

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

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

Public Notice No. 7-12-42  
November 30, 2012

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration  
for Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Agricultural  
Wastewater Discharges and Discharges of Wastes from Drain Operation and  
Maintenance Activities within the Bard Unit of the Reservation Division,  
Imperial County**

**Public Comment Period:  
December 1-31, 2012**

The public is invited to review and comment on an Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration, prepared by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.), for a project consisting of a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for agricultural wastewater discharges and discharges of wastes from drain operation and maintenance activities within the Bard Unit of the Reservation Division.

To obtain coverage under this Conditional Waiver, dischargers must choose one of the following two options: (1) submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with this Conditional Waiver, or (2) participate in a Coalition Group that submits an NOI to comply with this Conditional Waiver. Under option 1, the discharger must also: (a) prepare a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and, if applicable, a Drain Water Quality Improvement Plan (DWQIP) for review and approval by the Regional Water Board, (b) conduct periodic water quality monitoring of the discharge and its receiving water(s), (c) prepare a Quality Assurance Project Plan for the proposed monitoring, and (d) submit annual monitoring reports to the Regional Water Board.

Under option 2, the discharger must join a Coalition Group and provide information the Coalition Group manager requests. The Group manager will then forward that information to the Regional Water Board on behalf of all of the Group's participants.

Dischargers shall pay annual fees for coverage under this Conditional Waiver as established under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Chapter 9 for waivers of WDRs for irrigated lands. Fees vary depending on whether the discharger has joined a Coalition Group or has filed an NOI to comply with the Conditional Waiver on an individual basis.

The proposed Negative Declaration is supported by the Initial Study, which evaluates whether this project may have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed Negative Declaration reflects the determination by the Regional Water Board that a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges of the subject wastes in the Bard Unit of the

Reservation Division will not have a significant effect on the environment. The Regional Water Board will consider adopting the proposed Negative Declaration during a **Public Hearing** that will commence at the time and place indicated below:

Date: January 17, 2013  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Location: Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
Board Room  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The public hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. 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 800-735-2929.

Written comments on the proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2012, for delivery to:

Doug Wylie, Senior Engineer  
Colorado River Basin  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

#### **WHERE YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION:**

The proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study are available on the Regional Water Board's website under "Resolution R7-2013-0003" at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions.shtml)

#### **CONTACT:**

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the project, please contact Doug Wylie, Senior Engineer, (760) 776-8969, or Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer, at (760) 776-8932.