
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Western Tulare Lake Basin Area (R5-2014-0001)

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) is proposing revisions (the "Proposed Revisions") to the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0001 for Growers within the Western Tulare Lake Basin Area that are Members of a Third-Party Group (WTLBA General Order). The Proposed Revisions will modify the deadlines for the submittal of Farm Evaluations, for the preparation and certification of Nitrogen Management Plans, and for the submittal of the Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report.

The WTLBA General Order requires that the third-party group submit a Groundwater Quality Assessment Report, which identifies high and low vulnerability areas within its boundaries, by 16 February 2014. The WTLBA General Order also requires that all farms in high vulnerability areas submit a completed Farm Evaluation to the third-party group by 1 March 2015, and that all large farming operations located in high vulnerability areas prepare a Nitrogen Management Plan by 1 March 2015. This schedule provides insufficient time between the designation of High and Low Vulnerability areas and the deadlines for growers in high vulnerability areas to submit a Farm Evaluation and to prepare a Nitrogen Management Plan. The Proposed Revisions will modify the schedule for the submittal of these reports, and will include a one-year extension to the requirement that large farms in high vulnerability areas certify their Nitrogen Management Plans and submit a Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report to the third-party group.

Electronic copies of the Proposed Revisions are available on the Central Valley Water Board's website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Board's office at 1685 E Street, Fresno, California 93706 on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

A public hearing at which the Central Valley Water Board will consider adoption of the Proposed Revisions will be conducted in Rancho Cordova on 5/6 February 2015. The Board will not be re-considering other aspects of the WTLBA General Order at this hearing. The hearing date and location are noted below:

Date: 5/6 February 2015
Time: To Be Determined
Location: Central Valley Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The Board's meeting agenda will be available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/

at least ten days before the meeting. The meeting agenda will indicate the hearing date for the Proposed Revisions and will include links to related documents, including any late changes to the Proposed Revisions.

Written comments on the Proposed Revisions must be received at the Board's office or at the email address below **by 16 January 2015**. Comments regarding matters associated with the WTLBA General Order that fall outside of the scope of the Proposed Revisions will not be considered by the Board. Persons submitting written comments are encouraged to do so electronically by sending them to dsholes@waterboards.ca.gov. Otherwise, written comments may be sent to Attn. David Sholes, 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706.

At the hearing, Board staff will present a final recommendation for the Board's consideration. All persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments. Oral comments will be limited in time by the Board's Chair. If you plan to use visual aids such as PowerPoint slides, please contact Board staff prior to the meeting to arrange for equipment set-up. You must provide a printed or electronic copy of any visual aids.

Ex Parte Communications. Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287. **Ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the Board Meeting at which the Proposed Revisions are scheduled for consideration.** For communications concerning any issue in this proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited starting on 22 January. If the Board does not take action on 5/6 February, the ex parte prohibition will remain in place until the Board, the Board Chair, or the Executive Officer directs otherwise. Once lifted, the prohibition on ex parte communications may be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the Board Meeting to which the decision is continued. The Board will provide notice via the Lyris email list for this item if the prohibition is lifted and/or reinstated.

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

Any questions regarding the proposed action should be directed to David Sholes at (559) 445-6279 or dsholes@waterboards.ca.gov.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least 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.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

CLAY L. RODGERS
Assistant Executive Officer
16 December 2014