

**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. 7-14-61
December 12, 2014

**Public Notice of
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 Imperial Valley,
Imperial County, California**

**Public Comment Period:
December 12, 2014 to January 12, 2015**

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 (Colorado River Basin 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 Imperial Valley in Imperial County, California.

To obtain coverage under this Conditional Waiver, agricultural dischargers must choose one of the two following options: (1) submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with this Waiver, or (2) participate in a Coalition Group that submits an NOI to comply with this Waiver. Under option 1, the agricultural discharger must also do the following:

- (a) Prepare a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and, if applicable, prepare an Individual Drain Water Quality Plan (DWQP) and Drain Monitoring and Reporting Program (DMRP) for review and approval by the Colorado River Basin 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 Colorado River Basin Water Board.

As noted above, agricultural dischargers may also choose option 2—participating in a Coalition Group that submits an NOI to comply with the Waiver. The Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County Farm Bureau have agreed to organize and manage a Coalition Group and develop and implement a Compliance Program to comply with this Conditional Waiver. Agricultural dischargers must pay annual fees for coverage under this Conditional Waiver in accordance with the fee schedule prescribed in the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 2200.6 for WDRs and waivers of WDRs for discharges from agricultural lands, including irrigated lands.

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 Colorado River Basin Water Board that this project—the Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural wastewater discharges and discharges of wastes from drain operation and maintenance activities within the Imperial Valley—will not have a significant effect on the environment. No known site is present in the affected agricultural areas on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code including, but not limited to, lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, and hazardous waste disposal sites, and the information in the Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement required under subdivision (f) of that section.

The Colorado River Basin 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 15, 2015**
Time: **9:00 a.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**

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.

The proposed Negative Declaration and other project documents are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/>

Written comments on the proposed Negative Declaration must be postmarked no later than January 12, 2015, for delivery to:

Logan Raub, Environmental Scientist
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control Board
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

CONTACT:

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the project, please contact Logan Raub, Environmental Scientist, (760) 776-8966, or Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer, at (760)776-8932.