

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706

PUBLIC HEARING
concerning

**TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
AND
TIME SCHEDULE ORDER
FOR
HILMAR CHEESE COMPANY, INC.
AND
RECLAMATION AREA OWNERS
HILMAR CHEESE PROCESSING PLANT
MERCED COUNTY**

The Hilmar Cheese Company (Hilmar Cheese) owns and operates a Cheese Processing Plant (Plant) just north of the community of Hilmar in Merced County. Wastewater from the Plant's wastewater treatment facility is discharged to nearby farmlands owner by Hilmar Cheese and other landowners (Reclamation Area Owners). The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to regulate the discharge.

Because Hilmar Cheese will not be able to initially comply with the effluent limitations of the proposed WDRs, the accompanying draft Time Schedule Order (TSO) provides a time schedule for Hilmar Cheese to complete a project to meet the limitations. The Time Schedule Order includes interim flow and electrical conductivity limitations.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting, which is scheduled for:

DATE: 27/28/29 January 2010
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Dr., Suite #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Hilmar Cheese Company
- Reclamation Area Owners

Designated parties, but not interested persons, will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. Central Valley Water Board staff will prepare the administrative record, and may present evidence, make an oral presentation and cross-examine opposing witnesses.

Interested persons may not cross examine witnesses, and will not be subject to cross examination. Interested persons may submit evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data) if the evidence submitted in accordance with the deadlines for submitting evidence described below. Interested persons who present evidence may be

subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **20 December 2009**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is affected by the discharge.

The tentative WDRs and draft TSO were issued on 8 December 2009. Persons wishing to comment on this item must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **5:00 p.m. on 11 January 2010**. Written materials submitted after 5:00 p.m. on the above date will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record absent a ruling by the Chair. A party requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause for the late submission, and the Chair must find that the late submission would not prejudice the Central Valley Water Board or any designated party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Regional Water Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair. Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Board members, counsel staff, or others, at the discretion of the Board.

Anyone having questions on the tentative WDRs or TSO should contact Mr. Jeff Pyle at (559) 445-5145. Interested parties may download the proposed Orders and related documents from the Central Valley Water Board's internet website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office at 1685 "E" Street, Fresno, California, 93706, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/docs/boardprocedure.pdf or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Original signed by

LONNIE M. WASS, SUPERVISING ENGINEER