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**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Proposed revision to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers  
within the Sacramento River Watershed (R5-2014-0030-R1)**

The Central Valley Water Board has released a proposed revision to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-Party Group R5-2014-0030-R1 (Order). The proposed revision will provide a 1-year extension (from 1 March 2016 to 1 March 2017) for the following requirements for members in high vulnerability groundwater areas:

- Certification of Nitrogen Management Plans, and
- Submission of Nitrogen Management Plans Summary Report

This will allow additional time for the grower certification program to be available to members and for additional education and outreach regarding the Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report. Preparation of Nitrogen Management Plans will not be delayed.

Electronic copies of documents showing the proposed revision to the Sacramento River Watershed Order are available on the Central Valley Water Board's website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands/new\\_waste\\_discharge\\_requirements/index.shtml#feb2016sacriverwdr](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/new_waste_discharge_requirements/index.shtml#feb2016sacriverwdr)

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

A public hearing concerning the proposed revision to the Sacramento River Watershed Order will be held in Rancho Cordova on 18/19 February 2016, at which time the board will consider adoption. The board will only consider adoption of the proposed revision, and will not be re-considering other aspects of the Order. The hearing date and location are noted below:

**Date:** 18/19 February 2016  
**Time:** 8:30 AM  
**Location:** Central Valley Water Board  
Rancho Cordova Office  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The final meeting agenda will be available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/#feb18192016](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/#feb18192016) at least ten days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the hearing date for the revision to the Sacramento River Watershed Order, indicate the anticipated order of agenda items, include all material related to this agenda item, and may include staff revisions.

Written comments on the proposed revision to the Sacramento River Watershed Order are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on **18 January 2016**. Comments on other matters associated with the Order, outside of the scope of the proposed revisions, will not be considered at this hearing. Written materials submitted after 5:00 p.m. on 18 January 2016 will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record absent a ruling by the Central Valley Water Board Chair. A party requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause for the late submission, and the Central Valley Water Board Chair must find that the late submission would not prejudice the Central Valley Water Board or any designated party.

Persons submitting written comments are encouraged to do so electronically by sending them to [susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov). Otherwise, written comments may be sent to the above address to the attention of Susan Fregien. Comments received by 18 January will be included in the administrative record; submitted comments will be considered and a written response will be prepared.

At the hearing, staff will present a final recommendation for Central Valley Water Board consideration. Interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Central Valley Water Board at the hearing. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Central Valley Water Board Chair. Interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Central Valley Water Board members, counsel, staff, or others, at the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board Chair. The Chair may, at his discretion, allow presenters to supplement their oral testimony with slides or other digital media. If you plan to use visual aids such as PowerPoint slides, contact staff prior to the meeting to arrange for equipment set-up. You must provide a printed or electronic copy of any visual aids.

Ex Parte Communications. Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287. **Ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the board meeting at which the proposed order is scheduled for board action.** For communications concerning any issue in this proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited starting on 4 February 2016. If the board does not take action on 18/19 February 2016, the ex parte prohibition will remain in place until the board, the Chair or the Executive Officer directs otherwise. Once lifted, the prohibition on ex parte communications may be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the board meeting to which the decision is continued. The board will provide notice via the Lyris email list for this item if the prohibition is lifted and/or reinstated.

The regulations governing adjudicatory hearings before the Central Valley Water Board may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq., and are available online at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/). Copies of these regulations will be provided upon request. Except as provided in Section 648(b), Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedures Act (Gov. Code, § 11500 et seq.) does not apply to this hearing. Questions regarding the hearing procedure should be directed to Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839. Questions regarding the proposed action should be directed to Susan Fregien at (916) 464-4813 or [susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov).

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 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.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

*Original Signed by*

ADAM LAPUTZ, Assistant Executive Officer

17 December 2015