

**Public Notice**  
**Review of Colorado River Water Quality Standards**  
**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum**  
**July 2011**

**BACKGROUND**

In 1975, the seven Colorado River Basin States (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT, & WY) adopted water quality standards with respect to salinity for the entire Colorado River Basin in the United States (Basin). This was required under the then newly enacted Clean Water Act. Every three years the seven Basin states through their organization, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), have reviewed these standards in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Forum has recently approved a draft of the *2011 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System* (Review). 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 either of the two websites: [www.waterquality.utah.gov/PublicNotices](http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/PublicNotices) or [www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org). Written public comments can be submitted to: John Whitehead, Forum Member, Utah Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by e-mail at: [jwhitehead@utah.gov](mailto:jwhitehead@utah.gov). **The deadline to receive comments is close of business August 15, 2011.** If you have questions concerning this effort, please contact Jeff Studenka at (801) 536-4395 or by e-mail at: [jstudenka@utah.gov](mailto:jstudenka@utah.gov).

**OTHER INFORMATION**

In general, the findings of the Review are that: 1) the salt load in the Colorado River has been reduced by 1.2 million tons per year thus far through implementation of the Salinity Control Program, 2) there is not a need to change the adopted numeric criteria, 3) there is a Plan of Implementation identified to remove another 644,000 tons of salt per year by the year 2030, and 4) with the plan of implementation in place, there is a low probability of exceeding the numeric criteria below Hoover Dam, below Parker Dam or at Imperial Dam between now and 2030. Damages due to the use of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin remain high. The Review states that the Forum and the states intend to continue their support of an aggressive salinity control program.