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Agency Secretary

State Water Resources Control Board



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

TO RECEIVE COMMENT ON PRACTICES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF FOOD PROCESSING AND WINERY WASTE THROUGH LAND APPLICATION AND OTHER MEANS

Monday, July 11, 2005 - 12:00 noon
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Chambers
1010 10th Street
Modesto, California

Food processing and wine production are major components of California agriculture. The disposal of wastewater and waste products generated by food processing and wine production may have beneficial uses in land application, but may also have negative impacts to groundwater quality and beneficial uses of groundwater if applied inappropriately or in excess.

The State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards) have existing statutes, regulations, and policies to protect groundwater quality, and beneficial uses from food processing and winery waste discharge. Statutes include the California Water Code. Regulations include Titles 23 and 27 of the California Code of Regulations. Policies include State Water Board Resolutions 68-16, 88-63, 92-49, and the Regional Water Board Basin Plans. A fundamental change in the implementation of these statutes, regulations, and policies occurred with the passage of Senate Bill 390 in 1999, which amended Section 13269 of the California Water Code. As a consequence, all waivers of waste discharge requirements in effect as of January 1, 2000, including waivers of food processing and winery waste discharge, expired on January 1, 2003. As a result of this legislative action, Regional Water Boards must now conduct public hearings to continue waivers, require monitoring to demonstrate compliance with waiver conditions, and renew or readopt waivers every five years.

Important questions have been raised regarding the application of existing regulations by the Regional Water Boards to the land application and disposal of food processing and winery waste. The State Water Board is therefore holding this public workshop to receive comment from all government agencies, stakeholders, public officials, environmental organizations, and all other citizens who wish to provide information bearing on these important issues. Following the workshop, the State Water Board will assess whether there is a need for new regulations or policies regarding disposal of food processing and winery waste.

Comments on the following questions are especially welcome and encouraged:

Does the land application of food processing and winery waste threaten groundwater quality and beneficial uses of groundwater?

Should there be statewide consistency in regulating food processing and winery waste rather than allowing for regional environmental variations and differences?

If there should be consistent statewide regulation of food processing and winery waste, how should such consistency be developed?

Should food processors and wineries be encouraged to develop practices and guidelines for the management and disposal of waste that are protective of groundwater?

Should there be third-party certification of food processing and winery waste management and disposal plans?

Are there economical ways to address the salt loading issues associated with food processing and winery waste disposal?

Written comments on these questions are welcome and may be submitted no later than July 6 by fax at (916) 327-7469, by e-mail to DMerkley@waterboards.ca.gov or:

Mr. Daniel Merkley
Agricultural Coordinator
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P. O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Questions regarding this hearing should be directed to Daniel Merkley at (916) 341-5501.


Debbie Irvin
Clerk to the Board

Date: June 14, 2005

Directions to the Food Processing and Winery Waste Workshop

SOUTHBOUND ON HIGHWAY 99, TAKE THE CENTRAL MODESTO EXIT AND MAKE A LEFT HAND TURN ON I STREET. CONTINUE ON I STREET TO 11TH STREET; MAKE A LEFT HAND TURN ON 11TH STREET. CONTINUE ON 11TH STREET TO THE PARKING GARAGE ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF 11TH STREET BETWEEN J AND K STREETS. THE 6-STORY BUILDING NEXT TO THE GARAGE IS 1010 TENTH STREET (TENTH STREET PLAZA).

NORTHBOUND ON HIGHWAY 99, TAKE THE CENTRAL MODESTO EXIT AND MAKE A RIGHT HAND TURN ON I STREET. CONTINUE ON I STREET TO 11TH STREET; MAKE A LEFT HAND TURN ON 11TH STREET. CONTINUE ON 11TH STREET TO THE PARKING GARAGE ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF 11TH STREET BETWEEN J AND K STREETS. THE 6-STORY BUILDING NEXT TO THE GARAGE IS 1010 TENTH STREET (TENTH STREET PLAZA).

To print out a map to the Tenth Street Plaza, go to: www.maps.msn.com/. Enter the 1010 Tenth Street, Modesto address and press the "Get Map" button. Increase the map size (top left side of map) and print.