
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

PROPOSED APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL COASTAL BASIN TO ESTABLISH TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS FOR ORGANOPHOSPHATE PESTICIDES AND TOXICITY IN THE LOWER SALINAS RIVER WATERSHED, MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept written comments on the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Coast Water Board) amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for organophosphate pesticides and toxicity in the lower Salinas River watershed (Basin Plan amendment) and supporting Substitute Environmental Documentation (SED).

BACKGROUND

On July 21, 2024, the Central Coast Water Board adopted the Basin Plan amendment and approved the SED via [Resolution R3-2024-0002](#). The Basin Plan amendment establishes TMDLs for three organophosphate pesticide compounds (chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion) and water column toxicity (toxicity) that currently impair several waterbodies within the lower Salinas River watershed, including: Moro Cojo Slough, Old Salinas River, Salinas River Lagoon (North), Tembladero Slough, Merritt Ditch, Alisal Slough, Alisal Creek, Blanco Drain, Salinas Reclamation Canal, lower Salinas River, Espinosa Slough, Gabilan Creek, Natividad Creek, Santa Rita Creek, Quail Creek, and Chualar Creek. The Basin Plan amendment establishes acute and chronic numeric targets for each of the organophosphate pesticides when present individually, an additive toxicity numeric target when two or more organophosphate pesticides are present in the water column, and a numeric target for toxicity to aquatic organisms.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A link to electronic copies of the Basin Plan amendment, SED, and supporting documents are available on the Central Coast Water Board's [website](#) at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/docs/salinas/oppesticides/.

Alternatively, these materials may also be obtained by email or postal mail by contacting Larry Harlan at the email or phone number listed below.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING WRITTEN COMMENTS

Persons interested in providing written comments on the Basin Plan amendment are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Comment letters must be received by **12:00 noon on January 10, 2025**. Late comment letters will not be accepted unless the State Water Board determines otherwise.

Written comments may be submitted electronically in pdf format to Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the State Water Board, via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line: **“Comment Letter - Salinas Pesticide and Toxicity TMDL”**.

Alternatively, written comments may be submitted by mail, hand delivery, or fax to:

Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814-0100 (hand delivery)
(916) 341-5620 (fax)

Couriers delivering written comments must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Courtney Tyler at (916) 341-5611.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS

In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779, subdivision (f), the State Water Board may refuse to accept any comment that does not satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Comments must specifically address the final version of the Basin Plan amendment adopted by the Central Coast Water Board
2. If the Central Coast Water Board previously responded to a similar or identical comment, the commenter must explain why and in what manner the commenter believes each of the responses provided by the Central Coast Water Board to each comment was inadequate or incorrect.
3. The commenter also must include either a statement that each of the comments was timely raised before the Central Coast Water Board, or an explanation of why the commenter was unable to raise the specific comment before the Central Coast Water Board.

REQUEST NOTICE OF STATE WATER BOARD MEETING

The State Water Board will separately publish a notice of and an agenda for the meeting at which it will consider adopting a resolution to approve the Basin Plan amendments. To receive notice of the meeting at which the State Water Board will consider approving the Basin Plan amendments, please subscribe to the [Central Coast Water Board’s “Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\), Salinas River Pesticide – TMDL” email distribution list](#) at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?qsp=central_coast.

To receive notice by postal mail, please call or email the Central Coast Water Board staff contact identified below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions about this notice to Larry Harlan at larry.harlan@waterboards.ca.gov or (805) 594-6195.

November 25, 2024

Date



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board