



Western Regional Office
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6116
(916) 852-2000 fax (916) 852-2200
www.ducks.org

October 23, 2014

David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes:

Ducks Unlimited is the World's leader in wetland conservation and has restored, enhanced, or protected more than 744,000 acres in California.

We have directed a great deal of resources into maintaining and protecting the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the greater part of California's 95% wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing.

Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for owners of managed wetlands to join as members of third-party coalitions or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extended open-enrollment is critical to allow managed wetland owners the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for managed wetlands in the Tulare Basin. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the Regional Board's objective of not causing economic hardship.

We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

Sincerely,


Mark E. Biddlecom
Director of Operations, Western Region

Cc: Mark Smith, DU, Director of Public Policy
Jeff McCreary, DU, Director of Conservation Programs
Chris M. Hildebrandt, DU, Regional Biologist
Dennis Slater, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association, President

Conservation For Generations

Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards

From: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2014 2:28 PM
To: Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards
Subject: FW: Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

From: Burns, Greg [mailto:Greg.Burns@ipx1031.com]
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2014 2:24 PM
To: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Subject: Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner, we have directed much of our resources to maintaining and protecting the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. I applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

Sincerely,
Greg Burns
PAZUSA Land and Water Company

Greg Burns
Senior Vice President
Investment Property Exchange Services, Inc.
(626)233-2773

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Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards

From: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards
Subject: FW: Waste discharge requirements

From: ecjosephdds@aol.com [<mailto:ecjosephdds@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Subject: Waste discharge requirements

Dear Mr. Sholes

I am a member of Pasuza Land & Water Co, a private duck club in the Tulare Basin. Please consider adopting a deadline of 12/31/2015 for the open enrollment period for us to join as members of a third party coalition to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the tulare basin

thank you

Cordially

Edward C. Joseph, DDS

Edward Bostick

1522 East Elm Avenue • El Segundo, CA 90245
Phone: 310-613-7375 • E-Mail: esbostick@socal.rr.com

October 28, 2014

David Sholes
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Unit Chief
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

RE: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for
Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner, I have directed much of my time and money to maintaining and protecting the wetlands that my family owns in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and I strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its December 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for owners of managed wetlands to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow time for the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group to coordinate and find an appropriate plan for managed wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. As a small family owned operation with a fixed budget, any funds transferred to ILRP will result in a reduction of wildlife habitat that I provide or jeopardize the operation. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

Sincerely,

Edward Bostick
Bob Bostick Duck Club Manager

Rick Nunez
Rick.nunez@colliers.com

5470 Stonveview Rd.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

PH 909.573.4566
FAX 909.937.6210

Das
Comment Letter A5

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2014

RWQCB-CVR
FRESNO, CALIF.

October 23, 2014

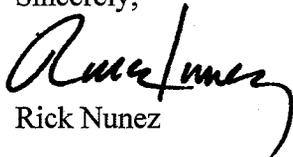
Attn: David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a sportsman and conservationist, I have directed time and resources to maintaining and protecting the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and I strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for duck clubs, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. As always, I am in support of measures to protect our environment and resources. In such, I hope the Regional Board will adopt the proposed changes. (Please see attachment) As managers of wetlands, we need the extension of the deadline to be moved to December 31, 2015 as proposed. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Rick Nunez

Cc: Felicia Marcus, Chair State Water Resource Control Board

Comment Letter A6

October 23, 2014

Burbank Land Company

Attn: David Sholes

Bakersfield, CA 93306

RECEIVED

1685 E Street

OCT 30 2014

Fresno, CA 93706

RWQCB-CVR
FRESNO, CALIF.

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner, we have directed much of our resources to maintaining and protecting the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

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Sincerely,



Ken Barton

ILRP Liaison

kennethlbarton@msn.com; 818-367-4158

DAS

Spoonyville, LLC
James L. Wattenbarger
6723 Park West Circle
Bakersfield, CA 93308

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OCT 31 2014

RWQCB-CVR
FRESNO, CALIF.

