



**For immediate release:**

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## **Draft Review of 2005 Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado System is Released for Public Comment**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – A draft of the *2005 Review Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System* has been released for public comment. The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and the Interstate Stream Commission must receive comments by noon on Friday, August 26, 2005.

The draft review includes an implementation plan to prevent the total dissolved salts in the Colorado River from rising above the 1972 levels at three downstream monitoring stations which include: Hoover Dam, Parker Dam, and Imperial Dam.

Almost unlimited supplies of salts occur in the marine shales of the Upper Colorado River Basin. Salts diverted in water from the Colorado River are estimated to damage water users in the Lower Colorado River Basin hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

The draft *2005 Review Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System* is available by contacting the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum at: (801) 292-4663 or 106 West 500 South, Suite 101, Bountiful, Utah 84010.

In addition, the document can be obtained via the internet at [www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org) and [www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us) .

**(MORE)**

Comments should be emailed to [jbarnett@barnettwater.com](mailto:jbarnett@barnettwater.com) and [jay.groseclose@state.nm.us](mailto:jay.groseclose@state.nm.us) or mailed to both:

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum  
106 West 500 South, Suite 101  
Bountiful, UT 84010

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission  
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The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum is an organization of the seven Colorado River Basin states. Federal water quality laws require a review of the adopted water quality standards at least once every three years.

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission and oversees its staff.

The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

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