

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD'S DRAFT FEDERAL NONPOINT SOURCE PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Central Valley Water Board will conduct a public hearing on **12/13 December 2024** to consider adoption of the draft *Waste Discharge Requirements for Nonpoint Source Discharges Related to Certain Activities Conducted by the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management*, Draft Order No. R5-2024-XXXX (Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit or Order) and certification of the supporting draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

This **Revised** Notice of Public Hearing includes a brief background on the Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit (Section I) and information on how to review the documents (Section II) and participate at the public hearing (Sections III and IV).

- The [Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit and Draft EIR](#) can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's webpage at:  
([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders))
- A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for

Date: **12/13 December 2024**  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
Physical Meeting Location with Remote Meeting Option

The [final meeting agenda](#) will be available at least 10 days before the meeting at: ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings)). The agenda will provide the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item and anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the tentative draft Order.

## I. BACKGROUND

The Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit proposes to regulate certain land management activities conducted by, or on behalf of, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Central Valley region. Central Valley Water Board staff experience has shown that USFS and BLM projects are not always conducted in a manner protective of water quality. In addition, increased extent and severity of wildfire across the state has prompted the USFS and BLM to commit to increasing the pace and scale of forestland management activities. These considerations, in part, require the development of this Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit and a supporting environmental analysis (i.e., the Draft EIR).

The Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit proposes to cover nonpoint discharges of waste to surface waters from vegetation management, transportation management, recreation facilities management, post-emergency recovery activities, and restoration activities. Activities not covered under the Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit include mining, discharges of hazardous or human waste, activities conducted by third parties not on behalf of the USFS or BLM, or grazing activities.

The Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit relies on permit criteria and conditions, implementation and assessment of best management practices designed to mitigate discharges of waste to surface waters, and adherence to the standards and guidelines contained in federal agency guidance documents to ensure compliance with water quality standards. The Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit requires the agencies inventory and treat controllable sediment sources across USFS and BLM managed lands within the Central Valley region, comply with pesticide application requirements, and monitoring and reporting conditions. The Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit also requires each federal agency to identify HUC 12 watersheds for landscape scale assessment and treatment of controllable sediment sources every 10 years.

Please refer to the Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit (including attachments), and Draft EIR (including attachments) for further information. These documents may be viewed at the following [Tentative Orders webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders): ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders)).

## II. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

The Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit and Draft EIR may be accessed at the Central Valley Water Board offices during normal business hours<sup>1</sup> or at the following webpages:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board [Tentative Orders](#):

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<sup>1</sup> The [Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit and EIR](#) may be reviewed at the Redding, Rancho Cordova, or Fresno office during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders))

([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders)).

[Federal Nonpoint Source Permit Homepage:](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/forest_activities/federal_lands)

([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/forest\\_activities/federal\\_lands](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/forest_activities/federal_lands))

### III. PREHEARING SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The noticed written comment period has closed for these items. Pursuant to the initial Notice of Public Hearing, interested persons were previously invited to submit written comments regarding the Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit and Draft EIR by 5:00 p.m. on 23 June 2024. Written materials submitted after the close of the written comment period will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record, absent a ruling by the Board Chair.

### IV. PUBLIC HEARING

At the **12/13 December 2024** hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit and Draft EIR. The [procedures governing Central Valley Water Board adjudicatory hearings](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations)) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

The hearing on the Draft Federal Nonpoint Source Permit and Draft EIR will be conducted in the general order listed under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.5, except that the Board Chair may modify the order for good cause.

The **USFS and BLM** will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for their presentation. USFS and BLM are invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time they believe is necessary.

**Interested persons** may speak at the hearing and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals, if any. Each interested person will have 3 minutes to present oral comments. Additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Board Chair.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to [agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov) or call 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.

### V. POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES TO THE NOTICED ITEMS

Any changes regarding the noticed items, including changes to the hearing date, will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board's webpage and noticed through the email distribution list. To receive future notices sign up for the email distribution list by accessing the [Email List Subscription Form](#) webpage and subscribing to the "Federal NPS Activities - Central Valley Regional Board" email list.

([https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?qsp=central\\_valley](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?qsp=central_valley)).

## **VI. CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please direct questions about this public notice or the Draft Order and/or Draft EIR to:  
[RB5R-Fed.NPS.permit@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB5R-Fed.NPS.permit@Waterboards.ca.gov).