

California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220

Notice of Public Hearing

For

Proposed General Waste Discharge Requirements Order
and General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
Order No. R1-2012-0001
General NPDES No. CAG011001

and

Proposed General Waste Discharge Requirements
for Existing Cow Dairies
Order No. R1-2012-0002

and

Proposed Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
for Existing Cow Dairies
Order No. R1-2012-0003

For

The North Coast Region

Regional Water Board staff has drafted a three-tier regulatory program for existing cow dairies and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in the North Coast Region. The regulatory program will include a federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), General Waste Discharge Requirements (GWDRs) to regulate dairies that do not meet the minimum standards for protection of surface and groundwater, and the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Waiver) for regulation of dairies that meet minimum standards for protection of surface and groundwater, contained in Title 27 state minimum requirements for confined animal facilities. On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) proposes consider adoption of the above proposed permits to implement a regulatory program for Confined Animal Feeding Operations and Cow Dairies in the North Coast Region.

These items will be open for public comment between October 24, 2011 and December 5, 2011

Public Hearing Procedures

A public hearing to consider comments and objections to the proposed permit is scheduled for January 18 & 19, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., in Santa Rosa, California, or as

announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Water Board's Office, located at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. At the public hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed Orders. In order for the Regional Water Board to consider any evidentiary material concerning this hearing, any documents, including written technical reports and other evidentiary material, must be received by the Regional Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m., on December 5, 2011, at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403. All documents that are received timely will be distributed to the Regional Water Board members and interested persons. These records will also become a permanent part of the administrative record for this public hearing.

Except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair, written material received after the above date will not be accepted. If the Chair chooses to accept late written material, that material will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice the Discharger or the Regional Water Board staff. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, sections 648.1 and 648.4).

All those who plan to testify at this hearing must submit written statements to the Regional Water Quality Control Board no later than December 27, 2011. The statements should provide the name of the witness, his or her qualifications (if an expert), and the scope of his or her intended testimony. The time limit for oral testimony or comments will be set by the Regional Water Board Chair and are subject to change. These time limits normally allow no more than 10 minutes each for Regional Water Board staff and Dischargers. All speakers are expected to honor these time limits. Other interested persons may also provide testimony at this public hearing. However, any testimony given by someone other than staff or the Discharger, may be limited to 3 minutes and may only be given under the limited scope of summarizing or explaining any timely-submitted or late-accepted written evidence. No new evidence will be allowed to be presented at this public hearing. In an effort to be fair to all people who wish to testify at this public hearing, the Regional Water Board Chair may choose to use a timer to ensure that individuals stay within the time limits set by the Chair. The Chair also requests that in order to avoid unnecessary repetitive testimony, that one spokesperson be selected to speak on behalf of many individuals when those individuals share a common affiliation or interest.

Document Review

The tentative Orders, related documents, and comments, received by the Regional Water Board will be on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board's office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

October 24, 2011