
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AGENDA

Meeting Information

Date: October 13, 2026

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Colorado River Basin Water Board's Boardroom
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, California 92260

Remote Participation Options:

***Video and Teleconference Options:** This meeting will occur with both a physical meeting location and an option to participate from a remote location.*

- *For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the meeting will be livestreamed via Cal-Span <https://cal-span.org> this option should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.*
- *For members of the public who wish to comment on an agenda item or are presenting to the Board, additional information about participating telephonically or via the Board's online platform is available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting/*

MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Items are numbered for identification purposes only; the Colorado River Basin Water Board may consider items out of their listed order. General information concerning meeting procedures is included at the end of the agenda.

Tentative orders, resolutions and other materials under consideration for adoption at this meeting are posted to the Colorado River Basin Water Board's [Tentative Orders](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders) page (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders).

Preliminary Matters

- 1. Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance and Determination of Quorum (Roll Call)**
- 2. Public Forum**

At this time, any person may address the Board regarding any matter within the Board's jurisdiction that is not related to an item on this meeting agenda, has not been scheduled to appear on a future agenda, and is not a pending adjudicatory matter before the Board. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes, subject to an extension at the Board Chair's discretion.

- 3. Approval of Minutes for Prior Meeting(s)**

Minutes of Board Meeting on September 8, 2026

- 4. Update from State Water Resources Control Board Liaison, Sean Maguire**

Uncontested Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Items 5 - 7)

- 5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2026-0019 for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State**

Parties: Grace Orchard Solar II, LLC
Subject: Garce Orchard Solar Project
Location: Riverside County
Staff Contact: Alyssa Duro, Environmental Scientist
(Alyssa.Duro@waterboards.ca.gov)

- 6. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2026-0020 for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State**

Parties: Western Mesquite Mines, Inc.
Subject: Western Mesquite Mines Pad8/Section 16 Build Out Project
Location: Imperial County
Staff Contact: Fatima Alrahem, WRC Engineer
(Fatima.Alrahem@waterboards.ca.gov)

7. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2026-0021 with Monitoring and Reporting Program

Parties: Fairfield Inn & Suites Twentynine Palms
Subject: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems
Location: San Bernardino County
Staff Contact: Andrea Varela, WRC Engineer
(Andrea.Varela@waterboards.ca.gov)

Contested and Discussion Calendar of Items for Adoption

(Item 8)

8. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2026-0022 with Monitoring and Reporting Program

Parties: Imperial Irrigation District
Subject: El Centro Generating Station
Location: Imperial County
Staff Contact: Fatima Alrahem, WRC Engineer
(Fatima.Alrahem@waterboards.ca.gov)

Information Items

(No Actions on Items 9 - 13)

9. Introduction to Region 7 Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Program

Staff Contact: Jeff Geraci, Environmental Scientist Specialist
(Jeff.Geraci@waterboards.ca.gov)

10. Strategic Plan Update

11. Report from Executive Officer, Michael Placencia

12. Board Member Comments and Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

13. Report from Board Chair, Vivian Perez

Closed Session

14. Closed Session

The Board may meet in closed session to: consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public employee by another

person, unless the employee requests a public hearing (Gov. Code, § 11126, subd. (a)); consider evidence received in an adjudicatory hearing and deliberate on a decision to be reached based on that evidence (§ 11126, subd. (c)(3)); and discuss litigation, including discussion of initiated litigation, significant exposure to litigation, or decisions to initiate litigation (§ 11126, subd. (e)).

- Petition of Imperial Irrigation District for Review of Notice of Applicability per Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ for Bombay Beach Vegetation Project, Imperial County, SWRCB/OCC File No. A-2946 (filed July 6, 2026)

Adjournment

Next Board Meeting:

November 10, 2026

Location: San Geronio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

GENERAL INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

Purpose of Meeting

Under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Water Code section 13000 et seq., the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Board) is charged with protection of the quality of the region's waters for all applicable beneficial uses. This responsibility is carried out through continued development and implementation of the [Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/basin_planning) (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/basin_planning). The purpose of this meeting is to obtain testimony and information from concerned and affected parties, and make decisions after considering the information received.

Attendance Sheet (Optional)

In-person attendees are encouraged to sign an Attendance Sheet that will be available at the meeting (although voluntary, this information will assist staff in evaluating the level of public interest).

