

**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 7-14-33  
April 28, 2014

**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 Coachella Valley

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) staff will hold a **Public Workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., May 21, 2014, in Palm Desert**, 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 regional water board determines after any necessary regional water board meeting that the Conditional 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 Coachella Valley 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.

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 affected stakeholders to discuss any other concerns they may have.

The Workshop is scheduled as follows:

Date: May 21, 2014  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region  
Board Room  
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

On April 25, 2014, the draft Conditional Waiver Order R7-2014-0046 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 Colorado River Basin Water Board's environmental review, conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), was posted for public comment in Public Notice 7-14-29, dated April 25, 2014. The notice provided a comment period of April 29, 2014, to May 29, 2014, for the public to provide written comments on the Colorado River Basin 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 Colorado River Basin Water Board intends to consider adopting the draft Conditional Waiver during a public hearing at the Town of Yucca Valley Community Center – Yucca Room on June 26, 2014, 10:00 a.m., 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley CA 92284. The public notice for the hearing (Public Notice 7-14-28) was posted on April 25, 2014, 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 7-14-28 establishes a deadline of May 27, 2014, 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 Colorado River Basin 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.