

**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO CERTIFY A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND
ADOPT TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SUNNYGEM, LLC, SANDRIDGE PARTNERS, LP,
AND MCCARTHY FAMILY FARMS, INC.
SPICER CITY JUICE PROCESSING PLANT
KERN COUNTY**

The Spicer City Juice Processing Plant (Plant) is at 23145 Lerdo Highway between Buttonwillow and Lost Hills in Kern County. The Plant and wastewater discharge areas are adjacent to Main Drain. The Plant seasonally produces fruit juice concentrate from pomegranates. The proposed expansion would allow the Plant to process juice from other fruits and operate most of the year, increasing wastewater flows from under 0.1 million gallons per year to as much as 6.7 million gallons per year. The associated wastewater discharge would be to unlined ponds prior to reuse for irrigation of about 2,200 acres of crops.

Prior to adoption of WDRs to regulate the treated wastewater discharge, a review of the project's potential environmental impacts is required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Kern County determined that the proposed activity is a by-right use which does not require a discretionary land use permit. Therefore, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is the lead agency for the CEQA review. The review period begins on 13 July 2012 and ends on 13 August 2012.

Any comments or recommendations you may have concerning the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Tentative WDRs must be submitted to this office (1685 'E' Street, Fresno, CA 93706) by **5:00 p.m. on 13 August 2012** in order for us to give them full consideration prior to the 3/4/5 October 2012 meeting of the Central Valley Water Board. Comments received after this time will not be considered or included in the administrative record unless allowed by the Chair.

In order to conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, paper copies of the documents are being sent only to the Discharger. Interested parties are advised that the full text of the Order is available on the Central Valley Water Board's web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml under the heading of "Discharger-Specific Orders for Future Board Meetings."

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting, which is scheduled for:

DATE: 3/4/5 October 2012
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Anyone without access to the Internet who needs a paper copy of the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration or tentative WDRs should contact Steve Popenoe at (559) 444-2418 or SPopenoe@waterboards.ca.gov.