



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
concerning
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS GENERAL ORDER
FOR
GROWERS IN THE GRASSLAND DRAINAGE AREA
MERCED AND FRESNO COUNTIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of the subject Order at a public meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 10 DECEMBER 2026
TIME: TBD a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

The date, time, and location of the public meeting may change after this Notice is issued. A Final Agenda for the meeting will be made available at least 10 days before the meeting. The Final Agenda will provide the location and format of the meeting, the anticipated date that the proposed order will be considered, and the 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 proposed order.

The Final Agenda, and any information concerning changes to the date, time, location, or format of the public meeting, will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board's website, [Central Valley Water Board's website](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) at:

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/)

and will be emailed to all persons that sign up for the [GovDelivery subscription list](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.html) at:

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.html).

The meeting will be webcast live on YouTube. A weblink for viewing will be provided in the Final Agenda. Any person who would like to participate in the meeting, but who is unable to attend in-person, may participate remotely via video or teleconference. Instructions for doing so will be provided in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Growers

Grassland Drainage Area

Merced and Fresno Counties

- The hearing facilities will be accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov at least five 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. To request oral interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the meeting by calling (916) 341-5254 or e-mailing opp-languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Opportunities to Comment

The Central Valley Water Board will consider oral and written comments on the proposed Order before it votes on whether to adopt the Order.

Written comments or evidence concerning the Order must be submitted by 5:00 pm on 2 December 2026. Please email any comments to Ashley.Peters@waterboards.ca.gov, with the subject line, "Comments on GDA Groundwater Order." While email is preferred, written comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Attention: Ashley Peters
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

The Board Chair may refuse to admit any comments or evidence received after the comment period unless the submitting party provides a reasonable explanation for why the submission is late and the Board Chair determines that admission of the late submission would not prejudice any other party.

Oral comments concerning the Order must be presented at the scheduled public meeting. Interested parties are generally allowed up to three minutes each to provide their comments. Certain **designated parties** may provide longer comments and have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, cross-examine opposing witnesses, impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence against him or her. The parties subject to the proposed Order are designated parties. Any other party may request recognition as a designated party by submitting a written statement of how they are directly affected by the discharge(s) to be regulated and why they would like to be considered a designated party. Such requests must be submitted to Central Valley Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on 2 December 2026. Instructions on how to provide oral comments will be included in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

Proposed Order

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-2015-0095 was adopted on 31 July 2015, and revised on 19 February 2016, 7 February 2019, 22 April 2021, and

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15 October 2021, and issued to Growers in the Grassland Drainage Area. WDRs Order R5-2015-0095-07 addresses waste discharges from irrigated land within the Grassland Drainage Area (GDA) that could affect groundwater of the state. The discharges result from leaching of irrigation water, subsurface drain water, and/or stormwater from agricultural lands that are not captured by subsurface drainage systems in the GDA. Such discharges can reach waters of the state directly or indirectly. Discharges to surface water are addressed in Order R5-2019-0077, Waste Discharge Requirements for San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project.

If adopted, the proposed Order will recognize Grassland Basin Authority as the Third-Party replacing San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee representing all or a portion of the Grassland Drainage Area. The owners or operators with irrigated lands parcels enrolled under the Order are members of the Third-Party.

Interested parties may access a digital copy of the Order on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders website](#), under the heading, "Discharger-Specific Order for Future Board Meetings," at:

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/).

Copies of the proposed Order and associated documents may also be obtained by visiting the office of the Central Valley Water Board at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670-6114 or by contacting the Board by phone at (916) 464-3291, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Questions concerning the proposed Order or anything in this Notice should be directed to Ashley Peters at (916) 464-4857 or Ashley.Peters@waterboards.ca.gov.

Other Information

The [Procedures Governing Central Valley Water Board Meetings](#) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found in California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 1.5 (starting with section 647) and are available upon request.

Additional information on meeting procedures can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Meeting Procedures webpage](#) at:

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml).

Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

All meeting procedure information is also available on request to any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov.

Eric Warren  Digitally signed by Eric Warren
Date: 2026.10.28 10:03:51
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Eric Warren
Program Manager
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program