



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Francisco Bay Region



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Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor

Notice Date: March 8, 2011

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP/ CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT SCOPING MEETING

### CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR VINEYARD FACILITIES IN THE NAPA RIVER AND SONOMA CREEK WATERSHEDS

Thursday, April 14, 2011  
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM  
Napa Main Library Community Meeting Room  
580 Coombs Street  
Napa, CA 94559.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff will hold a public workshop/California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek public input regarding the scope, content, and potential environmental impacts of a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements for vineyard facilities in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. The location and time of the meeting is provided above.

#### **PROJECT TITLE**

Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Vineyard Facilities in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds (Vineyard Waiver).

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Water Board staff intends to recommend that the Water Board adopts a Vineyard Waiver to set conditions requiring vineyard owners and/or their designated operators to implement effective management practices to control discharges of pollutants from vineyard facilities. The conditions of the proposed Vineyard Waiver would include performance standards for the discharge of sediment, nutrients, excessive storm runoff, pesticides, pathogens, and heat (human-caused effects on channel or riparian conditions that may cause increases to stream temperature). The conditions would require vineyard owners and operators to:

1. Enroll in the Vineyard Waiver program by submitting a Notice of Intent form, stating their intent to comply with the conditions of the Vineyard Waiver;
2. Develop a farm water quality management plan (Farm Plan) that addresses, at a minimum, erosion control, attenuation of increases in peak runoff, roads, pesticide and fertilizer applications, and sediment delivery sites such as gullies, rills, and landslides;
3. Implement and maintain management practices in accordance with the Farm Plan to meet the performance standards;
4. Conduct compliance monitoring and undertake corrective action as necessary; and
5. Report annually on the status of their current and anticipated management practices.

The implementation plans for the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) identified a Vineyard Waiver as a regulatory mechanism to achieve sediment load allocations

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specified in the TMDLs. More information about the [Vineyard Waiver](#) (*click to follow link*) is available on the Water Board's website.

### **MEETING PURPOSE AND FORMAT**

Water Board staff is starting the process of developing, and proposing for Water Board adoption, the Vineyard Waiver. The Water Board, acting as "lead agency," plans to complete an environmental review process, as required by CEQA, prior to the adoption. The environmental review requires an initial review of the project and its potential environmental effects.

Scoping helps the Water Board identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and potential significant environmental effects to be analyzed. Scoping meetings provide participants with a forum for early public input regarding environmental information that the Water Board should consider.

Water Board staff will first hold a public workshop where staff will provide a description of the Vineyard Waiver development process and its schedule, present an overview of the regulatory and technical issues associated with vineyard facilities, and discuss key elements of the proposed Vineyard Waiver. Immediately following the workshop, staff will hold open a public scoping meeting pursuant to CEQA on this project. At this time, staff will discuss and take comments on the project and its potential environmental impacts.

For additional information, please contact Tina Low at (510) 622-5682 or via email at [TLow@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:TLow@waterboards.ca.gov).