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State Water Resources Control Board

## NOTICE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERT PANEL PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

### Expert Panel Public Meeting #1

**Monday May 5, 2014 – 9:00 AM (Convene Panel and Invited Testimony)**  
**Tuesday May 6, 2014 – 8:30 AM (Invited Testimony and Public Comment)**

Locations different for each day:

**May 5:** Irrigation Training and Research Center  
California Polytechnic State University, SLO  
1 Grand Ave, Building 08A, Room 022  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

**May 6:** The Monday Club  
1815 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

### Expert Panel Public Meeting #2

**Wednesday May 7, 2014 – 8:30 (Invited Testimony and Public Comment)**

Southern California Edison Energy Education Center  
4175 South Laspina Street  
Tulare, CA 93274

### Expert Panel Public Meeting #3

**Friday May 9, 2014 – 8:30 (Invited Testimony and Public Comment)**

Joe Serna Jr. – Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
Byron Sher Auditorium  
1001 I Street, Second Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Written Public Comment Deadline**  
**Wednesday May 14, 2014 – 12:00 pm**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will be conducting a series of three public Expert Panel Meetings May 5-6, 7, and 9, 2014 at the locations and times indicated above. The meetings will be led by members of the Expert Panel. A quorum of the State Water Board members may be in attendance; however no Board action will be taken at these meetings.

## **Background**

Chapter 1 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2008 (SBX2 1, Perata), required the State Water Board to develop pilot projects focusing on nitrate in groundwater in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley, and to submit a report to the Legislature on the scope and findings of the pilot projects, including recommendations. The State Water Board made 15 recommendations in 4 key areas to address the issues associated with nitrate contaminated groundwater. The key areas to address these issues are:

1. Providing safe drinking water.
2. Monitoring, notification, and assessment.
3. Nitrogen tracking and reporting.
4. Protecting groundwater.

## **Expert Panel**

Recommendation 14 of the State Water Board's report to the Legislature was to convene a panel of experts to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and develop recommendations, as needed, to ensure that ongoing efforts are protective of groundwater supply quality. The State Water Board contracted with the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC), a center established within the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to assemble an expert panel of up to 10 persons. The Expert Panel members have been selected and the composition of the panel is available on the ITRC website at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>.

## **Role of Expert Panel**

The role of Expert Panel Members is as follows:

- Review the Water Boards' Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.
- Evaluate ongoing agricultural control measures that address nitrate in groundwater and surface water.
- Evaluate and address other risks to water quality posed by agricultural practices.
- Address questions posed by the State Water Board in its order regarding the petitions of the Central Coast Water Board.
- Address questions developed by an Advisory Committee, other agencies and the public as approved by the State Water Board.
- Propose new agricultural control measures, if necessary.
- Hold meetings with the Advisory Committee as necessary.
- Conduct three public meetings to take public comment.
- Prepare a Final Report on the findings and a summary of project discoveries and recommendations.

## **Meeting Agendas and Questions for the Expert Panel**

A separate notice will follow to provide the agendas for the Expert Panel Meetings and the questions presented to the Expert Panel for their consideration.

### Written Comments

The State Water Board will accept written comments and remarks for the Expert Panel's consideration. Comments and remarks must be received by **12:00 pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2014** and addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments and remarks may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov).

If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the document(s) may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate in the subject line: "**Agricultural Expert Panel Comments**", as applicable.

Couriers delivering hard copies of documents must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

**Schedule** (some dates may be changed however, all changes will be noticed).

Date	Event	Location
Completed	Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Sierra Hearing Room, Sacramento
May 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> , 2014*	Expert Panel Public Meeting #1	San Luis Obispo 5th: Irrigation Training and Research Center 6th: Monday Club
May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting #2	SCE Energy Education Center, Tulare
May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting #3	Cal/EPA Building Byron Sher Auditorium, Sacramento
June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Expert Panel Draft Report Released	N/A
July 1 <sup>st</sup> – July 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Public Comment Period on Expert Panel Draft Report	N/A
July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting on Draft Report	Cal/EPA Building Byron Sher Auditorium, Sacramento
July 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Advisory Committee Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Sierra Hearing Room, Sacramento
September 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	Expert Panel presents Final Report at Board Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Coastal Hearing Room, Sacramento

\*Expert Panel Public Meeting #1 will be held both May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at separate locations. All public comments for the meeting will be accepted on May 6<sup>th</sup> only.

