
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Notice Date: March 15, 2016

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT a MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING to ADOPT
General Waste Discharge Requirements for Confined Animal Facilities
Within the San Francisco Bay Region**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) will hold a public hearing on **June 8, 2016** to consider rescinding and replacing Order No. R2-2003-0093, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Confined Animal Facilities (2003 General WDRs). The proposed General WDRs are necessary to ensure consistent regulation of discharges from a variety of confined animal facility types within the Region.

The General WDRs will regulate currently operating confined animal facilities (CAFs) within the Region, as well as a small subset of dormant CAFs that may reopen within the footprint of a former CAF operation. New or expanding CAF operations may be eligible for WDRs coverage for discharges provided dischargers provide proof of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and demonstrate compliance with all applicable local, State and federal permits.

Project documents for public review and comment include a proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.). The draft Initial Study summarizes the requirements of the General WDRs, identifies potential environmental impacts of any potential, future re-openings of existing dormant dairies, and describes the mitigation measures, incorporated into the proposed General WDRs, to reduce all potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. The Water Board, acting as the Lead Agency under CEQA, must adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration before adopting the General WDRs.

MATERIALS: The proposed General WDRs, including the draft environmental document, will be available online beginning March 15, 2016 at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/

Hard copies are available for public review at the Water Board's offices, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612

The public hearing information is as follows:

DATE: June 8, 2016
TIME: 9:00 a.m. (approximate)
LOCATION: Elihu M. Harris State Building, First Floor Auditorium
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94612

STAFF CONTACT: Laurie Taul

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SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: The 45-day public comment period for the proposed General WDRs begins on March 15, 2016. **Comment letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday April 29, 2016.** Please send all written comments on the proposed General WDRs to the staff contact identified above. Additionally, all evidence, testimony, and exhibits to be offered at the hearing must be submitted in writing by this date to the above staff contact. Non-evidentiary policy statements to be made at the hearing need not be submitted in advance.

Prior to the hearing, Water Board staff will post on the above website any proposed changes to the proposed General WDRs, along with written responses to all comments received during the public comment period. Any changes in the date of the hearing, the availability of responses to comments or any other updates will be noticed on the above website.

The Water Board will receive oral public testimony on the proposed General WDRs at the hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Water Board will consider adoption of the proposed General WDRs, including changes that are consistent with the general purpose of the proposed General WDRs and are a logical outgrowth of the evidence and testimony received. Alternatively, in response to written comments and testimony received, the Water Board may recommend that staff make changes to the proposed General WDRs to be presented for its consideration at a subsequent hearing.

The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 649.3. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearing; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. All exhibits presented at the hearing, including charts, graphs, and other testimony must be left with the Water Board. They will become part of the administrative record.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 23 section 2050(c), any party that challenges the Board's action on this matter through a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board under Water Code section 13320 will be limited to raising only those substantive issues or objections that were raised before the Board at the public hearing or in timely submitted written correspondence.

A map and directions to the hearing are available online at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/about_us/directions.shtml.

The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Executive Assistant Angela Tsao, (510) 622-2399, Angela.Tsao@waterboards.ca.gov, at least five (5) working days before a meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer