NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A WORKSHOP REGARDING THE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT FOR CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION WITHIN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) staff are currently developing an NPDES Permit to renew Order No. 01-800, General National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) within the Colorado River Basin Region. Since the permit has expired on March 16, 2006 the Regional Water Board is drafting a new permit to update it with the latest USEPA requirements. In order to bring interested parties information on the proposed draft Order, the Regional Water Board is providing a public workshop, proposed for January 31, 2008.

The format of this workshop will be a Power Point presentation by Regional Board staff incorporated into a general discussion session with workshop participants. Affected stakeholders and other interested and affected parties are encouraged to participate in this workshop. In order to have adequate time for the presentation by the Regional Board staff, however, comments from the public will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. If the presentation may take longer, please let staff know before speaking so that the presentation can be appropriately scheduled at the workshop. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive. To ensure accuracy of the record, the Regional Board requests that any speakers who have prepared written statements for oral presentation at the workshop submit those statements to the Regional Water Board before or during the workshop.

The workshop serves several purposes. First, the workshop enables Regional Water Board staff to discuss at greater depth the requirements, and other relevant aspects (such as monitoring requirements) of the draft renewal NPDES general permit. Second, the workshop give Regional Water Board staff an opportunity to update affected stakeholders and other interested persons on the status of the draft renewal NPDES general permit and pending revised USEPA regulations affecting CAFOs. Finally and foremost, the workshop provides a forum for affected stakeholders to discuss general permit implementation concerns.
The Regional Board will accept comments on the workgroup meeting from stakeholders for [2 weeks following the workgroup meeting]. For more information, please contact me by telephone at (760) 776-8967, or by email at Jfigueroa-acevedo@waterboards.ca.gov

This Public Workshop is scheduled as follows:

DATE: January 31, 2008
TIME: 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Imperial Valley Farm Bureau
1000 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

Any person who requires special accommodations to participate of this workshop, please contact me, no later than 7 days before the scheduled workshop.

J. GPE. FIGUEROA-ACEVEDO
Water Resources Control Engineer

File: CAFO General Order