



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair



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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Opportunity for Public Comment on Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for a Waste Discharge Regulatory Program for Irrigated Lands within the Central Valley Region

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), as the lead agency, has released a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for a waste discharge regulatory program for irrigated lands within the Central Valley Region. **The public review and comment period for the Draft PEIR is from July 28th until September 27th, 2010.** During the review period, the Central Valley Water Board will hold four public meetings to receive comments on the Draft PEIR.

Background

The Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) was initiated in 2003 with the adoption of the *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands within the Central Valley Region* (Conditional Waiver). A revised Conditional Waiver was adopted in July 2006, and a workgroup assembled to develop alternatives to the ILRP for environmental analysis. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Draft PEIR analyzes a full range of suggested alternatives to determine the potential environmental impacts of each.

The ILRP will involve the adoption of one or more general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), Conditional Waivers of WDRs, and/or Prohibitions of Discharge to regulate the discharge of waste to ground and surface waters of the State from irrigated agricultural operations, managed wetlands, and nursery operations.

Significant Environmental Effects

The Draft PEIR evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the ILRP, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the Central Valley Water Board or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts. The Draft PEIR identifies significant and unavoidable impacts in the areas of climate change, from potential increase of greenhouse gas emissions; and agriculture resources, from potential loss of farmland due to increased regulatory costs. Based on information known to date, the Project site(s) are not listed toxic sites.

Document Availability

Hard copies of the Draft PEIR are available for review at the following locations:

Central Valley Water Board 415 Knollcrest Drive Redding, CA 96002	CSU Chico, Meriam Library 400 West First Street Chico, CA 95929	CSU Bakersfield, Stiern Library 9001 Stockdale Highway Bakersfield, CA 93311
Central Valley Water Board 11020 Sun Center Drive, Ste 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	UC Davis, Shields Library 100 NW Quad Davis, CA 95616	

California Environmental Protection Agency



Central Valley Water Board 1685 E Street, Suite 200 Fresno, CA 93706	UC Merced Library 5200 North Lake Road Merced, CA 95343	
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Electronic copies of the Draft PEIR can be downloaded in PDF format from the Central Valley Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/long_term_program_development

Public Workshops

Four public workshops will be held to take comments on the Draft PEIR. One or more members of the Central Valley Water Board may be present at the workshops; however, no Board action will be taken. Meeting dates and locations are as follows:*

September 8, 5pm-8pm Southern California Edison Agricultural Technology Application Center Learning Center 4175 S Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274	September 9, 6pm-9pm Stanislaus County Agricultural Center Harvest Hall 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358
September 10, 9:30am-12:30pm Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board 11020 Sun Center Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	September 10, 5pm-8pm Chico Holiday Inn and Conference Center 685 Manzanita Ct., Chico, CA 95926

*Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Adam Laputz, (916) 464-4848, at least five working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Submission of Comments

Public comments on the Draft PEIR must be received by September 27, 2010. Comments may be sent via mail, e-mail or fax (email comments are preferred) to:

ILRP Comments Ms. Megan Smith 630 K Street, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA 95814	Email: ILRPcomments@icfi.com FAX: (916) 456-6724
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If you are interested in receiving future notices on the PEIR, you may sign up on the e-mail subscription list (check the box for Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program) at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml, or call (916) 464-4611 to request to receive hard copy notices.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this notice, contact Adam Laputz at (916) 464-4848. For more information on this notice or the Draft PEIR, please visit the project website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/long_term_program_development.