### Project Tools and Information

Project information, including meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and other pertinent material/documents will be posted online at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>.

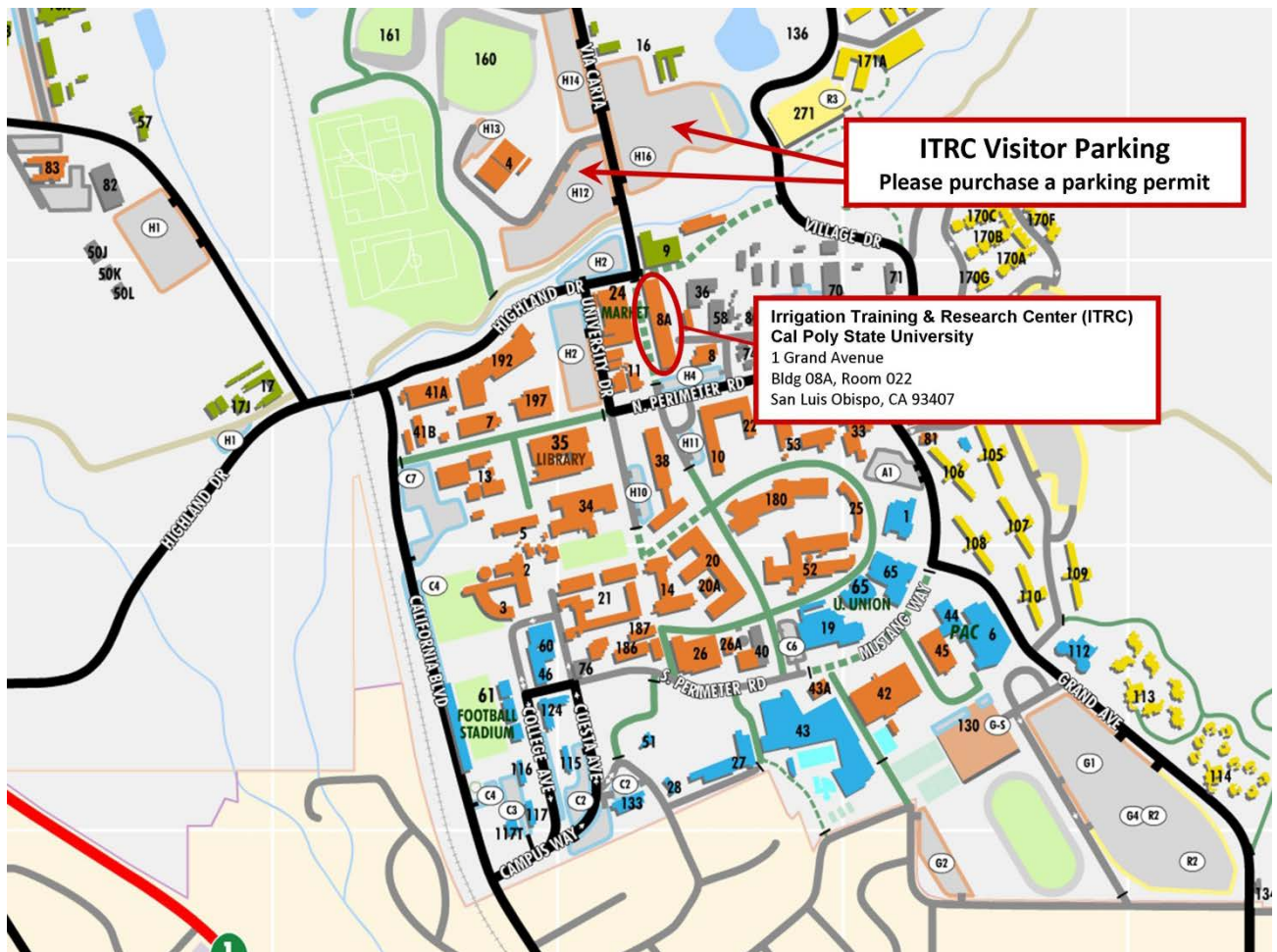
Please direct any questions about this notice to Johnny Gonzales at (916) 341-5510 or Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911.