Comment Letter A7

Mr. David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

October 29, 2014

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner in the Tulare Basin for over 30 years I have been fiercely protective of the diminishing acreage we still maintain. Putting in place, in 2011, a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service easement creating near a couple hundred acres of Waterfowl and Upland Game Habitat in Perpetuity. We have directed ALL of our (Spoonyville LLC) resources to preserving and protecting those acres as they represent an active portion of the remaining wetlands in said basin, where, no doubt, the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. No seasonal flooding water leaves our property, we use NO fertilizers, In it's entirety It is simply--Habitat.

Now unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

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Sincerely,

James L. Wattenbarger
Managing Member
SPOONYVILLE, LLC

"If you flood it they will come"



November 4, 2014

David Sholes
CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER
QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
1685 "E" Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Re: Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes:

I am writing on behalf of Rancho Visalia Hunt Club which owns a section of land in the Tulare Basin west of Highway 43 and north of Highway 155. Our club currently spends tens of thousands of dollars each year to create wetlands which provide invaluable habitat for waterfowl and countless other species as well as recreational opportunities for our members and others. Due to conservation easements and other restrictions, our land is not farmed and does not produce any income; rather, the substantial flooding costs are covered by our members who must contribute each year out of their own pockets.

We are very concerned about how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) will be applied to nonprofit and other recreational clubs like ours. Indeed, our ability to flood and maintain wetlands in the future would almost certainly be jeopardized by the substantial costs and data-gathering burden which would likely be added by the current third-party coalition covering managed wetlands in the Tulare Basin.

Accordingly, we strongly urge the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA Waste Discharge Requirements General Order at the public hearing on December 4-5, 2014. The revisions would extend the open-enrollment period for us to join a third-party coalition or work with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group to devise a plan for our wetlands which is both economically feasible and workable for us, yet also achieves the goals of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Very truly yours,



Steven A. Silver,
Secretary, Rancho Visalia

**WHITE RANCH LAND COMPANY, LLC
HOG ISLAND HUNTING CLUB
2809 UNICORN RD. SUITE 107
BAKERSFIELD, CA. 93308**

Comment Letter A9

November 5, 2014

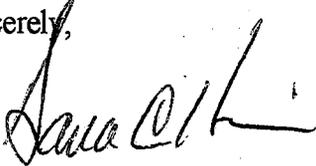
Attn: David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner, we have directed much of our resources to maintaining and protecting the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

Sincerely,



Dana C. Hair
Managing Member
White Ranch Land Company, LLC
Hog Island Hunting Club LLC

Pintail Slough Land Company



November 5, 2014

Attn: David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the membership of the Pintail Slough Land Company Duck Club, which consists of 24 full voting members. Our property consists of both seasonal waterfowl habitat as well as undisturbed natural desert. Although our primary purpose is to provide wetland habitat for a myriad of different waterfowl species, our conservation efforts have also proven beneficial to many other non-waterfowl species local to our area.

Our club is a nonprofit, private organization without any commercial interest, dedicated to the conservation of wildlife. It is entirely member funded and therefore further monetary and other impositions would likely financially cripple our organization as we are already struggling to cover the expense of water. The historic wetlands of Kern County are a thing of the past and will likely never return. The remaining private wetlands, like ours, are only a small resemblance but without us waterfowl will have nothing.

It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements for the Tulare Lake Basin Area may be applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its December 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We

applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted, as waterfowl are an extremely important part of the Tulare Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick McPheeters".

Rick McPheeters
Secretary
PSLC

DAS

Comment Letter A11



Western Regional Office
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6116
(916) 852-2000 Fax (916) 852-2200
www.ducks.org

November 03, 2014

Attn: David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

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NOV 06 2014

RWQCB-CVR
FRESNO, CALIF.

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner for nearly 50 years, Central City Gun Club has directed much of our resources to restoring, maintaining and protecting one of the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands such as our as we do not fertilize, we use no herbicides, and our purchases of water through the Goose Lake Canal system either evaporate, or are subsequently directed to a brooding pond located on our property for ground percolation. As such, we are not the type of enterprise which is the targeted intention of the TLBA WDR General Order. As such we ask for dispensation/waiver from any such requirements. If a waiver cannot be provided immediately, then we encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

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Sincerely,

David Renuart, President
Central City Gun Club
(Wetland Owner near the Kern Wildlife Refuge)

Cc: Mark Biddlecomb, DU, Director
Chris M. Hildebrandt, DU, Regional Biologist

Westside Waterfowl
2216 Lacey St
Bakersfield Ca 93304

Comment Letter A12

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NOV 06 2014

RWQCB-CVR
FRESNO, CALIF.

