Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONCERNING

ORDER R5-2027-XXXX

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY, LLC
HILL LEASE, SOUTH BELRIDGE OIL FIELD
KERN COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of the subject Order at a public meeting scheduled for:

DATE:	xx/xx February 2027
TIME:	9:00 AM
PLACE:	Central Valley Water Board 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The date, time, and location of the public meeting may change after this Notice is issued. A Final Agenda for the meeting will be made available at least 10 days before the meeting. The Final Agenda will provide changes to the date, location, and format of the meeting, if any. It will also provide the anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include revisions to the proposed order.

The Final Agenda, and any information concerning changes to the date, time, location, or format of the public meeting, will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board's website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) and will be emailed to all persons that sign up for the GovDelivery subscription list (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.html).

The meeting will be webcast live on YouTube. A weblink for viewing will be provided in the Final Agenda. Any person who would like to participate in the meeting, but who is unable to attend in-person, may participate remotely via video or teleconference. Instructions for doing so will be provided in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

Opportunities to Comment

The Central Valley Water Board will consider oral and written comments on the proposed Order before it votes on whether to adopt the Order.

Written comments or evidence concerning the Order must be submitted by 5:00 pm on 28 December 2026. Please email any comments to nobuaki.masutsubo@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line, "Berry Petroleum Company, LLC Hill Lease Ownership Change." While email is preferred, written comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Attention: Nobuaki Masutsubo
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

The Board Chair may refuse to admit any comments or evidence received after the comment period unless the submitting party provides a reasonable explanation for why the submission is late and the Board Chair determines that admission of the late submission would not prejudice any other party.

Oral comments concerning the Order must be presented at the scheduled public meeting. Interested parties are generally allowed up to three minutes each to provide their comments. Certain **designated parties** may provide longer comments and have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, cross-examine opposing witnesses, impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence against him or her. The party's subject to the proposed Order are designated parties. Any other party may request recognition as a designated party by submitting a written statement of how they are directly affected by the discharge(s) to be regulated and why they would like to be considered a designated party. Such requests must be submitted to Central Valley Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on XX February 2027. Instructions on how to provide oral comments will be included in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

Proposed Order

If approved, Order R5-2027-XXXX will update the official records to show a change in operatorship of the Hill Lease in the South Belridge Oil Field.

The Hill Lease was previously owned by Berry Petroleum Company, LLC and operated by LINN Operating, Inc., as documented in Order R5-2015-0016. That order updated ownership information for several facilities regulated by the Central Valley Water Board. In 2015, ownership of the Hill Lease transferred from ExxonMobil Production Company to Berry Petroleum Company.

Berry Petroleum Company now owns and operates the Hill Lease (referred to as the Discharger). The Discharger must continue to follow the requirements in Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2013-0061. That order regulates post-closure monitoring and maintenance for four closed, unlined ponds on the Hill Lease. These ponds were previously used to dispose of wastewater generated from oil field operations.

To conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, a paper copy of the proposed Order was sent only to the Discharger. All others may access a digital copy of the Order on the Central Valley Water Board's Tentative Orders website, under the heading, "Discharger-Specific Order for Future Board Meetings". (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/).

Copies of the proposed Order and associated documents may also be obtained by visiting the office of the Central Valley Water Board at 1685 E Street, Fresno, California, 93706 or by contacting the Board by phone at (559) 445-5116, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Questions concerning the proposed Order or anything in this Notice should be directed to Nobuaki Masutsubo at (559) 445-5179 or nobuaki.masutsubo@waterboards.ca.gov.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov at least five working days prior to the meeting. To request oral interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the meeting by calling (916) 341-5254 or e-mailing opp-languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Other Information

The Procedures Governing Central Valley Water Board Meetings (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found in California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 1.5 (starting with section 647) and are available upon request.

Additional information on meeting procedures can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's Meeting Procedures webpage. (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml).

Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

All meeting procedure information is also available on request to any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov.

Language Services

This meeting will be offered in English [Insert additional language(s).] To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, if possible:

- Submit an online request (bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm)

- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma**.**

Accessibility & Reasonable Accommodations

Users of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or the teletype (TTY) voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Additional information on attending the meeting can be found on the Regional Board Meeting Calendar webpage.
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/).

Items on this Agenda are numbered for identification purposes only; the Board may consider these items out of their listed order.

Copies of the items to be considered by the Central Valley Water Board are posted on the Board's Tentative Orders web page.

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/).