

**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 7-22-38  
Notice Date: July 6, 2022

**NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING MEETING**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION ESTABLISHING TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY  
LOADS FOR AMMONIA, LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND TOXICITY IN  
COACHELLA VALLEY STORMWATER CHANNEL**

**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 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for ammonia, low dissolved oxygen, and toxicity impairing the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, in Riverside County. Once adopted, these TMDLs would be incorporated into Chapter 4 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.

**PARTICIPATION**

The CEQA scoping meeting will be held at the following date and time in person and by video and teleconference:

**Date:** July 28, 2022  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

To participate remotely via video or phone, contact **Maria Davydova-Flores** at [Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov) or (760) 776-8947, no later than **5:00 pm** on **July 27, 2022**. Links for the meeting, including a phone call option, will also be posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board’s [Public Notice Page](#) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public\\_notices](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public_notices)).

## **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.

The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is listed on section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), also known as the 303(d) List, as polluted (impaired) waterbodies due to the presence of ammonia, low-dissolved oxygen, and toxicity, exceeding WQOs and impairing the beneficial uses of the water body.

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 above impairments in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel with the development of TMDLs for these pollutants.

The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is an unlined, engineered portion of the Whitewater River located in Riverside County. A year-round flow is only present in the 17-mile segment prior to discharging to the Salton Sea and is sustained primarily by wastewater from three municipal wastewater treatment plants, with some additional flow originating from a fish farm and from agricultural discharges. As main sources of water, these discharges are also the main potential sources of pollution. Because of the arid climate, stormwater runoff is only an occasional and infrequent source of water that does not contribute to pollution year-round but is also a potential intermittent source of these impairments.

## **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 pm on August 8, 2022**.

Interested persons may submit written comments via email to Maria Davydova-Flores at [Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov), with the subject line: "**Comment Letter: CEQA Scoping CVSC TMDL.**" Hand deliveries and mailed comments should be sent to the following address:

Maria Davydova-Flores,  
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.

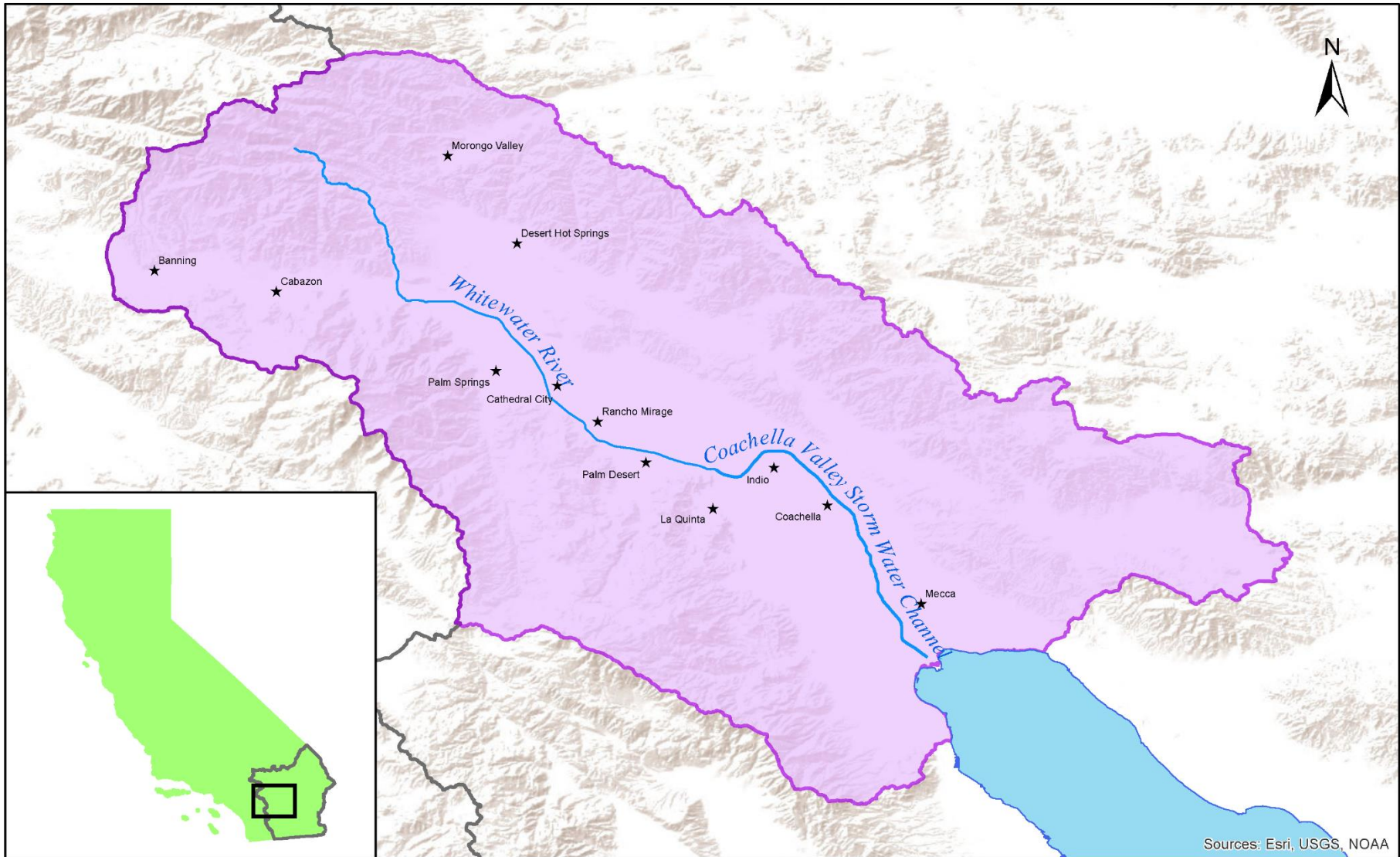
Colorado River Basin Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to comments received at this meeting or to written comments submitted during the comment period. However, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff will address all significant environmental impacts in the draft and final environmental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

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact **Maria Davydova-Flores** at (760) 776-8947 or by email at [Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Maria.Davydova-Flores@waterboards.ca.gov). Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.



## Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Vicinity Map

-  Whitewater Watershed
-  Colorado River Basin Region Boundary

