

Background information on the current and future Agricultural Order

The Central Coast Water Board currently regulates discharges from irrigated agriculture in the central coast region through the Agricultural Order (referred to as Agricultural Order 3.0), which the Board adopted on March 8, 2017 and will expire on March 7, 2020. Before March 7, 2020, the Central Coast Water Board will consider adoption of a new Agricultural Order² (referred to as Agricultural Order 4.0). Agricultural Order 4.0 will regulate the discharges from irrigated agriculture, such as nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, erosion/sedimentation, and resulting toxicity to surface and groundwater.

The specific details associated with Agricultural Order 4.0 are in development. General information on Agricultural Order 4.0 is available in a fact sheet located at the Central Coast Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/

Staff drafted an **Initial Study** to provide the public with a cursory analysis of the potentially significant environmental impacts that may be associated with complying with Agricultural Order 4.0. The Initial Study is available on our website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/

Interested parties are encouraged to review the Initial Study document prior to the meeting to help focus the discussion on potential environmental impacts.

Submitting comments

Water Board staff will accept *oral* comments regarding CEQA-related topics at the three CEQA scoping meetings and *written* comments regarding CEQA-related topics received by April 30, 2018. Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to comments received at these meetings or written comments submitted. However, Water Board staff will address all significant environmental impacts in draft and final reports.

Persons wishing to submit *written* comments regarding CEQA scoping on this project may submit them via email to AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov. Please include "CEQA scoping" in the subject line of the email. If you wish to submit written comments by postal mail, please address them to Shanta Keeling, Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906.

To receive information on Agricultural Order 4.0 development

Interested parties can receive updates on information regarding Agricultural Order 4.0 development either through an email, or U.S. mail.

To add yourself to the electronic mailing list, please visit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.shtml

² Currently, the specific regulatory mechanism of the Order has not been decided. That is, the Order may be a [conditional waiver of waste discharge](#) (page 4-3, 5-14, Appendix A-23), [waste discharge requirement](#), or other regulatory mechanism to be determined.

