



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lahontan Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150
(530) 542-5400 • Fax (530) 544-2271
www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

February 23, 2007

Interested Parties

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WHICH INCLUDES AN ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY ORDER AND TWO CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) Prosecution Team and County Sanitation District No. 14 of Los Angeles County - Lancaster and County Sanitation District No. 20 of Los Angeles County - Palmdale (Districts) have negotiated and agreed upon a proposed settlement of claims for administrative liability against the Districts and litigation between the Districts and the Water Board (Riverside County Superior Court Case Nos. 434672 and 434677). Before the settlement becomes effective, it must be accepted by the Water Board. The settlement Agreement (Enclosed) includes the payment of an administrative civil liability and the adoption of revised cease and desist orders requiring both Districts to take actions according to enforceable schedules to comply with their Waste Discharge Requirements.

As a part of the settlement, Water Board staff agreed to propose revisions to two Cease and Desist Orders (Exhibits A and B to the Settlement Agreement) for the Districts to reflect actions that have been completed and actions that remain for the Districts to come into compliance with their Waste Discharge Requirements. The amendments would provide for additional time for the Districts to achieve full compliance with waste discharge requirements and require the Districts to implement revised interim compliance measures.

As part of the settlement, the Districts will be paying a civil liability of \$4 million, of which \$3.8 million will fund a supplemental environmental project (SEP), \$152,000 will be paid into the state Waste Discharge Permit Fund and \$48,000 into an account at the state Attorney General's office for litigation support. The SEP will fund construction of portions of the Antelope Valley Recycled Water Project that will be used to convey recycled water throughout the Antelope Valley. The project will ultimately include 38 miles of pipeline, three storage reservoirs, and five pump stations that will link the wastewater treatment plants serving Lancaster, Palmdale and Rosamond. It will provide treated water for reuse to six water districts in the valley. This SEP is described in Attachment B to the proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order (Exhibit C to the Settlement Agreement).

The Water Board's prosecution team is recommending approval of the settlement, including adoption of the proposed orders (Exhibits A, B and C to the Settlement

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Agreement) by the Water Board. The proposed settlement which includes the proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order and revised Cease and Desist Orders will be heard at the Water Board's March 14 and 15, 2007 regularly-scheduled meeting in Lancaster. The Water Board is not scheduled to take any action on the proposed settlement, the proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order or the proposed cease and desist orders at this meeting. Instead, the Water Board will consider taking action on these documents at its May 23-24, 2007 meeting. The Water Board will also consider amended Waste Discharge Requirements for disposal of tertiary treated recycled water at the Eastern Agricultural Area by County Sanitation District No. 14 of Los Angeles County - Lancaster at this meeting. The Prosecution Team will recommend adoption of the amended Waste Discharge Requirements at the March 2007 meeting.

The Water Board encourages your input on the proposed Settlement Agreement, proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order, and revised Cease and Desist Orders. Please submit written comments to the Water Board, 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on **April 13, 2007**. Interested persons can comment on the proposed settlement at either the March 14-15, 2007 or May 23-24, 2007 Water Board meeting, although individual are usually given limited time for such comments at the meeting.

If you need further information regarding this matter, please contact me at 530-542-5412 or Robert S. Dodds, Assistant Executive Officer at 530-542-5410.



Harold J. Singer
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Settlement Agreement
Exhibit A - Proposed Cease and Desist Order for District No. 14
Exhibit B - Proposed Cease and Desist Order for District No. 20
Exhibit C - Proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order
Attachment A – Graph
Attachment B – Proposed SEP

cc: all with enclosures
Water Board Members
Water Board Advisory Team
Mailing List for District Nos. 14 and 20
Office of Enforcement, State Water Resources Control Board

T:/Enforcement Orders/ACL/Orders/LACSD 14&20/LACSD 14-20 Settlement Transmittal 01-19-07

