CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

TENTATIVE ORDER
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

GONZAGA RIDGE WIND FARM, LLC
GONZAGA RIDGE WIND FARM REPOWERING PROJECT
MERCED COUNTY

A tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order (Order) is proposed for the Gonzaga Ridge Wind Farm, LLC (Permittee), Gonzaga Ridge Wind Farm Repowering Project (Project) in Merced County. The Project consists of replacing existing older model turbines and upgrade an existing wind energy facility with substantially fewer and more efficient wind turbines and associated facilities within Pacheco State Park. It is the second phase for the Gonzaga Ridge Site. Temporary fill, grading, excavation, and/or ground-disturbance impacts to waters of the state would occur because of new or improved construction access for new infrastructure, decommissioning, underground collection (fiber optic cabling) installation, site preparation, and installation of best management practices (BMPs). BMPs may include straw wattles, silt fences, habitat avoidance fencing, and grading/earthwork. All impacted waters have been deemed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be outside of federal jurisdiction.

The tentative Order provides details of the proposed Project activities, including requiring avoidance and minimization measures to reduce on-site impacts during construction activities. The tentative Order describes technical conditions required to be met throughout the implementation of construction activities that allow for activities to meet Basin Plan objectives.

Public Hearing Date and Location

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) meeting scheduled for:

DATE:	20-21 February 2025
TIME:	To Be Determined
PLACE:	11020 Sun Center Dr #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114 and remote meeting option via video teleconference

The final meeting agenda (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) will be available at least **10 days** before the meeting. The agenda will provide the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item and anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the tentative Order.

Nature and Purpose of Hearing

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the tentative Order. This proceeding will be a formal adjudicatory proceeding. The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board adjudicatory hearings (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

Prehearing Submission of Written Comments and Evidence

The **Permittee** is a party to this proceeding and may present evidence, including oral testimony. As a party, the Permittee must submit written evidence or comments, if any, for the Board to consider no later than **5:00 p.m. on 13 January 2025** via email to Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Interested persons include any non-party that is interested in the outcome of the hearing. Interested persons wishing to comment in writing on the tentative Order shall submit comments no later than **5:00 p.m. on 13 January 2025** via email to Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4, the Board Chair may refuse to admit written evidence or comments that are not submitted in accordance with this Notice and shall refuse to do so when there is a showing of prejudice to the Permittee or the Board. Excluded material will not be considered by the Board.

Visual Presentations

Hearing participants may use PowerPoint or other visual presentations at the hearing, but the presentation content shall not exceed the scope of previously submitted written material. Presentations, if any, must be provided to the Central Valley Water Board by **12:00 p.m. on 19 February 2025**. Please contact Brandon Salazar at Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov.

Hearing Procedure and Time Limits

The hearing on the tentative Order will be conducted in the general order listed under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.5, except that the Board Chair may modify the order for good cause.

The **Permittee** and any other designated Party will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for their presentation, including any witness examination, and closing statement. The Permittee and any other designated Party are invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time they believe is necessary.

Interested persons may speak at the hearing and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals, if any. Each interested person will have three minutes to present oral comments. Additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Hearing Accommodations

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or calling (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.

Availability of Documents

A copy of the tentative Order and related documents are available on the Central Valley Water Board's website Tentative Orders Page (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706-2007 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Scheduling an appointment to review the file by contacting the below Central Valley Water Board Contact in advance is not required but calling ahead will help ensure timely access to these documents. A copy of the tentative Order and related documents are also available upon request by contacting Brandon Salazar by email at Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (559) 445-6278.

Central Valley Water Board Contact

Anyone having questions regarding this hearing item should contact Brandon Salazar by email at Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (559) 445-6278.

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

Original Digitally Signed by
Alexander Mushegan, Supervising Engineer