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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region Katherine Hart, Chair

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING/EARLY CONSULTATION MEETING

Amending the Sacramento/San Joaquin Basin Plan to Revise Groundwater Beneficial Use Designations in the Hodson/Littlejohns Fault Zone Area Located near Copperopolis in Calaveras County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Central Valley Water Board" or "Board") are seeking early public consultation regarding a proposal to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (the "Basin Plan"). The proposal would revise groundwater beneficial use designations in the Hodson/Littlejohns Fault Zone Area (the "Project Area").

BACKGROUND

Highly saline groundwater is found in certain portions of the Salt Spring Valley in western Calaveras County. The Basin Plan currently requires that the Board protect this groundwater so that it can be utilized for various uses, including municipal and domestic supply. Due to the high salt concentrations, the groundwater in portions of this area may not support these uses.

Additional information regarding the proposal is available for download in PDF format from the Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/hodson_littlejohns_fault_zone/index.shtml

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Board's office at: 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SCOPING/EARLY CONSULTATION MEETING PURPOSE

At the meeting, Board staff will provide an overview of the environmental conditions in the Project Area. The public is invited to comment on possible regulatory actions, alternatives¹, and the significant environmental impacts that could be associated with modifying designated groundwater beneficial uses in the Project Area.

Public comments will help the Board refine the scope of its environmental analysis. Prior to amending the Basin Plan, the Board must conduct an environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act². The Board's Basin Planning program has been designated as a certified regulatory program³, and therefore, the Board will conduct its environmental analysis pursuant to regulatory requirements found at California Code Regulations, title 23, section 3775 et seq. The Board will not amend the Basin Plan without first circulating its environmental analysis for further public comment.

¹ The Board is also considering other regulatory options, such as the adoption of site-specific objectives or the implementation of a containment zone at a portion of the Project Area.

² Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.

³ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15251(g).

Written comments for the Public Scoping/Initial Consultation Meeting should be submitted to Gene Davis no later than 14 July 2011 (contact information provided below). All written comments will be included in the final administrative record.

Public Scoping/Early Consultation Meeting Time and Location:

Location	Stockton State Office Building, Auditorium 31 E. Channel Street Stockton, CA 95202
Date	23 June 2011
Time	10:00 am to 11:30 am

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Gene Davis at (916) 464-4687 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

Contact information:

Central Valley Water Board
Attn: Gene Davis
11020 Sun Center Drive, # 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 464-4687
Email: gmdavis@waterboards.ca.gov

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone who might be interested in this matter. Also, this is the only notification you will receive by mail on this Basin Planning effort. If you are interested in receiving additional information on this issue, please subscribe to the "Hodson-Littlejohns Fault Zone Groundwater" email notification service through our webpage at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/req5_subscribe.shtml or complete and return the attached form.

Original signed by

Kenneth D. Landau, Assistant Executive Officer

1 June 2011