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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair

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**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and NOTICE OF FILING OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

concerning
Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for
the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins to
Address Selenium Control in the San Joaquin River Basin
Fresno and Merced Counties

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) to modify the compliance time schedule for discharges regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements to meet the selenium objective or comply with a prohibition of discharge of agricultural subsurface drainage to Mud Slough (north), tributary to the San Joaquin River, in Merced County. The proposed amendments and supporting staff report include environmental documentation required under Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code and Title 23 California Code of Regulations sections 3775-3782. The environmental documentation is informed by the environmental analysis conducted by the US Bureau of Reclamation and the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority dated 21 December 2009, which was prepared in compliance with the same legal provisions with regard to the use of the federally owned San Luis Drain. The environmental analysis concludes that with the agreed-upon mitigations the amendments will have no significant effects on the environment. The proposed basin plan amendments are administrative in nature and will not alter any water quality objective, program goal, policy or other scientific underpinning of the selenium control program for the San Joaquin River.

After hearing testimony, the Central Valley Water Board may choose to act on the proposal, select an alternative evaluated in the Staff Report, select an alternative with revisions, or may choose to continue or close the hearing and vote on the proposal at a future meeting. The public hearing, to be conducted during the May Central Valley Water Board meeting, is scheduled at the time and location noted below:

Date: **26/27/28 May 2010**

Time: To be determined. Please contact staff two weeks prior to the meeting for a projected time when this matter will be heard.

Place: Regional Water Quality Control Board office
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

On 17 October 2008 and 12 November 2008, Central Valley Water Board staff conducted workshops in Los Banos and Rancho Cordova to receive comments from the public on issues

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that should be considered in amending the Basin Plan. Comments received were considered during preparation of the draft Staff Report.

Interested persons may download the draft staff report for the proposed Basin Plan amendments, which includes the environmental documentation required under CEQA, in PDF format from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/grassland_bypass. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

In order to be included in the written response to comments that is a part of the final administrative record, written comments must be submitted by **26 April 2010** to Gail Cismowski, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. At the hearing on 26, 27, or 28 May, staff will summarize the written comments and present a final recommendation for Central Valley Water Board consideration. Interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Central Valley Water Board at the hearing. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Water Board Chair. The Water Board Chair may, at her discretion, allow presenters to supplement their oral testimony with slides or other digital media. In order to verify software compatibility and expedite the presentation, digital files should be received no later than **19 May 2010**.

Confirmation of the hearing date and any questions regarding the proposed amendments should be directed to Gail Cismowski at (916) 464-4608 or gcismowski@waterboards.ca.gov. 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.

/S/

KENNETH D. LANDAU, Assistant Executive Officer
8 March 2010