



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAM PRIORITY 2 PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT ZONE PROPOSALS AND DRINKING WATER EARLY ACTION PLANS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) will accept comments regarding the Preliminary Management Zone Proposals (PMZPs) (which include Drinking Water Early Action Plans (EAPs)) submitted on behalf of the Priority 2 Groundwater Subbasins by the Management Zones listed in the table below for the Central Valley Water Board Nitrate Control Program.

Management Zone	Priority 2 Groundwater Subbasin(s)
Kern Water Collaborative	Kern (Poso) Kern (Westside South)
Kings Water Alliance	Tulare Lake
Valley Water Collaborative	Delta-Mendota Eastern San Joaquin Madera Merced Yolo

Additionally, on Friday, 31 January 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Board staff will hold a virtual public workshop to provide information on, receive comments for, and discuss the Priority 2 Management Zone PMZPs and EAPs. Please see below for additional details on this workshop and how to participate.

**Background:** Nitrate is dangerous to pregnant women and infants when concentrations in drinking water are above 10 parts per million. Nitrate is present in agricultural fertilizers, dairy manure, industrial wastewater, septic systems, and in treated sewage. All these sources have contributed to nitrate pollution in the groundwater of the Central Valley.

In May 2018, the Central Valley Water Board adopted new regulations called the "Nitrate Control Program." The Nitrate Control Program requires permit holders in the Central Valley that may be causing or contributing to nitrate contamination in the Central Valley to develop plans to both reduce nitrates in their wastewater and to provide interim drinking water to affected communities. Under the Nitrate Control Program, the Board identified and prioritized groundwater basins, where nitrates in groundwater are

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

prevalent. Priority 2 basins include the Kern (Poso), Kern (Westside South), Tulare Lake, Delta-Mendota, Eastern San Joaquin, Madera, Merced, and Yolo subbasins. In these basins, Management Zones were formed to meet the requirements of the new Nitrate Control Program. Two of these Management Zones (Kings Water Alliance and Valley Water Collaborative) formed previously for Priority 1 Groundwater Subbasins and have incorporated Priority 2 subbasins into their Management Zones. The third Management Zone, the Kern Water Collaborative, was recently formed for the Priority 2 subbasins of Kern (Poso) and Kern (Westside South).

On 30 December 2024, these three Management Zones submitted PMZPs (including associated EAPs) to the Central Valley Water Board. The PMZPs are preliminary proposed plans that contain the Management Zone participants' roadmap for addressing nitrates in their discharges and in groundwater, as well as providing short- and long-term drinking waters solutions. The EAPs included in the PMZPs contain proposals for providing interim replacement drinking water to people drinking water from wells that have been polluted by nitrates. Implementation of the EAPs is scheduled to begin 26 February 2025.

The Priority 2 Preliminary Management Zone Proposals (including associated Early Action Plans) are posted on the Board's website at:

[\(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/nitrate\\_mz/\)](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/nitrate_mz/)

Copies of the PMZPs (including the associated EAPs) can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Contact information: [cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov).

The Board is inviting the public, stakeholders, and representatives of other agencies to submit written comments on the PMZPs and EAPs from **30 December 2024 through 27 January 2025**. Written comments must be submitted to the above email or postal address by **27 January 2025**.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN THAT** Central Valley Water Board staff will hold a virtual public workshop on Priority 2 Preliminary Management Zone Proposals (PMZPs) (which include Drinking Water Early Action Plans (EAPs)) to provide an opportunity for interested parties to learn about the Priority 2 PMZPs and associated EAPs and provide feedback. The date and time of the public workshop is:

**Friday, 31 January 2025**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**(Video and Teleconference only)**

**Who Should Attend the Workshop:** Any person interested in nitrate contamination issues, including persons that own or use wells that have high levels of nitrates.

**How to Attend This Workshop:**



**TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE WEBCAST (NOT PARTICIPATING):**

Individuals who only want to watch or listen should use this option as it preserves interactive meeting resources for those who are participating in the discussion. Please use the link below.

**[YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM URL](https://www.youtube.com/@rb5s-zoomstreamingchannel475/streams)**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@rb5s-zoomstreamingchannel475/streams>**



**TO COMMUNICATE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING (via ZOOM):**

Persons wishing to join in on discussion for the workshop will need to use Zoom to do so and will need to contact the Board by email to receive the Zoom Meeting ID for the workshop.

Instructions for requesting the **Zoom Meeting ID**:

- **By 5:00 p.m. the day before the Board Workshop:**
  - Send an email to [cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov)
  - In the Subject line, indicate: **31 January 2025 Speaker**
  - In the body of the email, indicate:
    - Your name
    - Who you represent (i.e., self, another person, an organization)
    - Identify whether you intend to participate via videoconference (using your computer microphone and speaker) or by telephone
    - If calling in by telephone, please provide the last three digits of the telephone number you will be calling from

The Board will respond to your email with the **Zoom Meeting ID** for the meeting.

**If you do not send an email by 5:00 p.m. the day before the Board workshop, please send the email as soon as you can. You cannot participate in the Zoom meeting until you receive an email with the Zoom ID. This means you may need to begin watching the webcast available on YouTube.**

For general questions, please send an e-mail to [cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cvsalts@waterboards.ca.gov). Spanish language interpretation services will be provided for the webinar via Zoom.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer