

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

3443 Routier Road, Suite A, Sacramento, California 95827 –3098

PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

Adoption of Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements

for

DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS

SACRAMENTO RIVER, SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND TULARE LAKE BASINS

and

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for the Project

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) will consider adoption of a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) pursuant to Water Code Section 13269 for discharges to surface waters from irrigated lands and will determine whether the discharge should be subject to general or individual WDRs, should the proposed waiver be revoked. Discharges from irrigated lands include surface discharges, operational spills, subsurface drainage and stormwater runoff. Irrigated lands include nurseries and managed wetlands as well as most of the land used in production agriculture. The waiver will apply to discharges throughout the Central Valley Region, which includes the Sacramento River, San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake basins. The Regional Board will also consider adoption of an Initial Study and Negative Declaration prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Regional Board meeting that is scheduled for:

DATE: 4/5/6 December 2002

TIME: 8:30 a.m

PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
3443 Routier Road Suite A
Sacramento, California 95827

Persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item, including the Initial Study and Negative Declaration, must submit such comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than **21 November 2002**. Written comments submitted after **21 November 2002** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

All interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Regional Board Chair. A timer may be used and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

Any person planning to make a presentation to the Regional Board that requires the use of visual aids (such as overheads, slides, or video projector) should contact the assigned staff person to make arrangements before the meeting date in order to avoid unnecessary delays during the meeting.

After considering comments, the Regional Board may choose to adopt a resolution regarding the proposed agenda items. All Regional Board files, exhibits, and agenda material pertaining to items on the agenda are made a part of the record.

Anyone having questions on adoption of the waiver of waste discharge requirements for discharges from irrigated lands or the related documents prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act should contact Amanda Smith at (916) 255-6316, Gail Cismowski at (916) 255-6308 or Rudy Schnagl at (916) 255-3101. The proposed items may be reviewed on the Regional Board's web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5>. The proposed items and related documents may also be inspected and copied at the Regional Board's three offices: at 3443 Routier Road, Suite A in Sacramento, 3614 East Ashlan Ave. in Fresno* or 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100 in Redding weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by appointment.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 255-3018 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Dennis W. Westcot, Environmental Program Manager

15 October 2002

* Note: Beginning 28 October 2002, the Fresno office will be at 1665 "E" Street.