

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice 7-12-32  
August 28, 2012

**NOTICE OF SECOND PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

In the Matter of a  
Proposed Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements  
for Agricultural Wastewater Discharges and Discharges of Waste  
from Drain Operation and Maintenance Activities Originating  
within the Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold a second **Public Workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., September 11, 2012, in Blythe**, to seek public input regarding the subject matter. The first Public Workshop was held in Blythe on August 23, 2012 at the Palo Verde Irrigation District headquarters. At the first workshop, attendees requested the Regional Water Board to hold another workshop and provide this notice to the farming community in the Valley and Mesa.

California Water Code (CWC) section 13269 provides the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the nine Regional Water Boards with the authority to waive WDRs for a specific discharge or type of discharge if the Board determines after any necessary Board meeting that the Waiver is consistent with any applicable State or Regional Water Quality Control Plan and is in the public interest. The proposed Conditional Waiver would address the actual and potential impacts that agricultural wastewater discharges originating within the Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa have on water quality. Specifically, the Conditional Waiver would address: 1) storm water runoff from irrigated lands; and 2) irrigation return water, which includes surface discharges (also known as "tailwater"), and subsurface discharges (known as "tile water" in tiled areas, or "seepage" in areas not tiled). Pursuant to CWC section 13050(d), these discharges are considered wastes that could affect the quality of the waters of the state and, therefore, are subject to regulation by the Regional Water Board.

At its January 20, 2011 meeting, the Regional Water Board approved a Conditional Prohibition Basin Plan amendment to regulate the above-mentioned agricultural wastewater discharges. CWC section 13245 requires that any Basin Plan or Basin Plan amendment must be approved by the State Water Board before it can become effective. In accordance with this statutory requirement, the Regional Water Board submitted the Conditional Prohibition to the State Water Board for its review and approval. However, at its meeting on January 10, 2012, the State Water Board decided to disapprove the Conditional Prohibition. Its disapproval decision is reflected in State Water Board Resolution 2012-0004. In relevant part in its disapproval decision, the State Water Board remanded the Conditional Prohibition back to the Regional Water Board and directed it to adopt WDRs or a Waiver of WDRs in lieu of, or in addition to, the proposed Conditional Prohibition for agricultural wastewater. In accordance with this directive, the Regional Water Board has drafted a proposed Conditional Waiver for the above-mentioned discharges of waste.

Accordingly, the purpose of the second Workshop is to ensure that all affected stakeholders have been informed about this proposed Conditional Prohibition in order to provide them with the opportunity to provide oral comments at the Workshop on the proposed Conditional Waiver and:

- To present and discuss the relevant aspects of the Conditional Waiver, such as eligibility requirements, monitoring requirements, and ways to obtain coverage under the Conditional Waiver;
- To discuss the annual fees that apply to dischargers who obtain coverage under the Conditional Waiver; and
- To provide a forum for PVID and other affected stakeholders to discuss any other concerns they may have.

This second Workshop is scheduled as follows:

Date: September 11, 2012  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Blythe City Hall  
Conference Room  
235 N. Broadway  
Blythe, CA 92225

On August 8, 2012, the draft Conditional Waiver Order R7-2012-0047 and its supporting documentation were mailed and posted for public review and comment at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board\\_decisions/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/). The Regional Water Board's environmental review conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was posted for public comment in Public Notice 7-12-30, dated August 8, 2012. The notice provided a comment period of August 8, 2012, to September 10, 2012, for the public to provide written comments on the Regional Water Board's proposed Negative Declaration and the underlying Initial Study prepared in support of the Negative Declaration. This notice can be viewed at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public\\_notices/2012/pn71230.pdf/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public_notices/2012/pn71230.pdf/)

The Regional Water Board intends to consider adopting the draft Conditional Waiver during a public hearing at its office board room on September 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m., 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260. The public notice for the hearing (Public Notice 7-12-31) was posted on August 8, 2012, and can be found at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public\\_notices/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public_notices/)

Public Notice 7-12-31 established a deadline of September 10, 2012, for submitting written comments regarding the proposed Conditional Waiver. Please note that a revised Public Notice will be simultaneously provided with this Public Notice to extend the deadline for submitting written comments on the Conditional Waiver from September 10, 2012, to September 17, 2012. All relevant oral comments received at the workshop and in writing by the new deadline regarding the proposed Conditional Waiver will be addressed before it is finalized.

To ensure the accuracy of the record, individuals with written statements for oral presentation are requested to submit their statements to Regional Water Board staff during or after the Workshop. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 at least five (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. If you have any questions, please call Doug Wylie at (760) 346-7491.

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