### Expert Panel Public Meeting Location Maps

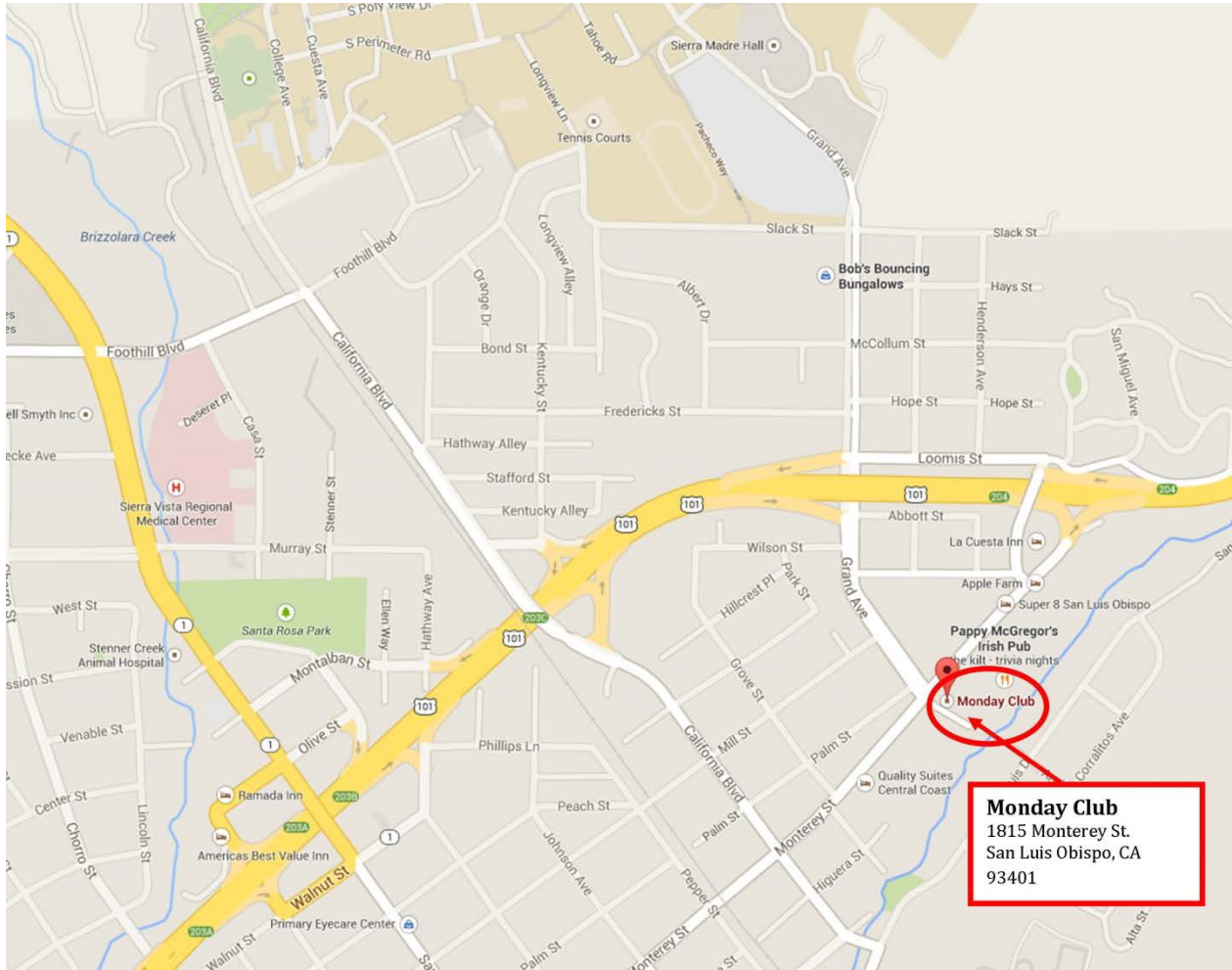
Maps for the locations of Public Meeting #1 and #2 are included below.

