

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

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-19-34
April 16, 2019

NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING MEETING

**IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION
TO INCORPORATE THE SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS
AS WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 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 proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan). The proposed Basin Plan amendment would incorporate the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels found in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 64449 as water quality objectives for groundwater designated with the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use (Project).

This scoping meeting will provide participants with: (1) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the “functionally equivalent” environmental document to be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251(g); and (2) an opportunity to comment on the proposed scope of the Basin Plan amendment.

The CEQA scoping meeting will be held as follows:

Date:	May 16, 2019
Time:	2:00 PM
Location:	California Regional Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin Region Conference Room 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100 Palm Desert, CA 92260

A quorum of Colorado River Basin Water Board members may be present at the CEQA scoping meeting; however, no action will be taken by the Colorado River Basin Water Board at this meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Basin Plan contains the water quality regulations for the Colorado River Basin Region. The Basin Plan: (i) identifies beneficial uses for surface water and groundwater in the region, (ii) includes narrative and numeric water quality objectives that must be attained or maintained to protect the designated beneficial uses and conform to the state’s antidegradation policy, and (iii) describes implementation programs and other actions that are necessary to achieve the water quality objectives established in the Basin Plan.

Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan establishes narrative (general, non-numeric) groundwater quality objectives for taste/odor constituents. The Basin Plan expressly incorporates by reference health-based drinking water standards known as Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (PMCLs), found

in California Code of Regulations title 22, sections 64431 (inorganic chemicals) and 64444 (organic chemicals), as water quality objectives for groundwater designated with the MUN beneficial use. The Basin Plan also expressly references the PMCL found in section 64426.1 for bacteria, as well as Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) requirements for radioactivity (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, §§ 64442, 64443).

Drinking water standards (i.e., MCLs) also include secondary—i.e., aesthetics and/or nuisance-based—classifications. To ensure the protection of beneficial uses of groundwater and to prevent nuisance, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff proposes to amend Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan to incorporate by reference the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) as water quality objectives for all MUN groundwater within the region, thereby establishing numeric water quality objectives for nuisance constituents including aluminum, color, copper, foaming agents, iron, manganese, methyl-tert-butyl-ether (MTBE), odor, silver, thiobencarb, turbidity, zinc, total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, and sulfate. The proposed Basin Plan amendment will also add language regarding the prevention of nuisance to the existing, narrative taste and odor groundwater quality objective.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the scoping meeting is for the Colorado River Basin Water Board 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 and to eliminate from detailed study issues found not to be important. 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 both written and oral comments. Staff will solicit oral comments at the CEQA scoping meeting. Additionally, interested persons may submit written comments to Cathy Sanford via email at cathy.sanford@waterboards.ca.gov or by mail to 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **May 15, 2019**. Electronic submission by email is preferred. Please indicate in the subject line “Comment Letter – CEQA Scoping for Secondary MCL Basin Plan Amendment.”

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

ACCESSIBILITY

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or by e-mail at hvasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than 10 days before the scheduled meeting. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda by phone at (760) 776-8945 or via email at Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the CEQA scoping meeting, please contact Ms. Cathy Sanford at (760) 776-8934.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.