

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

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

Public Notice 7-22-15  
February 4, 2022

**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 PYRETHROID  
PESTICIDES IN THE NEW RIVER AND THE ALAMO RIVER, IMPERIAL VALLEY**

**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 a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region (Basin Plan). The proposed amendment would incorporate Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pyrethroid pesticides that impair the New River and the Alamo River, located in the Imperial Valley, into Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan (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 at the following date and time, by **video and teleconference only**:

Date: February 25, 2022  
Time: 10:00am  
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, the Board meeting will occur solely via remote presence. In the event orders from the Governor of California change prior to the scheduled date of this meeting, the format of this meeting may change to also allow for in-person attendance at a physical meeting location (73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260). Persons desiring to receive notice about changes to the format of this meeting should sign up for

the Lyris e-mail list by [Subscribing to our Electronic Mailing List](#) (Select Board Meetings Agenda).

## **BACKGROUND**

The Basin Plan is the guiding document that outlines the Colorado River Basin Water Board's plan for preserving and enhancing water quality in the region for the protection of beneficial uses for present and future generations. The Basin Plan contains the region's beneficial uses for groundwaters and surface waters, water quality objectives for protection of beneficial uses, and implementation programs to achieve water quality objectives. In the Imperial Valley, the New River and the Alamo River are listed on section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA)(303(d) List) as polluted (impaired) waterbodies due to the presence of pyrethroid pesticides in concentrations that exceed Water Quality Objectives (WQOs). Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the CWA, the State of California is required to develop TMDLs to address impairments of surface waterbodies and submit the TMDLs to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for approval. This Project would address the pyrethroid pesticide impairments in the New River and the Alamo River with the development of TMDLs.

The New River and the Alamo River are nested within the Salton Sea Transboundary watershed. The New River originates in Mexico and extends through the Mexicali metropolitan area and agricultural lands near the Mexicali Valley. As it runs north through the farmlands of the Imperial Valley, the New River carries treated municipal waste, untreated or improperly treated industrial waste, and urban and agricultural runoff in its flow. The Alamo River, also originating in Mexico, extends through highly productive agricultural lands within the Imperial Valley carrying a mixture of agricultural return water and wastewater from the Imperial Valley. This mixture of water contains a combination of pesticides, nutrients, selenium, and silt. In California, pyrethroid pesticides are commonly used in both urban and agricultural areas as pest control. When introduced into aquatic ecosystems, these pyrethroids can be toxic to fish and other aquatic life, with aquatic invertebrates being especially sensitive. Many pyrethroids have low water solubility and a strong tendency to absorb to soils before degrading. Because some pyrethroids can have low water solubility, sediment will be monitored in addition to surface water. It is anticipated that attainment of water quality standards will be achieved with the implementation of management practices to reduce the amount of pyrethroid pesticides in the New River and the Alamo River, though additional actions may also need to be taken.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the scoping meeting is for Colorado River Basin Water Board staff 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. 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 written and oral comments. Staff will solicit oral comments at the CEQA scoping meeting. Persons wishing to submit written comments are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on **March 11, 2022**.

Interested persons may submit written comments via email to Lauren Briggs at [Lauren.Briggs@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lauren.Briggs@waterboards.ca.gov) using the subject line: "Comment Letter: CEQA Scoping Pyrethroid Pesticide TMDL." Hand deliveries and mailed comments should be sent to the address below:

Lauren Briggs, Environmental Scientist  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Written comments may also be faxed to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office at (760) 341-6820.

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 AND LANGUAGE NEEDS**

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this meeting, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or via email [Hilda.Vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Hilda.Vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov) at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Lauren Briggs at (760) 313-1291. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.