November 4, 2014

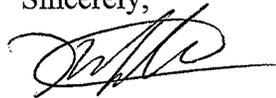
Attn: David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner, we have directed much of our resources to maintaining and protecting the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

Sincerely,



Mark Swaim
Wetland Owner
Westside Waterfowl

Cc: Mark Biddlecomb, DU, Director
Chris M. Hildebrandt, DU, Regional Biologist

Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards

From: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 8:47 AM
To: Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards
Subject: FW: Kahala wildlife refuge

From: Austin Hope [<mailto:austinhope99@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 8:57 PM
To: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Cc: Chris hildebrandt; Kenneth L Barton
Subject: Kahala wildlife refuge

Comment Letter A13

Attn: David Sholes

1685 E Street

Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for

Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

As a private wetland owner, we have directed much of our resources to maintaining and protecting the few remaining wetlands in the Tulare Basin, where the majority of California's wetland loss has occurred. This has been a love of my life for most of my life and I have gone to great lengths to restore the wetlands we have today. We face many challenges on a yearly basis; not mention the lack of help with water resources. Yet, we continue to keep doing it because its a passion and a necessity to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy one of the greatest things in the world; annual migration. It is unclear how the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) may be applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for us, as owners of managed wetlands, to join as members of a third-party coalition or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the Tulare Basin. This extra time is critical to allow us the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for our wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost to conversion due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of

not causing economic hardship. We applaud the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

Sincerely,

Austin Hope
Kahala wildlife refuge

John Smith

Wetland Owner

Let 'em work Duck Club

Cc: Mark Biddlecomb, DU, Director

Chris M. Hildebrandt, DU, Regional Biologist

Pasuja Land and Water Co, Inc.
5090 N. Fruit Avenue, Suite #102
Fresno, California 93711
(714) 267-6716
www.pasuja.com

November 6, 2014

Comment Letter A14

Attn: David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Mr. Sholes,

I represent the Pasuja Land and Water Company (Pasuja), a private wetlands duck hunting organization.

I have spent considerable time reviewing the recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA). I find it very strange that the Water Quality Control Board would want to impose these new requirements on organizations that promote wildlife habitat.

Managed wetlands like our property and the other clubs that seasonally flood for waterfowl habitat are only replicating what had naturally occurred in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) prior to human manipulation of the natural water flow from the Sierra watershed. Our activities are an attempt to fix what man has negatively created. We seasonally flood to promote and replace the habitat for migrating waterfowl.

Please understand; we do not do this for profit or a marketable crop. We are not 'growers' as your document refers to. We do not use pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides on our lands. That would be counter-productive to what we are trying to accomplish. We are trying to replicate the most natural wetlands environment possible. Discing and mowing is used to manage noxious vegetation.

All of the flooded land is contained within leveed ponds therefore there is no runoff into streams. All of our water is either evaporated back to the atmosphere or percolated back into the shallow ground water. With out any contaminates.

Pasuja is, as are many of the duck clubs in the SJV part of the Federal Wetland Easement program. This is an irrevocable easement. We are bound by this easement to keep our property a flooded wetlands habitat forever. These properties will always be seasonally flooded wetlands for waterfowl habitat. These proposed regulations by the Water Quality Control Board will be counter productive to the requirements we are bound to by the Federal Wetland Easement program. We cannot change what we agreed to with the Federal Government.

Pasuza Land and Water Co, Inc.
5090 N. Fruit Avenue, Suite #102
Fresno, California 93711
(714) 267-6716
www.pasuza.com

I respectfully request that you consider exempting clubs such as Pasuza from these regulations. Please consider we are enhancing the wetland environment, not adversely affecting it. At the very least I request that the Regional Board adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Give us more time to organize and plan for these new issues being imposed upon us.

