
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

PROPOSED APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASINS AND THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE TULARE LAKE BASIN TO ADD POLICIES FOR VARIANCES FROM SURFACE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR POINT SOURCE DISCHARGERS, VARIANCE PROGRAM FOR SALINITY, AND EXCEPTION FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR SALINITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept comments on the proposed approval of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plan amendments) to add policies for variances from surface water quality standards for point source dischargers, a variance program for salinity, and exceptions from implementation of water quality objectives for salinity. The variance policy will allow the Central Valley Water Board the authority to grant short term exceptions from meeting water quality based effluent limitations to dischargers subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The policy will only apply to non-priority pollutants. The variance program for salinity and the exception for salinity establish the procedures for dischargers to obtain a short term exception from meeting water quality based salinity requirements in NPDES permits and waste discharge requirements. The Basin Plan amendments were adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on June 6, 2014 (R5-2014-0074), and are available for review at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/variances/index.shtml

A copy of the Basin Plan amendment can also be received by mail by contacting Betty Yee at (916) 464-4643.

REQUEST NOTICE OF STATE BOARD MEETINGS. The State Water Board will separately publish an agenda for the meeting at which it will consider adopting a resolution approving the Basin Plan amendments. Oral comments at the State Water Board meeting generally will be limited to a summary of the written comments submitted during the written comment period. Persons interested (including those who submit oral or written comments to the Central Valley Water Board and State Water Board) in receiving notice of the meeting at which the State Water Board will consider approving the Basin Plan amendments **must subscribe to:**

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml and check the box for *Variances*. The State Water Board encourages use of its electronic mailing list. Persons who require notice by regular mail must submit such request to the Central Valley Water Board contact identified above.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS. Persons interested in the Basin Plan amendments are encouraged to submit comments electronically. Comment letters **must be received by 12:00 noon on December 22, 2014.** Comment letters received after that deadline will not be accepted unless the State Water Board determines otherwise. Send comments to Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the State Water Board, by email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov (**must be no more than 15 megabytes**); fax at (916) 341-5620; or mail or hand delivery at:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 (mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)


Please also indicate in the subject line, "**Comment Letter—Central Valley Variances and Exceptions**".

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS (23 Cal. Code Regs., § 3779, subd. (f)). The State Water Board may refuse to accept any comments that do not satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Comments must specifically address the final version of the Basin Plan amendments adopted by the Central Valley Water Board.
2. If the Central Valley Water Board previously responded to a similar or identical comment, the commenter must explain why and in what manner the commenter believes each of the responses provided by the Central Valley Water Board to each comment was inadequate or incorrect.
3. The commenter also must include either a statement that each of the comments was timely raised before the Central Valley Water Board, or an explanation of why the commenter was unable to raise the specific comment before the Central Valley Water Board.

Please direct any questions about this notice to Betty Yee, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, Central Valley Water Board, at (916) 464-4643 or Betty.Yee@waterboards.ca.gov; or David Coupe, Attorney III, at (510) 622-2306 or David.Coupe@waterboards.ca.gov.

November 6, 2014
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board