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## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 29, 2017

To Potentially Affected Party or Interested Person:

**NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE FOR THE 'CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES FROM AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN THE WATERSHEDS OF THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, AND CANYON LAKE AND LAKE ELSINORE AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES, COLLECTIVELY, "THE SAN JACINTO RIVER WATERSHED" RIVERSIDE COUNTY', ORDER NO. R8-2016-0003**

On April 28, 2017, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) will consider revisions to the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Agricultural Operations in the San Jacinto River Watershed, Riverside County, Order No. R8-2016-0003 (Order or "CWAD"). Extensions of key compliance schedule dates in the CWAD are being proposed. These changes are briefly summarized below, and more fully discussed in the enclosed factsheet. The draft revised Order will be available on the Regional Board website on March 29, 2017, at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/planning/ag\\_waiver.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/planning/ag_waiver.shtml).

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 29, 2016, the Regional Board adopted Order No. R8-2016-0003, which requires eligible agricultural dischargers in the San Jacinto River watershed to enroll under the CWAD no later than April 28, 2017, in order to obtain regulatory coverage for their discharges of agricultural wastes.

Upon enrollment, dischargers are given specific deadlines to submit proposed plans and schedules to implement specific CWAD activities that include enrollment, coalition group formation, monitoring, implementation and assessment of best management practices (BMPs), nutrient management, and reporting. The plans would be implemented by enrolled dischargers upon approval by the Executive Officer. As mentioned above, please read the enclosed factsheet for a more detailed description of the CWAD, the requirements, and a table explaining the CWAD fees.

**LOCATIONS COVERED UNDER THE CWAD:**

The San Jacinto River Watershed, which covers approximately 487,900 acres or about 762.3 square miles of the Santa Ana River Basin. It includes the San Jacinto River, Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore and their tributaries. See enclosed Groundwater Management Zone map.

**REGULATED ACTIVITIES:**

Discharges of waste from irrigated lands, certain livestock operations, dry-land farming and fallow land (collectively, "agricultural operations") in the San Jacinto River Watershed that enter or threaten to enter into surface water and/or groundwater that may cause or contribute to conditions of pollution or nuisance and/or to violations of applicable water quality standards<sup>1</sup>. The Order specifies eligible dischargers are those who conduct: 1), agricultural or livestock operations on 20 or more acres, or 2), livestock operations on less than 20 acres with an animal density of more than three (3) animal units per acre, or 3), agricultural operations on multiple parcels where the cumulative acreage equals or exceeds 20 acres that includes any portion that is irrigated, dry farmed and/or fallow. The Order also covers any owner and/or operator of other agricultural operations that Regional Board staff finds to be a high risk for discharging animal wastes, or other wastes that could affect water quality. A discharger may enroll as an individual farm or a member of a Coalition Group.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:**

The Santa Ana Regional Board is responsible for managing and protecting water quality in the Santa Ana River Basin, including the San Jacinto River and Lake Elsinore watershed. The RWQCB's authority comes from the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the California Water Code, and the federal Clean Water Act.

Notice is hereby given that the Regional Board will consider approval of the proposed extension of the compliance schedule due dates at the regularly scheduled Regional Board meeting to be held as follows:

DATE: April 28, 2017  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
LOCATION: Loma Linda City Council Chambers  
25541 Barton Road  
Loma Linda, CA

The scope of the comments is limited to the proposed changes to the CWAD compliance schedule. Written comments must be received by the Regional Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 19, 2017.

Additional information, including the proposed revised Conditional Waiver Order, the enrollment form (Notice of Intent; NOI), when available, the CWAD fact sheets, and

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<sup>1</sup> Water quality standards are defined under Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and California Water Code, Division 7, Chapter 2 § 13050.

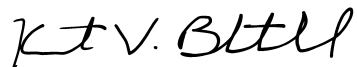
other information are available on the Regional Board website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water\\_issues/programs/planning/ag\\_waiver.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/planning/ag_waiver.shtml)

Please contact the staff below to receive a hard copy of the proposed revised Order.

Comments or questions regarding the proposed action should be directed to Eric Lindberg at (951) 782-3219 or [eric.lindberg@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:eric.lindberg@waterboards.ca.gov), or Wanda Cross at (951) 782-4468 or [wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wanda.cross@waterboards.ca.gov). Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodation to participate in the Regional Board hearing should contact Felipa Carrillo at (951) 782-3285 no later than April 21, 2017.

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold  
Executive Officer

Enclosure