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| 1

Respectfully,



Steve Miller
President
Pasuza Land and Water Co, Inc.

Cc: Mark Biddlecomb, DU, Director
Chris M. Hildebrandt, DU, Regional Biologist

PASUZA MEMBER MISSION STATEMENT

As the stewards of this Club: we will, through our efforts both individually and as a group act as reputable, ethical sportsmen in the responsible conservation of the wildlife, water and other natural resources that this property provides.

Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards

From: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 8:20 AM
To: Smaira, NicholasBassam@Waterboards
Subject: FW: Wetlands

Comment Letter A15

From: Ron Hurlbert [mailto:hurlbert.shooter@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 7:04 AM
To: Sholes, David@Waterboards
Subject: Wetlands

I am a landowner in Kern County, Calif. that flood seasonal wetlands. I am asking the Board for an extension to Dec. 2015 for any action on discharge requirements and costs associated with wetlands.

Specifically...my 480 acre property is flooded in controlled ponds in Nov/Dec/Jan annually. Of the 480 acres 40-80 acres will be flooded. There are no discharges from the property. Any movement of water is wholly within my property lines.

Mine and other wetlands in the Southern San Joaquin Valley are being threatened on all sides. I understand the need for discharge requirements and study...however, our wetlands should be looked at as a valuable resource that improves water quality and all the other valuable benefits they provide.

Please give the wetlands and the Board time to refine the approach to help maintain these last vestiges of what the San Joaquin Valley use to be.

Thank You...Ron Hurlbert

--
Ron Hurlbert
130 Summit Ridge Way
Gardnerville, Nevada 89460

775-392-3066
805-838-4079 cell



November, 4 2014

Attn: David Sholes
1685 E. Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Subject: Comments on Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

California Waterfowl is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission and objective is conserving California's waterfowl, wetlands and hunting heritage. As an organization and a wetland owner within the Tulare Basin, we have directed much of our resources in maintaining and protecting the few remaining private and public wetlands in the basin. The recently adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA) are non-applicable to managed wetlands, and we strongly encourage the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to adopt the proposed revisions to the TLBA WDR General Order at its Dec. 4/5, 2014 public hearing. Among other items, the proposed changes extend the open-enrollment period for wetland owners to join as members of a third-party coalition, or develop an alternative plan to abide by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. This extension is critical to allow wetland managers the time to coordinate with the Central Valley Managed Wetlands Working Group and find an appropriate plan for wetlands. As it currently stands, the applicable third-party coalition covering Tulare Basin managed wetlands would likely result in additional wetlands being lost and likely converted to agriculture due to the burden of erroneous data gathering and cost. This would be an extremely undesirable situation that would challenge the CVRWQCB's objective of not causing economic hardship. We appreciate the realization of this important issue by Regional Board staff and fully expect these proposed changes to be adopted.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Pickett
Regional Biologist, Tulare Basin
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Jake Messerli, CWA, Conservation Programs Director

**Buena Vista Coalition
Corcoran Irrigation District
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association
California Fresh Fruit Association
Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Kings County Farm Bureau
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
Kings River Water Quality Coalition
North West Kern Resource Conservation District
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Tulare Lake Drainage District
Tulare Lake Resource Conservation District
Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition
Westside Water Quality Coalition
Western Agricultural Processors Association**

November 7, 2014

Sent Via Email Only

Ms. Susan Fregien
Mr. David Sholes
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov
david.sholes@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Reopening of the Tulare Lake Basin WDRs (Order No. R5-2013-0120)

Dear Ms. Fregien and Mr. Sholes:

The above named Third-Party groups under the Tulare Lake Basin WDR and agricultural organizations with membership in the coalition area wish to submit the following comments with regards to the reopening of the Order. We have greatly appreciated Regional Board staff working closely with us to adjust some of the reporting timelines for our grower members. Our understanding is that the staff proposal is now very similar to our original proposal with a minor modification. Based upon our new understanding of the staff proposal, we are in support of their recommended changes.

