
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) SCOPING MEETING

Proposed Adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Commercial Agricultural Operations Regulatory Program (Project)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) will hold a CEQA Scoping Meeting on April 15, 2016 regarding the proposed adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for the Commercial Agricultural Operations Regulatory Program. The CEQA Scoping Meeting will be held at the following location and time:

**San Diego Water Board, Board Meeting Room
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92108
April 15, 2016, 10 a.m. to Noon**

The San Diego Water Board is functioning as the Lead Agency pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15000 et seq.), and has the principal responsibility for preparing environmental documents, engaging the public and responsible agencies, and exercising its discretion to approve or disapprove the proposed Project. The purpose of the CEQA Scoping Meeting is to obtain comments from interested persons on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental documents to be prepared for the Project. During the CEQA Scoping Meeting, the San Diego Water Board will provide an overview of the CEQA process and the Project. The San Diego Water Board will then receive written and verbal comments, and questions from the public regarding potential Project alternatives, significant environmental impacts, and mitigation measures for the Project that should be considered as part of the decision-making process.

While a quorum of San Diego Water Board members may be present, the San Diego Water Board will not take formal action at the CEQA Scoping Meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Storm water and non-storm water runoff from commercial agricultural operations, nurseries, and medicinal cannabis cultivators (collectively referred to as Agricultural Operations) can contain pesticides, nutrients, pathogens, and other pollutants at levels that could adversely affect surface and ground water quality in the San Diego Region. The San Diego Water Board is proposing to adopt two waste discharge requirements; one for Agricultural Operations that are members of a Third-Party Group, and one for Agricultural Operations that will not participate in a Third-Party Group. These waste discharge requirements, if adopted, will regulate discharges from commercial farms and nurseries into both surface and ground waters in the San Diego Region.

If adopted, the Project will require Agricultural Operations to employ management practices to reduce or eliminate discharges of wastes to surface and ground waters, and to implement a monitoring and reporting program to evaluate compliance with the proposed requirements. Management practices may include:

1. Application of irrigation water and nutrients at agronomic rates;

2. The use of vegetative buffer strips between areas of agricultural activity and surface water; and
3. The construction of berms to contain storm water flows.

The San Diego Water Board has regulated discharges from Agricultural Operations since the 1980s through conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements. The most recent conditional waiver, Resolution No. R9-2007-0104, *Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9) to incorporate the Revised Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Discharge within the San Diego Region*, expired on February 3, 2014.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A copy of a Draft Initial Study and CEQA Checklist for the Project is available electronically on the San Diego Water Board website at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/irrigated_lands/irrigated_ag_a.shtml

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

From Interstate 15 – Take the Friars Road West exit (toward Qualcomm Stadium), and follow the signs to stay on Friars Road. Turn left onto Northside Drive. Turn left at first signal. The San Diego Water Board office is in the building located at the end of the driveway. Limited two-hour free parking is available on a first-come-first-serve basis, and long-term fee parking is available in an adjacent parking structure. The facility is also accessible via public transit.

The facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons requiring additional accommodations should contact Ms. Chris Blank at chris.blank@waterboards.ca.gov or (619) 521-3382 at least five days prior to the meeting.

For additional information, please refer to

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/contact_us/.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions or concerns regarding the above subject should be directed to Mr. Barry Pulver at 619-521-3381 or by email at barry.pulver@waterboards.ca.gov.