NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges from irrigated lands for Rice Growers in the Sacramento Valley

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) has released proposed waste discharge requirements and a monitoring and reporting program for rice growers in the Sacramento Valley (Rice Order). The proposed waste discharge requirements and monitoring and reporting program rely on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, Program Environmental Impact Report (Resolution R5-2011-0017) for California Environmental Quality Act compliance. Electronic copies of the proposed Rice Order are available on the Central Valley Water Board's website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/new_waste_discharge_requirements/rice_growers_sacvalley_wdrs/index.shtml

Copies of the proposed Rice Order 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, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

A public hearing concerning the proposed Rice Order will be held in Rancho Cordova on 27/28 March 2014. The hearing date and location are noted below:

Date: 27/28 March 2014
Time: To be determined
Place: Central Valley Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The final meeting agenda will be available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/ at least ten days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the hearing date and time for the Rice Order, indicate the anticipated order of agenda items, include all material related to this agenda item, and may include staff revisions.

Written comments on the proposed Rice Order are due by **18 February 2014**. Additional written comments will not be received at the hearing. Persons submitting written comments are encouraged to do so electronically by sending them to mawong@waterboards.ca.gov. Otherwise, written comments may be sent to the Central Valley Water Board's address to the attention of Margaret Wong. Materials received by 18 February 2014 will be included in the administrative record; submitted comments will be considered and a written response will be prepared. Written comments shall not be read into the record unless allowed by the Central Valley Water Board Chair.

At the hearing, staff will 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 workshops. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Central Valley Water Board Chair. Interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Central Valley Water Board members, counsel, staff, or others, at the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board Chair. The Chair may, at his discretion, allow presenters to supplement their oral testimony with slides or other digital media. If you plan to use visual aids such as PowerPoint slides, contact staff prior to the meeting to arrange for equipment set-up. You must provide a printed or electronic copy of any visual aids.

Ex Parte Communications. Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287. **Ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the board meeting at which the proposed order is scheduled for board action**. For communications concerning any issue in this proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited starting on 14 March 2014. If the board does not take action on 27/28 March 2014, the ex parte prohibition will remain in place until the board, the Chair or the Executive Officer directs otherwise. Once lifted, the prohibition on ex parte communications may be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the board meeting to which the decision is continued. The board will provide notice via the Lyris email list for this item if the prohibition is lifted and/or reinstated.

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 Central Valley Water 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/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml or by contacting any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

Any questions regarding the proposed action should be directed to Margaret Wong at (916) 464-4857 or mawong@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.

Original signed by

KENNETH D. LANDAU, Assistant Executive Officer
17 January 2014