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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT,  
PUBLIC HEARING AND FILING<sup>1</sup>**

**Concerning**

**Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plans) to Incorporate a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the Central Valley Water Board will accept comments regarding proposed amendments (the “Proposed Amendments”) to the Basin Plans. The Proposed Amendments will establish a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program. The Salt and Nitrate Control Program will provide a framework for the Board to regulate salt and nitrate throughout the Central Valley in a sustainable manner, while ensuring that groundwater users whose wells are impacted with nitrates are provided safe drinking water supplies.

The Proposed Amendments under consideration include:

- Nitrate Permitting Strategy
  - Individual Conservative Permitting Pathway
  - Alternative Management Zone Permitting Pathway
- Salinity Management Strategy
  - Conservative Permitting Pathway
  - Alternative Salinity Permitting Pathway
- Guidance to Implement Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels
- Revision of the Salinity Variance Policy
- Revision of the Exceptions Policy
- Drought and Water Conservation Policy
- Offsets Policy
- Mechanism to Ensure Compliance
  - Conditional Prohibition
- Surveillance & Monitoring Plan
- Definitions specific to the proposed control program

The Board’s Basin Planning Program is considered a certified regulatory program, which means that the Board is exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report for basin planning activities under the California Environmental Quality Act. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.5; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(g).) The Board’s environmental review of the Proposed Amendments is instead contained in a draft Staff Report, which is considered part of the substitute environmental documentation (SED), and which will be posted on the Board’s website (below) along with the Proposed Amendments no later than **20 February 2018**:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity)

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of Filing submitted under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3779.

Copies of the Proposed Amendments and draft SED 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. Staff contact information: Glenn Meeks at (916) 464-4701 or [glenn.meeks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:glenn.meeks@waterboards.ca.gov).

The Board is inviting the public, stakeholders, and representatives of other agencies to submit written comments on the Proposed Amendments and draft SED from **20 February 2018** through **6 April 2018**. Written comments must be received at the above email or postal address by **noon Friday, 6 April 2018** in order for them to be included in the administrative record.

**NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the Central Valley Water Board has scheduled a hearing on the following dates to receive oral comments regarding the Proposed Amendments and draft SED:

**Date:** 22 March 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

At the March hearing, Board staff will discuss the Proposed Amendments and alternatives and will provide the Board with recommendations. Though the Board may give direction to Board staff, the Board will not take action on the Proposed Amendments at the March hearing. The Board will provide members of the public, stakeholders, and representatives of other agencies the opportunity to present oral comments to the Board on the Proposed Amendments and the adequacy of the SED. Oral presentations may be limited to 3-minutes at the discretion of the Board Chair. Groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson and to contact Glenn Meeks at [glenn.meeks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:glenn.meeks@waterboards.ca.gov) no later than 8 March 2018 if they anticipate requiring more than three minutes for oral comments. All exhibits presented at the hearings, including charts, graphs, and other testimony, must be left with the Board and will become part of the administrative record. Following the March hearing, Board staff will review comments received and prepare responses and final recommendations for the Board's consideration.

**NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the Central Valley Water Board has scheduled a hearing on the following dates to consider adoption of the Proposed Amendments and draft SED:

**Date:** 31 May to 1 June 2018 (Please contact staff two weeks prior to the meeting for the exact date.)  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

At the May/June hearing, the Board will consider all timely comments concerning the Proposed Amendments and draft SED along with any responses provided by Board staff, and will consider adoption of the Proposed Amendments and SED, including any proposed revisions to either. The final meeting agenda will be available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) at least 10 days before the meeting. Oral comments made at the May/June hearing will be limited in scope to those

issues already raised during the public comment period. Oral presentations will be limited to 3-minutes at the discretion of the Board Chair.

The meeting 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 five working days prior to the meeting. Individuals requiring language translation services are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least 14 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

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Adam Laputz, Assistant Executive Officer

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Date 2 February 2018