.gov. To continue receiving notifications regarding this Basin Plan amendment, you must subscribe to the "Southern Lost Hills Oilfield MUN and AGR Beneficial Use Evaluation" mailing list through our webpage or complete the attached form and return it to:

Glenn Meeks
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Persons wishing to subscribe to the electronic mailing list can do so through our website by clicking on the "Subscribe" button on the right side of our webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml

This Notification only applies to the issue described in the enclosed notice. If you are not interested in this issue, do nothing and you will remain on the Basin Plan mailing list for future amendments.

Name:

Affiliation:

Address:

Phone Number(s):

E-mail:

- Please send notifications to my postal address.
- Please send notifications to my e-mail address.
- Please remove duplicates from your database, I have received multiple paper notifications.
- No, I am not interested in these issues but would like to remain on the Basin Plan mailing list.
- You can send notifications to my e-mail address.
- Continue sending notifications to my postal address.
- No, I am not interested in Basin Plan Amendments; please remove me from this mailing list.

Please bring the above information to the attention of those who may be interested.

Original digitally signed by Adam Laputz

Adam Laputz, Assistant Executive Officer

Figure 1
Map of Project Study Area

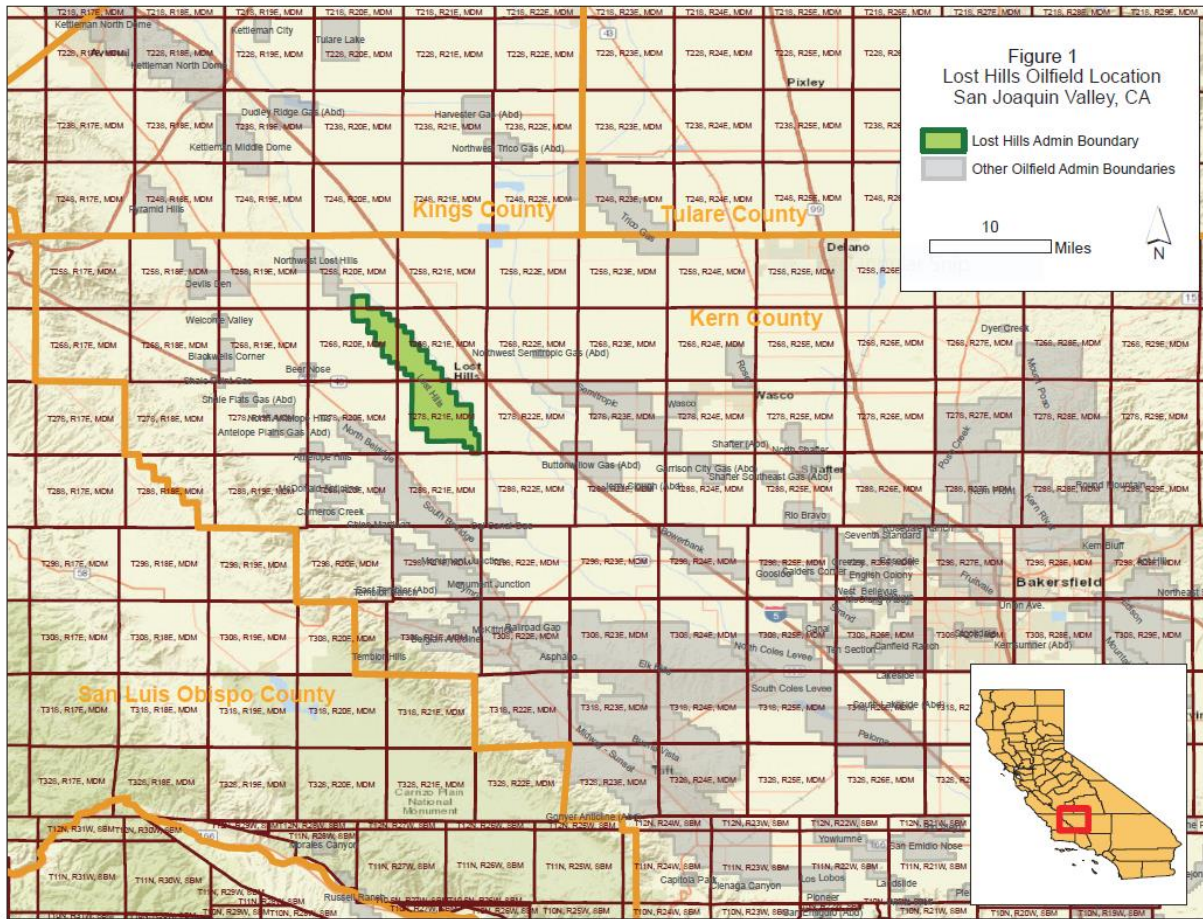


Figure 2 – Proposed De-designation Study Area

