

## NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

*Concerning the*

## AGRICULTURAL ORDER for DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS

February 16, 2018

Este es un anuncio de la Junta de Control de la Calidad del Agua de la Costa Central: se le informa a todas las personas interesadas, que el personal está organizando una reunión para recopilar y oír comentarios del público referidos a los impactos potenciales y significativos al medio ambiente que puedan ser causados por la implementación de la Orden Agrícola que está siendo elaborada. El personal quiere oír comentarios en forma temprana en el proceso para determinar si estos impactos potenciales al medio ambiente puedan ser evitados o disminuidos. Si necesita más información por favor llame a Monica, 805-549-3881.

中海岸水質管理委員會謹此通知所有有關個人和團體：工作人員將要舉辦CEQA（加州環境質量法案）企劃會議，就施行我們正在修訂的農業命令可能產生的重大環境影響的問題徵求公眾的意見和建議。我們在這個過程的早期就尋求公眾的意見和建議是爲了確保能夠避免或者減輕一些已經確定的環境影響。如果您需要獲得更多的有關信息，請致電805-542-4648 劉偉。

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that staff of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) will hold three [California Environmental Quality Act](#) (CEQA) public scoping workshops.<sup>1</sup> The intent of these workshops is to seek input on potential environmental impacts associated with the regulation of waste discharge from irrigated agricultural lands within the central coast region through implementation of an agricultural order for discharges from irrigated lands (Agricultural Order). The Central Coast Water Board is the lead state agency for this project and is responsible for the protection of water quality in the central coast region. The meetings will be at the locations and dates shown in the following table.

Members of the public are invited to participate in the scoping meetings. **A quorum of Central Coast Water Board members may be present; however, the Central Coast Water Board will not be taking any action at the scoping meetings.**

<sup>1</sup> A scoping meeting is required according to the Public Resources Code section 21083.9 and according to the California Code Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, section 15082.

Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3
<p><b>Date:</b> March 20, 2018  <b>Time:</b> 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Agricultural Center  1432 Abbott Street  Salinas, CA 93901</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 831-759-7353  <a href="http://cemonterey.ucanr.edu/">http://cemonterey.ucanr.edu/</a></p>	<p><b>Date:</b> March 26, 2018  <b>Time:</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Watsonville Public Library, Library Meeting Room  275 Main Street, Suite 100  Watsonville, CA 95076</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 831-768-3400  <a href="https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/202/Library">https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/202/Library</a></p>	<p><b>Date:</b> March 27, 2018  <b>Time:</b> 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> City of Santa Maria, Public Library, Shepard Hall Meeting Room  421 South McClelland Street  Santa Maria, CA 93454-5116</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 805-925-0994 x 2321  <a href="https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library">https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library</a></p>

**Purpose of the meetings**

Scoping is helpful to the Central Coast Water Board to identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, means of compliance and their impacts, and significant environmental effects staff will consider prior to the decision-making process. Scoping is an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies, the proponent of the actions, and other interested persons.

The purpose of these CEQA scoping meetings is to solicit feedback from interested parties on:

- 1) What type of management practices might growers foreseeably use to control, monitor, or treat discharges of waste from agricultural operations?
  - a) What are some of the potentially significant environmental impacts associated with implementing these management practices? What specific evidence supports there will be impacts? What is the magnitude of these impacts?
  - b) Are there any mitigation measures that would minimize any potentially significant environmental impacts?
  - c) What are the costs of some of these potential management practices?
- 2) Are there any project alternatives that may be capable of reducing any potentially significant environmental impacts?

***Please note that this CEQA scoping meeting is solely focused on staff soliciting public input on potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the Agricultural Order.***

**Who should attend?**

All parties interested in the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the next Agricultural Order, including growers, technical assistance providers, agricultural representatives, environmental representatives, environmental justice representatives, and members of the public.

### **Background information on the current and future Agricultural Order**

The Central Coast Water Board currently regulates discharges from irrigated agriculture in the central coast region through the Agricultural Order (referred to as Agricultural Order 3.0), which the Board adopted on March 8, 2017 and will expire on March 7, 2020. Before March 7, 2020, the Central Coast Water Board will consider adoption of a new Agricultural Order<sup>2</sup> (referred to as Agricultural Order 4.0). Agricultural Order 4.0 will regulate the discharges from irrigated agriculture, such as nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, erosion/sedimentation, and resulting toxicity to surface and groundwater.

The specific details associated with Agricultural Order 4.0 are in development. General information on Agricultural Order 4.0 is available in a fact sheet located at the Central Coast Water Board's website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/)

Staff drafted an **Initial Study** to provide the public with a cursory analysis of the potentially significant environmental impacts that may be associated with complying with Agricultural Order 4.0. The Initial Study is available on our website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/)

Interested parties are encouraged to review the Initial Study document prior to the meeting to help focus the discussion on potential environmental impacts.

### **Submitting comments**

Water Board staff will accept *oral* comments regarding CEQA-related topics at the three CEQA scoping meetings and *written* comments regarding CEQA-related topics received by April 30, 2018. Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to comments received at these meetings or written comments submitted. However, Water Board staff will address all significant environmental impacts in draft and final reports.

Persons wishing to submit *written* comments regarding CEQA scoping on this project may submit them via email to [AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov). Please include "CEQA scoping" in the subject line of the email. If you wish to submit written comments by postal mail, please address them to Shanta Keeling, Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906.

### **To receive information on Agricultural Order 4.0 development**

Interested parties can receive updates on information regarding Agricultural Order 4.0 development either through an email, or U.S. mail.

To add yourself to the electronic mailing list, please visit:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg3\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.shtml)

<sup>2</sup> Currently, the specific regulatory mechanism of the Order has not been decided. That is, the Order may be a [conditional waiver of waste discharge](#) (page 4-3, 5-14, Appendix A-23), [waste discharge requirement](#), or other regulatory mechanism to be determined.

- For general information on the Agricultural Order Renewal, click on “Agricultural Discharges.”
- For *CEQA only* related Agricultural Order 4.0 information, click on “CEQA - Agricultural Order 4.0, March 2020.”

To receive hard copies of update information, please contact us using the **Contact Information** below.

Persons who subscribe to the electronic mailing list or who request a hard copy of the information will be included in the Interested Persons List and will receive future notices of Water Board activities; those that do not make such a request will not be included on the list.

### **Contact Information**

Please direct questions regarding CEQA scoping or CEQA related issues related to the Agricultural Order 4.0 to:

Shanta Keeling

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906, Attn. Shanta Keeling

Or email to: [AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov) (with subject line “CEQA Comment”)

### **Special accommodations and translation services**

Please contact Shanta Keeling at (805) 549-3464 if:

- You require special accommodations. Please contact her at least five working days prior to the specific meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.
- You, or someone you know, requires translation services. Please contact her no later than March 9, 2018, so she can plan for this. If you require translation services, please let her know which meetings you will need translation.

cc: Interested Parties List - Agricultural Order  
All Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program enrollees (owners and operators)  
Technical Assistance Providers  
All Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program landowners  
Interested Parties List - CEQA – Agricultural Order 4.0, March 2020

File: Ag Order 4.0

ECM: 836379