General Rules for Oral Comments at Meeting

All persons wishing to speak at the meeting must complete a **Speaker Request Card**, also referred to as a "Blue Card." If the speaker is attending in person, this card must be filled out and provided to the Board Clerk. Although speakers are strongly encouraged to submit their cards prior to the start of the meeting, the cards must be submitted prior to consideration of the relevant Agenda Item(s), or where the topic does not pertain to any particular Agenda Items, prior to the Public Forum (see below).

Where a **remote participation** is available, speakers must submit a Virtual Blue Card to obtain access via ZOOM (meeting ID and password). Refer to the Board's [Remote Meetings](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting) page (www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/remote_meeting). To ensure that they receive ZOOM access, speakers must submit their information no later than noon on the day before the meeting. Board staff will make best efforts to process submissions after that point but Zoom access cannot be guaranteed prior to the start of the public meeting.

During the **Public Forum**, any individual may address the Board and/or ask questions relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. Remarks and questions need not be related to any items on the agenda. However, if the matter relates to a particular agenda item, the individual will be asked to make their comments when the item is taken up by the Board. See below for specific rules on oral comments regarding Adjudicative Proceedings and Information Items, as well as agenda items on the Uncontested Calendar or the Contested and Discussion Calendar.

Regardless of whether they are made during the Public Forum, or in connection with a particular agenda item, comments will be limited to **three minutes per person**, subject to extension at the Chair's discretion. The Board and staff welcome information on

pertinent problems, but comments should be kept brief and specific. The Board will usually accommodate group spokespersons by granting additional time if other members will not also be speaking.

If your comments will incorporate a short slideshow presentation or visual aids, these materials must be emailed to **Mary Castañeda** (mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov) no later than noon on the day before the meeting.

Uncontested Calendar

Items on the Uncontested Calendar are not contested and do not appear to be subject to controversy. Such items may be acted upon without individual hearings or discussions, and would be thus summarily adopted by a single vote. If any Board Member or other person requests discussion on any item, that item may be removed from the Uncontested Calendar and either separately considered for adoption, or continued to a subsequent meeting. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 647.2, subd. (f).)

Contested and Discussion Calendar

The Contested and Discussion Calendar consists of items which staff has not determined to be appropriate for inclusion on the Uncontested Calendar (even if not contested). Each agenda item will be separately considered (i.e., by a separate vote).

Written Comments Not Accepted at Meeting (Oral Comments Only)

Deadlines for submittal of written comments on Contested and Discussion Calendar items are specified in the Notices of Public Hearing (Hearing Notices). The Board does not typically accept written comments and other materials after the specified deadline, including at the meeting itself. Any person seeking to submit late materials must demonstrate “good cause,” and the Chair must find that admitting the late materials will not prejudice the Board or any parties to the proceeding.

Adjudicative Proceedings on Calendar

For agenda items on the Contested and Discussion Calendar that involve an “adjudicative proceeding” before the Board, the hearing will be conducted according to the operative Hearing Procedure (see below), and in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. The administrative record shall consist of all Board files, exhibits, and related agenda material.

An “adjudicative proceeding” is one in which an evidentiary hearing for determination of facts pursuant to which the Board formulates and issues a decision in the form of an order or resolution. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648, subd. (a).) Generally, items identified as an “order” will be adjudicative proceedings; in some instances, “resolutions” will also involve an adjudicative proceeding as well. Common examples of “adjudicative proceedings” include permitting actions (e.g., waste discharge requirements and NPDES permits) and enforcement actions (cease and desist orders; impositions of administrative civil liability).

Members of the public who are interested in the adjudicative proceeding (Interested Persons), and who may want to make comments to the Board, will be provided the opportunity to orally present general policy statements and legal arguments during the hearing, provided that they have submitted Speaker Request Cards (for remote participants, Virtual Blue Cards). Such comments will be limited to three minutes, though the Chair may grant additional time on a case-by-case basis. Interested Persons do not need to submit written statements in order to speak.

Unless they are formally recognized as a “Designated Party” in accordance with the operative Hearing Procedure (*see below*), Interested Persons are not considered “parties” to the adjudicative proceeding. By default, the only “parties” are the individuals or entities to whom the Board’s action is directed. This means that Interested Persons will ordinarily not be permitted to present evidence (e.g., photos, eyewitness testimony, etc.) for entry into the administrative record; again, oral comments are limited to general policy and legal statements. Interested Persons are also not subject to cross-examination, but may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Board Members. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648.1, subd. (d).)

