

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

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Public Notice 7-16-43
December 21, 2016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

In the matter of
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for OWB Packers, LLC
Brawley Beef Plant BioFiltro Wastewater Treatment Facility and Reclamation Areas

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, (Colorado River Water Board) staff will hold a Public Informational Meeting regarding the matter as follows:

Date: January 4, 2017
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Del Rio Branch Library, Community Center Room
1501 "I" Street, Brawley, CA 92227

Board staff has prepared a new tentative permit (known as WDRs) for OWB Packers, LLC (Discharger). OWB purchased the National Beef Plant in 2016 and is planning to resume operations. The purpose of the meeting is to provide interested stakeholders, particularly residents in close proximity to the beef plant, with an additional opportunity to learn about the proposed new permit. The informational meeting will also provide stakeholder an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions about the permit. The meeting will be informal. A quorum of the Regional Water Board members may be present, but no action will be taken. A copy of the proposed permit is posted at:

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

The beef plant has an existing onsite wastewater treatment facility that uses a series of unlined ponds to disinfect wastewater from the beef plant. The discharge of wastewater from the plant to the existing ponds is currently regulated by WDRs Order R7-2016-0007 and Time Schedule Order R7-2016-0008.

A new permit for the beef plant is needed because the Discharger proposes to change the method of treatment and disposal of wastewater from its plant. Specifically, it proposes to replace its pond-based treatment process with a biofiltration system, BioFiltro Bida®, (BioFiltro System). Under this proposal, the Discharger will abandon Pond 1, and use the other ponds for storage of treated wastewater. The BioFiltro System is a patented treatment system that uses biological processes to treat wastewater in concrete containment tanks. The Discharger also proposes to use reclaimed wastewater from the BioFiltro System to irrigate 140 acres of Bermuda grass or other fodder crops for cattle feed.

Public Hearing

The proposed permit has been scheduled for consideration of adoption by the Colorado River Basin Water Board at its January 19, 2017 public hearing. The Public Hearing will start at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at the City of Brawley Council Chambers. The thirty-day public comment period on the proposed permit began **December 2, 2016** and ends **January 6, 2017**. All relevant oral comments received at the Informational Meeting and in writing during the commenting period regarding the matter will be considered before the proposed permit is finalized for Board consideration of adoption.

To ensure the accuracy of the record, individuals with written statements are requested to submit their statements to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff during or immediately after the Informational Meeting. Colorado River Basin Water Board staff will note and summarize all relevant comments received during the Informational meeting, and provided them to the Colorado River Basin Water Board members as part of the administrative record on this matter, before the act on January 19, 2017.

Special Accommodation

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 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Additional Information

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 776-8960 or Jose Cortez at (760) 776-8963.

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