#### Expert Panel Public Meeting #1

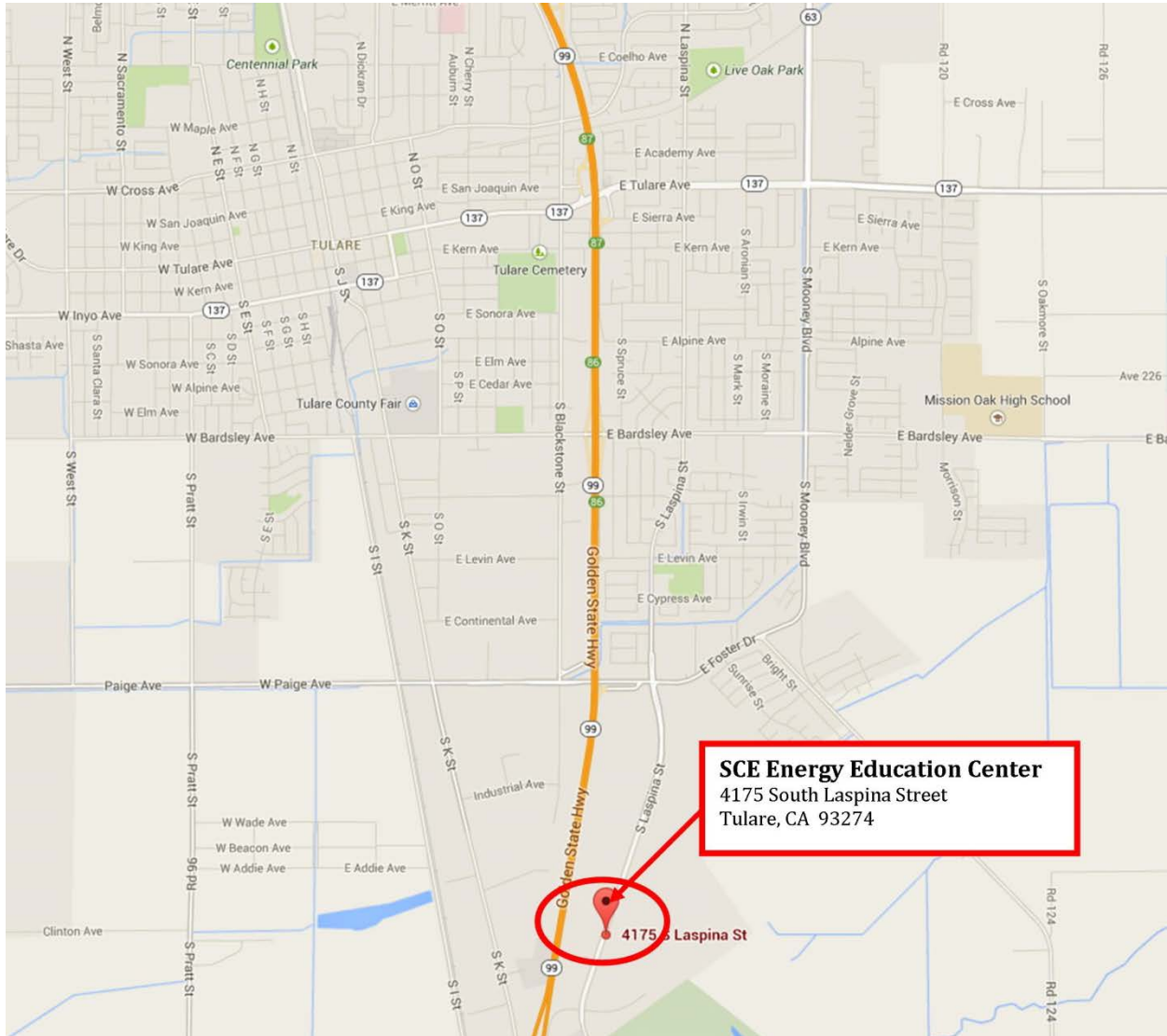
May 5<sup>th</sup>: Irrigation Training and Research Center, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo



**Expert Panel Public Meeting #1**  
May 6<sup>th</sup>: Monday Club, San Luis Obispo



**Expert Panel Public Meeting #2**  
May 7<sup>th</sup>: SCE Energy Education Center, Tulare



**Expert Panel Public Meeting #3**  
Joe Serna Jr. – Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
Byron Sher Auditorium  
1001 I Street, Second Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Parking, Accessibility and Security**

The Cal/EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations, including real-time translation services, at any of the public meetings are requested to contact Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Cal/EPA Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting. To sign in and receive a visitor's badge, visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Depending on their destination and the building's security level, visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid picture identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state or federal identification card. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take up to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to the hearing.