

**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 7-12-34  
October 12, 2012

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

In the Matter of  
Discharges of Wastewater from Septic Systems  
In Low Income Coachella Valley Mobile Home Parks

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold a Public Workshop from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., November 15, 2012 at its Palm Desert office, to seek public input regarding the subject matter. Note that although a quorum of Regional Water Board members may be present at the Workshop, no Board action will be taken.

**BACKGROUND**

At its September 20, 2012 meeting, the Regional Water Board heard an informational presentation about the challenges encountered in dealing with septic systems in low income mobile home parks (MHPs) in the eastern Coachella Valley. After hearing this item, the Regional Water Board expressed a desire to hold a Workshop on the topic right after the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 15.

The purpose of the Workshop is to seek input from utility agencies, regulatory agencies, tribal representatives, non-governmental organizations, and any directly or indirectly affected stakeholders regarding these septic system problems. Some of the issues to be discussed include:

1. How best to address the threat to water quality from these septic systems;
2. What other MHP infrastructure-related problems exist that need to be considered;
3. What the current local ordinances, requirements, and other laws are that are used to address MHP health and safety issues;
4. What steps might be appropriate to take to better protect human health and safety, and the quality of areal ground waters without adversely impacting the need for low income/farm worker housing in the eastern Coachella Valley.

This Workshop is expected to be the first in a series of workshops that may be necessary to adequately address this topic. The dates of any future Workshop(s) will be determined following this initial Workshop.

Currently, the Regional Water Board regulates on-site discharges of wastewater from MHPs generating an average of 5,000 gallons per day (gpd) or more using General Order No. 97-500. Discharges from MHPs of less than 5,000 gpd are typically regulated by those counties where the discharges occur. The State Water Resources Control Board recently adopted a new statewide policy for regulating septic tank discharges. The new policy, which is expected to become effective in early 2013, will need to be integrated into any regulatory strategy that may be devised as a result of these workshops.

This first Workshop is scheduled as follows:

Date: November 15, 2012  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Location: California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region Board Room  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Agenda Schedule:

1. Introduction to the problem: “Coachella Valley MHP Septic System Regulation” (Powerpoint presentation by R7 staff);
2. Presentations by other regulatory agencies and stakeholders;
3. Tentative Summary and Prioritization of MHP Issues—Opportunity for Public Input;
4. Staffing and Funding Resources Issues;
5. Public Forum—Opportunity to Address the Regional Water Board to Share Thoughts/Ideas and to Provide Comments;
6. Next Steps—Where Do We Go From Here?

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 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 Jon Rokke at (760) 776-8959.

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