The coalitions' proposed modifications to the order were developed based upon our timing assumptions for approvals of our Groundwater Quality Assessment Reports (**GAR**) as well as potential considerations for temporary relief for our members who are currently dealing with an extreme lack of available water supply to support their farming operations. Board Members of the CVRWQCB held a drought workshop on June 5th, where several members expressed a sincere desire to look for ways to temporarily reduce costs for farmers suffering from a third straight year of dry conditions. We believe

that the reopening of the order provides the Board with an opportune time to consider both the feasible reporting timelines coupled with temporary drought relief. We appreciate the Board and staff's willingness to consider our proposal.

5

Summary of Proposed Changes

Below is a table with our requested changes, in reference to Table 1 – “Member Due Dates for Required Reports” on page 40 of the WDRs.

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Groundwater Assessment Reports

Many of the requested changes were triggered by the realization that all of our GAR's would not be either submitted or approved in a time that would allow growers in designated high vulnerability areas to meet the original farm evaluation reporting timeline. This same conflict applies to when our members in high vulnerability areas would be required to begin implementing the nitrogen management plan template, which is yet to be approved due to the timing of the CDFA Task Force and SWRCB Expert Panel reports. The timing of the summary reporting is expected even later than the template approval.

Farm Evaluations

Our proposal is to extend the initial farm evaluation reporting by one year. This will not change any of the discharge protections provided in the order, nor will it delay any of the coalitions' efforts on evaluating management practices through the MPEP. All growers in the high vulnerability areas and the 60+ acre growers in the low vulnerable areas will report their farm evaluations by the following March.

1

Nitrogen Management Plans

We did not ask for any substantial delays in the requirements for growers to implement Nitrogen Management Plans in our coalition areas. We understood that the implementation of NMP's is an essential protection strategy that must be maintained. We are committed to a process of communicating the NMP requirements in an appropriate timeline following the Executive Officer's approval of the NMP template.

2

Our proposal does include a delay in the certification requirements due to the availability of qualified individuals and the short timeframe for implementation of the plans. This request was consistent with previously adopted orders. The request for a delay in the Summary Reporting will ensure that the requirements are not retroactive for crops with longer cycles. The uncertainty surrounding the timing of the template approval and potential actions by the SWRCB to standardize reporting also influenced the

3

request. A delay in the reporting as recommended by the coalitions and staff will enable a thoughtful and efficient process for the collection of summary nitrogen information.

Managed Wetlands

We understand that the CVRWQCB staff has proposed an extension of the enrollment deadline for *managed wetlands only* to December 2015. We further understand that the CVRWQCB intends to use this time to give the Managed Wetlands Workgroup and staff the time needed to develop alternative options for regulatory compliance. We believe it is necessary to clarify the confusion surrounding managed wetlands, which exists in part because no definition is provided within the WDRs, and ask that a definition be provided. **We would like the opportunity to comment on the pertinent issues regarding managed wetlands within the WDRs and be involved in the process for developing alternative compliance options.** To date, Coalition Leads have not been included in the Managed Wetlands Workgroup discussions coordinated by CVRWQCB staff.

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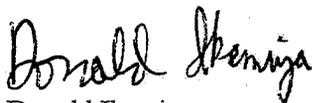
Drought

As you already know, California is experiencing its worst drought in history. The drought impacts have caused significant impacts to a large number of our members in the Tulare Lake Basin area. All are facing a decline in surface water availability and the increased costs associated with additional groundwater pumping. Some are facing a zero percent surface water allocation combined with limited or no groundwater availability causing significant long-term financial harm. Many are facing extreme challenges to find just enough water or secure loans to keep their operations viable and from having to lay off employees. It is difficult to quantify the impacts consistently across the basin, but the economic impacts are real and range from severe to dire and even catastrophic depending on the local conditions. These impacts will continue into the next year, even with average rainfall, as reservoir storage has been severely depleted.

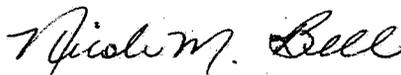
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If you or your staff would like to discuss this further please contact **Donald Ikemiya**, Executive Director of the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association at **(559) 302-1620** or by email at dikemiya@kawahbasin.org or **Nicole Bell**, Manager of the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority at **(661) 616-6500** or by email at Nbell@krwca.org.

