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## State Water Resources Control Board

# NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS OF SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICES OF INTENT TO APPEAR AND CHANGES OF IN-PERSON MEETINGS TO CONFERENCE CALLS

The State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”), Administrative Hearings Office (“AHO”) recently issued Notices of Public Hearings, Pre-Hearing Conferences and a Status Conference in the following matters:

- Vierra-Ohm-Speckman Status Conference
- Gonzalves CDO Hearing
- Sacramento County Change Petition Hearing
- Solvang Petitions Hearing

All of these notices directed the parties submitting documents to the AHO before electronic service lists have been prepared, including Notices of Intent to Appear (“NOIs”), to transmit copies of these documents to all of the other parties listed in the notices’ proofs of service. Because no electronic service lists have been prepared yet for any of these matters, this service would have to be made by first-class mail. (The AHO did not intend to require this service to be made by certified mail.)

When the AHO prepared these notices, we had assumed that any party making such a filing could send paper copies of the documents to the other parties by first-class mail without any substantial effort. This requirement was part of our intent to avoid any *ex parte* contacts.

Since this notice was issued, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis has made it much more difficult for parties to make these mailings of paper copies of documents. I therefore authorize each party or the party’s representative to file the party’s NOI with the AHO by any of the methods described in the hearing notice without any need to serve copies of the NOIs on any other parties.

The deadlines for filing NOIs listed in the notices still are in effect. After each of these deadlines has passed, the AHO will circulate by e-mail an electronic service list for the matter. The AHO will include copies of all filed NOIs with this service list. The provisions in the notice for electronic service of documents will apply to all documents filed with the AHO after the AHO has circulated the electronic service list.

Several of these notices specified dates in April for in-person status or pre-hearing conferences. The AHO will be changing all of these April in-person conferences to conference calls to be held on the same date at the same time. After the NOI filing deadline and the preparation of an electronic service list for each matter, the AHO will circulate a notice of the change to a conference call and the call-in information to the NOI parties. The AHO also will circulate copies of these notices to the AHO LYRIS e-mail list and post them on the AHO webpage.

Date: April 2, 2020

SIGNATURE ON FILE  
Alan B. Lilly, Presiding Hearing Officer