

## REGIONAL BOARD MEETING

State of California  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT  
March 7, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

ITEM 4

**SUBJECT:** Draft General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Agricultural Lands for Dischargers that are Members of a Coalition Group in the Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa, Order R7-2019-XXXX (General Order)

**PURPOSE:** The workshop will discuss and solicit input on the draft General Order. Staff will provide an overview of key proposed order provisions and updates.

### BACKGROUND:

Irrigated Agricultural Lands in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa were previously regulated under Order R7-2012-0047, a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for Agricultural Wastewater Discharges and Discharges of Waste from Drain Operations and Maintenance Activities Originating within the Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa, Imperial and Riverside Counties (2012 Conditional Waiver), which expired on September 20, 2017. On August 2, 2017, the Colorado River Basin Water Board's Executive Officer sent a letter to the Palo Verde Outfall Coalition (Coalition) indicating that staff was still in the process of drafting a new General Order, and that the Colorado River Basin Water Board would not take any enforcement action against Dischargers for failure to submit a Report of Waste Discharge, provided that the Coalition continued implementing the compliance program developed under the 2012 Conditional Waiver during the transition period.

On February 7, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted Order WQ 2018-0002, which revised the Central Valley Water Board's WDRs General Order for Growers Within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group. The State Water Board's order establishes a model for all regional water boards to follow in their subsequent orders to reduce pollutants from irrigated agriculture around the state. The State Water Board order directed all regional water boards to revise the orders for their irrigated lands regulatory programs within the next five years to be consistent with the precedential requirements in the State Water Board order. The draft General Order complies with the State Water Board's directive.

### CURRENT STATUS:

The draft General Order is scheduled for adoption at a Colorado River Basin Water Board hearing on April 11, 2019.

### ISSUES:

Colorado River Basin Water Board staff met with the Palo Verde Outfall Coalition several times to discuss its concerns and made certain revisions to the draft General Order in response.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Staff has not received any comments.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational item only.