

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting – 25/26 July 2013**

**Response to Written Comments for
Friant Ranch, a Limited Partnership
Friant Ranch Specific Plan Project
Fresno County
Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements**

At a public hearing scheduled for 25/26 July 2013, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Friant Ranch Specific Plan Project (Friant Ranch). This document contains responses to written comments received from interested parties regarding the tentative WDRs circulated on 23 May 2013. Written comments from interested parties were required by public notice to be received by the Central Valley Water Board by 5:00 pm on 24 June 2013 to receive full consideration. On 13 June 2013, one comment was submitted by Dennis Bacopulos on behalf of Friant Ranch, L.P. (Discharger).

The written comment from Friant Ranch, L.P., is summarized below, followed by the response of Central Valley Water Board staff. Based on the comment, Central Valley Water Board staff proposes some changes to the tentative WDRs. Central Valley Water Board staff also proposes some changes to the tentative WDRs to correct typographical errors and to improve clarity.

FRIANT RANCH, LP COMMENTS

Friant Ranch Comment No. 1: Findings 19 and 31, and Provisions D.6. through D.10.

Findings 19 and 31, and Provisions D.6. through D.10. refer to mitigation options for impacts to federally jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional waters of the State that currently allow either purchasing constructed vernal pool and vernal swale creation/restoration credits from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) approved mitigation bank, or creating/restoring wetlands on the Drayer Ranch. The Discharger requests inclusion of an option to create or restore wetlands on any Corps-approved off-site location, as this would be consistent with the Discharger's options in the Clean Water Act § 404 permit issued by the Corps.

Response: Central Valley Water Board staff agrees. The requested revision would still require the Discharger to create or restore an equivalent area of vernal pools/swales to satisfy the "no net loss" wetlands policy and would still require the Discharger to submit a Vernal Pool/Swale Creation/Restoration Plan for the proposed creation/restoration project to the Central Valley Water Board for approval, prior to initiating the creation/restoration project. Findings 19 and 31, and Provisions D.6. through D.10 have been changed to include the option to allow the creation/restoration mitigation project at a Corps-approved off-site location, consistent with the language in the Corps permit.