Respectfully,



Donald Ikemiya
Executive Director
Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association



Nicole Bell
Manager
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority

cc: Ms. Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer, CVRWQCB
Mr. Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer, CVRWQCB .



CAWELO WATER DISTRICT COALITION
REPRESENTING GROWERS IN THE CAWELO WATER DISTRICT AREA
 17207 INDUSTRIAL FARM ROAD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308 Ph. (661) 393-6072 Fx. (661) 393-6073
 WDR GENERAL ORDER No. R5-2013-0120, CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, CENTRAL VALLEY

APRIL 2014

November 7, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Ms Susan Fregien
 Mr. David Sholes
 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 1685 E Street
 Fresno, CA 93706
susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov
david.sholes@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Reopening of the Tulare Lake Basin Order No. R5-2013-0120

Ms. Fregien and Mr. Sholes:

Cawelo Water District Coalition (CWDC) would like to offer this letter in general support of the comments provided in a separate letter dated November 7, 2014 and provided on behalf of the Buena Vista Coalition, Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association, Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority, Kings River Water Quality Coalition, Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition, Westside Water Quality Coalition and other participating groups. A copy of the letter is attached for your reference.

CWDC appreciates the opportunity to work with the named Tulare Lake Basin Third-Party groups and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) staff to resolve some of the scheduled reporting conflicts that are present in the current General Order. Based on CWDC's current understanding of the Regional Board staff's position on these proposed changes, CWDC supports the proposed revised schedule offered in the attached letter except for the "90 days after NMP Approval" due date for Nitrogen Management Plans (Plans) for Large Farms in the High Vulnerability areas. CWDC's Groundwater Assessment Report, which designates High Vulnerability areas, is due April 27, 2015 and potentially the Plans for these areas could be due prior to any proper High Vulnerability designations. Therefore CWDC cannot support the "90 days after NMP Approval" due date without additional information or qualifications regarding the timing of the template approval, High Vulnerability designations, and sufficient time to educate and provide outreach activities to our members.

6



Cawelo Water District Coalition
REPRESENTING GROWERS IN THE CAWELO WATER DISTRICT AREA
17207 INDUSTRIAL FARM ROAD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308 Ph. (661) 393-6072 Fx. (661) 393-6073
WDR GENERAL ORDER No. R8-2013-0120, CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, CENTRAL VALLEY

APR. 2014

CWDC appreciates the great effort put forth by all parties involved to resolve these issues and CWDC will continue to work with the Regional Board staff in a timely manner to help resolve any final issues. Please contact me with any questions or to discuss this matter.

Respectfully,

David Hampton
ILRP/Third-Party Coordinator
Cawelo Water District Coalition

Cc: (Via Email)
Clay Rodgers, CVRWQCB
Buena Vista Coalition
Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
Kings River Water Quality Coalition
Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition
Westside Water Quality Coalition

Enclosure

Buena Vista Coalition
Corcoran Irrigation District
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association
California Fresh Fruit Association
Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Kings County Farm Bureau
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
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Westside Water Quality Coalition
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November 7, 2014

Sent Via Email Only

Ms. Susan Fregien
Mr. David Sholes
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov
david.sholes@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Reopening of the Tulare Lake Basin WDRs (Order No. R5-2013-0120)

Dear Ms. Fregien and Mr. Sholes:

The above named Third-Party groups under the Tulare Lake Basin WDR and agricultural organizations with membership in the coalition area wish to submit the following comments with regards to the reopening of the Order. We have greatly appreciated Regional Board staff working closely with us to adjust some of the reporting timelines for our grower members. Our understanding is that the staff proposal is now very similar to our original proposal with a minor modification. Based upon our new understanding of the staff proposal, we are in support of their recommended changes.

The coalitions' proposed modifications to the order were developed based upon our timing assumptions for approvals of our Groundwater Quality Assessment Reports (**GAR**) as well as potential considerations for temporary relief for our members who are currently dealing with an extreme lack of available water supply to support their farming operations. Board Members of the CVRWQCB held a drought workshop on June 5th, where several members expressed a sincere desire to look for ways to temporarily reduce costs for farmers suffering from a third straight year of dry conditions. We believe

that the reopening of the order provides the Board with an opportune time to consider both the feasible reporting timelines coupled with temporary drought relief. We appreciate the Board and staff's willingness to consider our proposal.

