
State Water Resources Control Board

October 3, 2016

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

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Dear Mses. Firestone, Spaletta, and Aguilar and Mr. Jennings:

**OWN MOTION REVIEW OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS GENERAL ORDER NO. R5-2012-0116 FOR GROWERS WITHIN THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE THIRD-PARTY GROUP, CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD: NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP
SWRCB/OCC FILES A-2239(a)-(c)**

On February 8, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released a staff-proposed draft order in the above matter. The State Water Board subsequently held two Board workshops, on May 4, 2016, in Sacramento, and on May 17, 2016, in Fresno. The written comment period closed on June 1, 2016.

State Water Board staff has reviewed the oral and written comments and believes that additional discussion of several issues will assist staff in addressing the comments. Accordingly, staff will conduct a staff workshop to provide an opportunity for discussion. One or two Board members may be present at the staff workshop; however, there will not be a quorum of Board members, and the staff workshop does not constitute an opportunity to provide oral comment to the Board. The State Water Board may subsequently consider re-opening the comment period on the proposed order if the Board decides greater clarification or discussion on certain issues will assist its decision making.

The staff workshop will be held on **Wednesday, October 19, 2016**, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in room "Training 1" on the First Floor of the Cal/EPA Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California. Staff has tentatively reserved Friday, November, 18, 2016, as a second workshop

date. Staff will provide notice if it determines, following the October 19, 2016, workshop, that a second workshop would be beneficial.

The purpose of the October 19th workshop is to provide for an opportunity for staff to ask parties and representatives of stakeholder groups detailed questions about specific submitted comments, to hear from parties and representatives regarding their discussions since comments were submitted (as requested by the State Water Board members at the conclusion of the May 17th workshop), and to allow for in-depth dialogue on several issues raised in the comment letters and oral comments to the Board. Attendees will be asked to designate representatives to facilitate a more efficient dialogue, because there may not be an opportunity for all attendees to provide direct input.

The October 19th workshop will be focused primarily on nitrate and groundwater issues. Surface water monitoring issues will not be discussed at this workshop. Staff asks that parties and representatives of stakeholder groups be prepared for a detailed discussion of the following topics:

1. Application and usage of vulnerability determinations
2. Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary reporting
3. Potential auditing mechanisms in lieu of field-level reporting
4. Management Practices Evaluation Program expectations
5. Domestic well monitoring options

If there are any questions or comments, please contact Emel Wadhvani, Senior Staff Counsel, in the Office of Chief Counsel, at (916) 322-3622 or Emel.Wadhvani@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Wyels", with the word "for" written below it.

Philip G. Wyels
Assistant Chief Counsel

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