CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100 Palm Desert, CA 92260

Public Notice 7-20-31 September 25, 2020

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2020 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) will accept written comments, will hold a public workshop, and will separately hold a public hearing concerning the 2020 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan), which is described in the "Background" section below.

The 30-day public comment period begins on **September 25, 2020** and ends on **October 24, 2020**.

Colorado River Basin Water Board staff will provide information about the 2020 Triennial Review during a public workshop that will be on the agenda during the Board Meeting which will commence at the following date and time:

Date: October 8, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference

The Colorado River Basin Water Board intends to consider adopting the 2020 Triennial Review during a public hearing that will commence at the following date and time:

Date: December 10, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video and Teleconference

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, these public meetings will occur solely via remote presence. Links for the meetings, including a phone call option, will be posted on our website at: Colorado River Basin Water Board Agendas. Interested persons who wish to express their views or ask questions orally on this matter at either meeting should complete a speaker request card by following the "Virtual Blue Speaker Card" instructions provided on our website. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to submit a public comment at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record. At the workshop and at the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on our website at: Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures.

NANCY WRIGHT, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BACKGROUND

The Triennial Review is a process conducted to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act section 303(c)(1), which requires the Colorado River Basin Water Board to hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards at least once each three-year period. Likewise, Water Code section 13240 requires the periodic review and possible revision of regional Basin Plans. Water quality standards are contained in the Basin Plan and consist of beneficial uses for surface water and groundwater bodies and water quality objectives established to protect those uses. In addition to water quality standards, the Basin Plan also describes the water bodies and surrounding environments, actions and policies implementing the water quality standards, monitoring plans to ensure that water quality standards are being met, and other pertinent information. During the Triennial Review, possible additions and revisions to the Basin Plan are identified and prioritized in projects placed on the Triennial Review List.

Prior to the comment period announced in this notice, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff conducted an earlier public comment period to solicit project ideas for additions and revisions to the Basin Plan. These projects were incorporated into the draft Triennial Review List, along with other ongoing water quality standards projects. The projects in the Triennial Review List are ranked using criteria developed based on public input and program priorities. The draft Triennial Review List and the supporting draft Staff Report are now available for public review on the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board's Basin Planning Program Page. After a public hearing and approval by the Colorado River Basin Water Board, the Triennial Review List will serve as a three-year workplan for the Board's Water Quality Standards Unit, to be implemented based upon available resources.

After the 2020 Triennial Review List is approved, there will be additional opportunities for public participation on individual projects, including public comment periods and public hearings for any Colorado River Basin Water Board actions related to consideration of new or revised water quality standards.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Draft Triennial Review documents, including the Staff Report in support of the 2020 Triennial Review, the Triennial Review List, Response to Comments from the first comment period, and the Resolution, are available for public review on the <u>Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board's Basin Planning Program Page</u>, under the tab titled "2020 Triennial Review." Interested persons requiring a hard copy of these documents should contact Maria Davydova at (760) 776-8947.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

All public comments should be submitted to the Colorado River Basin Water Board no later than 5:00 pm on October 24, 2020. Please submit your comments to maria.davydova@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "2020 Triennial Review Public Comment," or via mail to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin Region c/o Maria Davydova 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100 Palm Desert, CA 92260

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this workshop, should contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least ten (10) days prior the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. Spanish interpretation will be provided during the October 8, 2020 workshop via Zoom.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Maria Davydova, Environmental Scientist at (760) 776-8947 or by email at

<u>Maria.Davydova@waterboards.ca.gov</u> . Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.