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**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers  
within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed (R5-2012-0116-R1)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) has released proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-party Group R5-2012-0116-R1 (Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed Order, or Order). The proposed revisions to the Order allow additional time for the third-party members in high vulnerability areas to submit the first Farm Evaluation (proposed to be due on **1 May 2014**, rather than 1 March 2014), and for the third-party to prepare and report a summary of management practice information collected as part of Farm Evaluations (proposed to be due on **1 July 2014** rather than 1 May 2014).

Central Valley Water Board staff is proposing the extension to the due dates to provide the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) additional time to establish a web-based system for their Members to submit the Farm Evaluations. Development of the web-based system by the Coalition was suspended when the Coalition was informed of potential patent infringement issues if such a system was developed without an agreement with the patent holder. The patent issues have been resolved and the Coalition is now able to establish a web-based system. Central Valley Water Board staff believes having such a system will increase the likelihood of compliance, increase the accuracy of the information provided, and enhance the ability of the board and Coalition to readily evaluate and assess the data submitted.

Electronic copies of documents showing the proposed revisions to the Eastern San Joaquin 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/eastern\\_sanjoaquin\\_watershed\\_wdrs/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/new_waste_discharge_requirements/eastern_sanjoaquin_watershed_wdrs/index.shtml)

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 revisions to the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed Order will be held in Rancho Cordova on 27/28 March 2014, at which time the board will consider adoption. The board will only consider adoption of the proposed revisions, and will not be re-considering other aspects of the Order. The hearing date and location are noted below:

**Date:** 27/28 March 2014  
**Time:** To Be Determined  
**Location:** Central Valley Water Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The final meeting agenda will be available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/agendas/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/) at least ten days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the hearing date for the revisions to the Eastern San Joaquin 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 revisions to the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed Order must be received at the Central Valley Water Board office or at the email address below **by 28 February 2014**. Comments on other matters associated with the Order, outside of the scope of the proposed revisions, will not be considered at this hearing. Persons submitting written comments are encouraged to do so electronically by sending them to [jelena.hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jelena.hartman@waterboards.ca.gov). Otherwise, written comments may be sent to the above address to the attention of Dr. Jelena Hartman. Comments received by 28 February will be included in the administrative record; submitted comments will be considered and a written response will be prepared. Written comments shall not be read into the record unless allowed by the Central Valley Water Board Chair.

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 **13 March**. If the board does not take action on **27/28 March**, 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 Lyrus email list for this item if the prohibition is lifted and/or reinstated.

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/). Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the board's website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml) or by contacting any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

Any questions regarding the proposed action should be directed to Jelena Hartman at (916) 464-4628 or [jelena.hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jelena.hartman@waterboards.ca.gov).

The workshop 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*

KENNETH D. LANDAU, Assistant Executive Officer  
28 January 2014