NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:
Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM:
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Financial Assistance
1001 I Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT TITLE: Region 7 – HAB Assessment Project (Project)

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project occurs within the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7 (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board). The locations include freshwater recreational waterbodies and waterways within the Lahontan region, focusing on major lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and similar waterbodies where Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) are reported, have occurred historically, may be associated with illness reports, or require cyanotoxin testing to support public-health advisories.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is funding the Project referred to internally as Region 7 – HAB Assessment Project. On October 2, 2026, the Division of Financial Assistance received a Cleanup and Abatement Account Tier 2 funding application from the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Region 7 – Harmful Algal Bloom Assessment Project.

The Project includes HAB monitoring, laboratory analysis, and incident-response support for priority freshwater recreational waterbodies in the Colorado River Basin region. Work will prioritize reported or historically affected locations, illness-associated sites, disadvantaged communities, and areas requiring cyanotoxin testing to inform public-health advisories, water-quality protection, and basin planning.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT AND CARRYING OUT PROJECT: The State Water Board approved funding for the Project described above on October 30, 2026, and determined that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board will be carrying out the Project.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION STATUS:

Class 6: Information Collection

(California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 19, section 15306)

STATUTORY EXEMPTION STATUS:

Feasibility and Planning Studies

(California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, chapter 3, article 18, section 15262)

REASON WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The Project has been determined to meet the requirements of the exemptions selected above and will not have a significant impact on water quality. The Project consists solely of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation that will not cause a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Any resulting information will support feasibility and planning for possible future actions not yet approved, adopted, or funded; therefore, the Project qualifies for the exemptions identified above and will not result in a significant environmental effect.

PUBLIC AGENCY: Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board

PUBLIC AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Sabrina Rice

PHONE NUMBER: (530) 542-5578

Records of the financing approval for the Project is available to the general public at the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance at 1001 I Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Pursuant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Code, Section 711.4(d)(1), the CDFW environmental review filing fees do not apply to exempt projects.

Cedric S. Irving

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Water Boards

Environmental Scientist
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