

**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 7-26-29
Notice Date: August 3, 2026

NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING MEETING

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION ESTABLISHING BENEFICIAL USES
FOR THE SALTON SEA CONSTRUCTED AQUATIC HABITATS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT 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 Basin Plan Amendment (Project) would establish Beneficial Uses for the Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats. Once adopted, these Beneficial Uses would be incorporated into Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan.

This scoping meeting will provide participants with opportunities to comment on: (1) the scope of the proposed Basin Plan Amendment; and (2) the scope and content of the “functionally equivalent” Substitute Environmental Document (SED) to be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15251, subdivision (g) and title 23, section 3777.

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: August 18, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Regional Water Board Office
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260
(remote participation option also available—see below)

REMOTE PARTICIPATION OPTION

Interested persons have the option to attend and participate remotely via the Zoom teleconference platform. To join the meeting, please contact Hajer Dawoody by email at Hajer.Dawoody@waterboards.ca.gov by 5:00 pm on August 17, 2026 to receive the meeting link and passcode information. You cannot participate in the Zoom meeting until you receive an email with the Meeting ID link.

BACKGROUND

The Basin Plan is the Colorado River Basin Water Board's guiding document for preserving and enhancing water quality in the region for the protection of beneficial uses for present and future generations. The Basin Plan specifies beneficial uses of groundwaters and surface waters, water quality objectives (WQOs) for protection of such uses, and implementation programs to achieve WQOs.

This project will designate beneficial uses of the constructed aquatic habitats around the Salton Sea (Sea). The Sea is listed on the federal Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies for several pollutants. As a result, the California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Water Resources, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are focused on implementing the Salton Sea Program. This program includes a 10-year plan with goals to improve conditions by constructing 30,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects around the Sea.

Projects are designed to consist of suitable shallow-, deep-, mud-, and shallow aquatic habitats to support fish and piscivorous birds. The primary water supply for these ponds would be a combination of brackish river water and hypersaline water from the Salton Sea; other sources could be potentially used as well. Opportunities that could be provided at these habitat ponds include picnicking, hiking, birdwatching, non-powered watercraft etc. Because the constructed aquatic habitats will be using mixed water which will be different in type from both the Salton Sea and the tributaries, they may have different beneficial uses from those parent water bodies, and possibly from each other. Thus, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will identify and designate beneficial uses for these aquatic habitats.

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 Board in resolving concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies and other interested persons. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3775.5.)

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

In addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the scoping meeting, interested persons may submit written comments. Such comments must be submitted no later than **5:00 pm on September 4, 2026**.

Via Email: Send to Hajer Dawoody at Hajer.Dawoody@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line *Comment Letter: CEQA Scoping BPA Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats*.

Hand Delivery/Mail: Deliver or mail to the address below.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Attention: Hajer Dawoody

Fax: Fax written comments to (760) 341-6820. Please ensure that the faxed document clearly indicates the subject (*Salton Sea Constructed Aquatic Habitats*) and the intended recipient (Hajer Dawoody).

Board staff will not prepare written responses to comments received at this meeting or to written comments submitted during the comment period. However, Board staff will address all significant environmental impacts in the environmental review documents.

ACCESSIBILITY AND LANGUAGE NEEDS

Individuals who require special accommodations or interpreter services to participate in this workshop, please contact Mary Castaneda via email; Mary.Castaneda@Waterboards.ca.gov at least fourteen days prior the scheduled meeting to notify us that you will be utilizing these services. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1 (800) 735- 2929 or voice line at 1 (800) 735-2922.

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。

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Hajer Dawoody at (760) 313-1293 or by email at Hajer.Dawoody@waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

