

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

This will serve as notice that the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the following project in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project Title: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Agricultural Lands Within the Los Angeles Region.

Project location: Throughout the Regional Board's jurisdiction, including portions of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern Counties.

Project Description: As authorized by Water Code section 13269, the proposed Conditional Waiver requires persons who obtain coverage under the waiver to, in part, (1) prepare monitoring plans, conduct monitoring, and report annually on monitoring results, including the identification of Water Quality Benchmark exceedances; (2) develop, as required, a water quality management plan (WQMP), which identifies management practices that will address Water Quality Benchmark exceedances; (3) implement the WQMP and management practices to attain Water Quality Benchmarks; and (4) assess the effectiveness of implemented management practices in attaining Water Quality Benchmarks and, when necessary to attain Water Quality Benchmarks, identify, implement, or upgrade management practices. The proposed Conditional Waiver also requires that, if TMDL-associated Water Quality Benchmarks are not attained within a reasonable time schedule (as set forth in Section D, Table 2 of the proposed Order), then discharges from irrigated agricultural lands comply with discharge limitations. Finally, the proposed Conditional Waiver requires Dischargers to implement management practices that minimize excess nutrient application relative to crop need and to conduct groundwater monitoring in Ventura County to assess trends in groundwater quality beneath irrigated agricultural lands to evaluate whether management practices implemented to improve groundwater quality are effective.

The Regional Water Board original adopted a Conditional Waiver on November 3, 2005 for a five year term. On October 7, 2010, the Regional Water Board renewed the Waiver for a new five year term that expired on October 7, 2015. On October 8, 2015, the Regional Water Board renewed the Waiver for a six-month period. The expiration date of Order No. R4-2015-0202 is April 15, 2016

This Order differs from previous orders by containing more specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the preparation of WQMPs in order to better assess effectiveness of management practices, and more specific time schedules and requirements to ensure that Water Quality Benchmarks are ultimately attained.

An Initial Study has been conducted by the Regional Board, which documents the reasons to support the Finding of the Mitigated Negative Declaration that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The Initial Study and the Mitigated Negative Declaration are on file at the address above and are available for public examination at the Regional Board, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

All interested agencies, groups and persons wishing to respond to the finding of the Mitigated Negative Declaration are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Regional Board on or before 5:00 PM on March 21, 2016. Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013
ATTN: Snejana Toneva
snejana.toneva@waterboards.ca.gov

For additional information regarding this action, please contact Snejana Toneva at Snejana.Toneva@waterboards.ca.gov or 213-576-7159 or Jenny Newman at Jenny.Newman@waterboards.ca.gov or 213-576-6691.


Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer