

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

DRAFT ORDER NO. R3-2023-0044 AMENDING ORDER NO. R3-2019-0089 GENERAL WAIVER FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISCHARGES

Discharge of Residual Wastewater from Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Supply Treatment for Nitrate

May 31, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) proposes adoption of an amendment to Order No. R3-2019-0089, *General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges* (2019 General Waiver). The intent of this amendment is to support the implementation of the human right to water in rural areas by helping local agencies remove obstacles to drinking water treatment of groundwater contaminated by nitrate through waivers of permitting requirements for discharges of reverse osmosis wastewater that meet specific conditions.

As authorized by Water Code section 13269, the 2019 General Waiver conditionally waives waste discharge requirements and the requirement to submit a report of waste discharge for the specific types of discharges listed in the 2019 General Waiver, Attachment A, Section A, provided that the associated conditions are met. The proposed amendment would add discharges of residual wastewater from reverse osmosis drinking water supply treatment systems to the list provided in Attachment A, Section A. The listed discharges will not have significant effects on water quality provided that dischargers comply with the corresponding conditions.

A copy of draft amending Order No. R3-2023-0044 can be found on the Central Coast Water Board's tentative orders page at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing to consider the adoption of the proposed amendment to the 2019 General Waiver requirements will be held during the Central Coast Water Board meeting identified below:

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: August 24-25, 2023
Location: Santa Barbara County Offices
Board of Supervisors Chambers
105 East Anapamu Street (4th Floor)
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting, and interested persons can participate in person or virtually via Zoom. The final meeting agenda notice and staff report will be available at least 10 days before the Board meeting at the link below. The agenda notice will provide the specific date this item will be considered during the Board meeting, indicate the anticipated order of all agenda items, and may include staff revisions to the proposed order.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2023/2023_agendas.html

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Interested persons are invited to submit comments in writing to the Central Coast Water Board in writing by **June 30, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** Comments should include the subject line "Comment Letter – General Waiver" and be addressed to:

Central Coast Water Board, Attn: Amber Sellinger
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
amber.sellinger@waterboards.ca.gov
(805) 549-3866

All comments received prior to June 30, 2023, will be considered in the formulation of staff recommendations regarding the discharge. The Central Coast Water Board will not accept written comments on the proposed order after **June 30, 2023**, unless the Chair of the Central Coast Water Board rules that exclusion would create a hardship, and that the late submission will not prejudice any party or the Central Coast Water Board. Any person submitting late comments or other submittals must explain why such materials were not submitted by **June 30, 2023**. The Chair of the Central Coast Water Board will rule on late submittals at or before the hearing. Late submittals that consist of evidence (as opposed to policy statements or comments) are generally prejudicial unless all parties and Central Coast Water Board staff have time to consider the evidence before the hearing. Interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and may make oral comments relevant to the proposed action. Oral comments should summarize written comments. The Chair of the Central Coast Water Board will impose time limits on oral comments.

This public notice is available in Spanish and English. Please share this public notice with any persons who would be interested in this matter. Interested persons may also request that the 2019 General Waiver and draft amending Order No. R3-2023-0044 be translated into Spanish, dependent upon available resources. Please submit any questions or requests to **Amber Sellinger at (805) 549-3866 or via email to amber.sellinger@waterboards.ca.gov.**