Summary of Proposed Changes

Below is a table with our requested changes, in reference to Table 1 – “Member Due Dates for Required Reports” on page 40 of the WDRs.

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request. A delay in the reporting as recommended by the coalitions and staff will enable a thoughtful and efficient process for the collection of summary nitrogen information.

Managed Wetlands

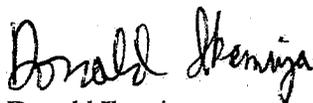
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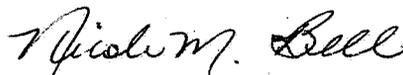
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Respectfully,



Donald Ikemiya
Executive Director
Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association



Nicole Bell
Manager
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority

cc: Ms. Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer, CVRWQCB
Mr. Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer, CVRWQCB .



Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

Central Valley Water Board
Attn: David Sholes
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
Transmitted via email dsholes@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2013-0120)

Dear Mr. Sholes,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area. Westlands Water District supports the proposed changes as presented in the joint letter dated November 7, 2014 from the Third-Party groups and agricultural organizations under the Tulare Lake Basin WDR (attached).

Thank you for the consideration of our comments. If you have any questions please contact Charlotte Gallock at (559) 241-6244 or by email at cgallock@westlandswater.org.

Sincerely,

Jose Gutierrez, P.E.
Deputy General Manager – Resources
Westlands Water District

Attachment:

- 1) Coalition Letter dated November 7, 2014

Cc: Ms. Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer, CVRWQCB (transmitted via email)
Mr. Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer, CVRWQCB (transmitted via email)

Buena Vista Coalition
Corcoran Irrigation District
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November 7, 2014

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Mr. David Sholes
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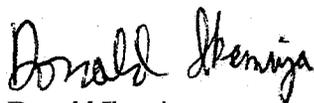
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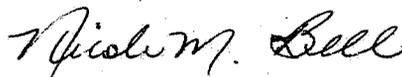
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Respectfully,



Donald Ikemiya
Executive Director
Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association



Nicole Bell
Manager
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority

cc: Ms. Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer, CVRWQCB
Mr. Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer, CVRWQCB

*Celebrating
100
Years*

KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

801 South Mount Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93307-2888
www.KernCFB.com

Phone: (661) 397-9635
Fax: (661) 397-3403
Email: kcfb@kerncfb.com

Greg Wegis
President

Jeff Rasmussen
1st Vice President

Catalino "Tito" Martinez
2nd Vice President

Beatris Espericueta Sanders
Executive Director

November 4, 2014

Comment Letter B4

Sent Via Email Only

Ms. Susan Fregien
Mr. David Sholes
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
Susan.Fregien@waterboards.ca.gov
David.Sholes@waterboards.ca.gov

Ms. Fregien and Mr. Sholes,

On behalf of 1,400 agricultural members of Kern County, we realize the importance of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and what it means in regards to securing the health of our ground water basin. We wish to submit the following comments with regards to the potential reopening of the Order. The timelines for implementation and reporting of Nitrogen Management Plans for our members with High Vulnerability Areas should be re-evaluated.

Many of our farmers in Kern County are currently dealing with an extreme lack of available water supply to support their farming operations into the next harvest season. Water being the most difficult commodity to predict, looking into the near future, many farmers are not sure they will have land to farm next harvest and this has become a huge concern for their farming operations. As wells continue to go dry, farmers are scrambling to find solutions, both responsibly and financially as to how they will continue to farm into 2015. We believe that the reopening of the order will provide the Board with an opportune time to both consider the feasible implementation timelines coupled with temporary drought relief.

Given the nature in which farmers are dealing with the many changes to their farming operations in regards to water or the lack thereof, we ask that you extend the deadlines by one year. Currently, our farmers are dealing with a number of issues concerning the future of their farm land and it is important that we extend the deadline in order to fully understand all the levels of testing that will proceed.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,



Greg Wegis
President

5