

**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 7-12-40
November 30, 2012

NOTICE OF 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 Bard Unit of the Reservation Division
Imperial County**

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 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., December 11, 2012, in Bard / Winterhaven** to seek public input regarding the subject matter.

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 Waste Discharge Requirements (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 and discharges of waste from drain operation and maintenance (O&M) activities originating within the Bard Unit have on water quality. Specifically, the Conditional Waiver would address: (1) storm water runoff from irrigated lands; (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); and 3) drain O&M discharges. 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.

The purpose of the Workshop is to ensure that all affected stakeholders have been informed about this proposed Conditional Waiver 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 Bard Water District and other affected stakeholders to discuss any other concerns they may have.

The Workshop is scheduled as follows:

Date: December 11, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Bard Community Center
1250 Bard Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283

On November 30, 2012, the draft Conditional Waiver, Board Order R7-2013-0002 and its supporting documentation, was mailed and posted for a 30-day public comment period in Public Notice 7-12-41. The Conditional Waiver and supporting documentation can be viewed at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/>. Also on that date, the Regional Water Board's environmental review conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was posted for public comment in Public Notice 7-12-42. The notice provided a 30-day comment period of December 1-31, 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.

The Regional Water Board intends to consider adopting the draft Conditional Waiver during a public hearing at its office board room on January 17, 2013, 9:00 a.m., 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260. The public notices for the hearing (Public Notice 7-12-41), public workshop (this Public Notice), and CEQA environmental review (Public Notice 7-12-42) can be found at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/public_notices/

Public Notice 7-12-41 established a deadline of December 31, 2012, for submitting written comments regarding the proposed Conditional Waiver. All relevant oral comments received at the workshop and in writing by the 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) 776-8960.

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