For each adjudicative proceeding, the **Hearing Procedure** is contained in the Notice of Public Hearing (Hearing Notice), which specifies the deadline for submission of written comments on the proposed order or resolution for adoption. Additionally, the Hearing Procedure shall be the controlling document with respect to the following: (1) Parties to proceeding; (2) requests for “Designated Party” status; (3) pre-hearing submittals of evidence; (4) submittals of witness testimony and rebuttal evidence at the hearing; and (5) order of proceeding. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 648.1, 648.4, 648.5.)

In most cases, the deadline to formally request “Designated Party” status will have already passed prior to the circulation of this Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda. If you believe you should be included as a “party” to the proceeding, you will need to request a continuance of the proceeding to a subsequent public meeting; your request must also include a showing as to why you should be recognized as a “Designated Party,” continuances and/or “Designated Party” status are subject to the Board’s sole discretion; requests will be denied absent a finding of “good cause,” or where the Parties would be unduly prejudiced. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648.1, subd. (c).)

Adjudicative proceedings are conducted in a manner deemed most suitable to the particular case with a view toward expeditiously securing relevant information without unnecessary delay and expense. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648.5, subd. (a).) These proceedings are typically conducted by the Board in the following order: (1) opening statements by Chair, summarizing the subject matter and purpose of the hearing; (2) identification of all persons wishing to participate in the hearing; (3) administration of oath for all persons intending to speak at the hearing, including Interested Persons making oral comments; (4) presentations by Staff; (5) comments and/or presentations by Parties; (6) comments from Interested Persons; (7) Board Members’ comments and discussion; (8) closure of hearing by Board Chair; and (9) voting by Board Members. The order of proceedings may be specified in the Hearing Procedure.

Non-Adjudicative Proceedings on Calendar

Occasionally, some agenda items on the Contested and Discussion Calendar will be considered “non-adjudicative,” and will not involve an evidentiary hearing with sworn testimony. Examples of non-adjudicative proceedings involve the adoption of resolutions amending the Basin Plan, or ratifying a settlement of administrative civil liability (ACL). Non-adjudicative proceedings (excluding consideration of ACL settlement approvals) will be conducted by the Board in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 649 et seq., and the Hearing Procedure specified in the Hearing Notice (if any).

Interested Persons will be able to address the Board with oral comments, provided they have submitted Speaker Request Cards (for remote participants, Virtual Blue Cards). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 649.3, subd. (a).) For some non-adjudicative proceedings, Interested Persons may be required to take the oath prior to addressing the Board.

Order and Resolution Numbers

The Board’s practice is to assign new order and resolution numbers after adoption.

Information Items

Information Items (including Workshops) are hearings conducted to gather and assess facts, opinions and other information relevant to matters within the Board’s jurisdiction. The purpose of such proceedings is to assist the Board in the formulation of policies or guidelines for future actions; to inform the public of reports or proposed actions; and to solicit public comment and opinions on the subject matter. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 649, subd. (b).) Materials presented in connection with an Information Item are for discussion only. Unlike non-adjudicative proceedings on the Contested and Discussion Calendar, **no actions will be taken** on Information Items.

Information Items will typically consist of a brief presentation by staff, followed by an opportunity for Interested Persons to address the Board with oral comments, provided they have submitted Speaker Request Cards (for remote participants, Virtual Blue Cards). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 649.3, subd. (a).) Comments should be for clarification or to add to the Board’s understanding or knowledge about the item. However, because commenters are not under oath and the proceeding is non-adversarial, comments shall be neither testimonial nor argumentative in nature.

Petition Procedure

A person aggrieved by a Colorado River Basin Water Board action at this meeting (e.g., adoption of permits and enforcement orders) may petition the State Water Board for review in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. To be timely, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the 30th day after the date of the action; if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 pm on the next business day. The law and regulations

applicable to filing petitions are available on the [State Water Board website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality). Copies will also be provided upon request.

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:

- 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 ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ 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 and Reasonable Accommodations

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 a reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact **Mary Castañeda** at mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or at (760) 776-8945 (at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting). [Learn more about accessibility within Zoom at www.zoom.com/en/accessibility.]

General and Item-Specific Inquiries

For general inquiries, or agenda items where no staff contacts are provided, please contact **Mary Castañeda** at (760) 776-8945 or mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov. For agenda items, inquiries should be directed to the **staff contact** at the email address provided.