



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Tim Davis
Commissioner

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Candice A. Hasenyager, P.E.
Director

July 1, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Review of Colorado River Water Quality Standards Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

BACKGROUND

In 1975, the seven Colorado River Basin States (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT, & WY; i.e., “Basin States”) adopted water quality standards with respect to salinity for the entire Colorado River Basin (Basin) in the United States. This was required under the Clean Water Act and the then newly enacted Salinity Control Act. Section 303 of the Clean Water Act amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act require that water quality standards be reviewed every three years. Accordingly, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) has reviewed the existing state-adopted water quality standards for salinity in the Colorado River, approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which consist of numeric criteria and a Plan of Implementation. Every three years, the seven Basin States, through their organizations and in coordination with the Forum and EPA, have reviewed these standards in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act.

The Forum has recently approved a draft document entitled, *2026 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System, June 2026, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum* (Review). This document is a review of the water quality standards for salinity in the Colorado River. Upon adoption by the Forum, this Review will be submitted to the governors in each of the Basin States for inclusion in their state water quality standards, as well as provided to the EPA. The Forum and each of the Basin States are providing an opportunity for public comments on this Review. The draft Review can be found on the Forum website: <https://www.coloradoriversalinity.org/index.php>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In Utah, Public comments are invited any time prior to the deadline on the close of business on **July 31, 2026**. Written public comments can be submitted to: Jeff Studenka, UPDES Individual Permits Section, Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by email at: jstudenka@utah.gov. The draft Review document is also available for public review under “Comment on water permits & plans” at www.waterquality.utah.gov/. Additionally, if internet access is not available, a copy may be obtained by calling Jeff Studenka at (385) 602-7303.

DWQ-2026-003475