



# State Water Resources Control Board

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Agency Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

### **SALINITY ISSUES IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY**

Wednesday, November 16, 2005 – 1:00 pm\*  
Coastal Hearing Room  
Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is holding a Public Workshop on Salinity Issues in the Central Valley. The Workshop will be held at the time and place above. This Workshop is for information gathering only. Interested parties are invited to provide comments and recommendations on managing salinity problems in surface water and groundwater in the Central Valley.

### **BACKGROUND**

Salt accumulation (salinization) in surface water and groundwater in the Central Valley is a natural process inherent to lands with semi-arid to arid climates and enclosed basins, or reduced or impeded drainage. Salinization of surface water and groundwater can impact and eventually eliminate most beneficial uses. Salinization can be exacerbated by a wide variety of human activities including irrigation, importation of surface water, application of fertilizer (including manure and biosolids) and pesticides, land disposal of wastes including those from food processing facilities, wineries, and municipal wastewater treatment plants, discharge of urban storm water runoff, and use of recycled wastewater.

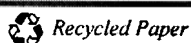
The salinity impairment of surface water and groundwater in the Central Valley is a subset of a more far-reaching problem shared by most of California, other arid western states, and much of the developed world. As surface water and groundwater supplies become scarcer, and as wastewater streams become more concentrated, salinity impairments are occurring with greater frequency and magnitude. These impairments will not be resolved by purely technical solutions.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff will review for the State Water Board the present policies regarding salt control and discuss the need to strengthen salt control policies. Central Valley Water Board staff will also brief the State Water Board on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the

\* This item will not be heard before 1:00 p.m.

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*California Environmental Protection Agency*



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation addressing how it intends to provide drainage service for salinity control to the San Luis Unit and Northern Federal Service Areas (Westlands Water District and Grassland Bypass Project Service Area). Central Valley Water Board staff prepared comments on the DEIS that pointed out areas where the proposals were inconsistent with present State and Regional Water Board policy regarding salt buildup and salt disposal.

Subsequent to this Public Workshop, the State Water Board will consider whether there is a need for further action on this issue.

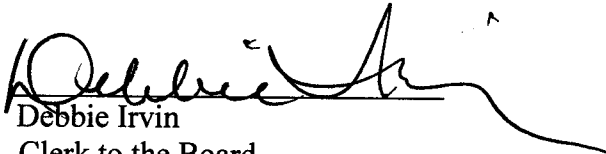
### **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

Written comments are welcome and must be received by 5:00 p.m., November 10, 2005, and will not be accepted after that time. Oral presentations should summarize written comments. Time limitations on presentations may be imposed. Please coordinate oral presentations with others with similar comments. For other presentation recommendations, see "Presentations to the Board" at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board.html>.

Written comments are to be addressed and submitted to Debbie Irvin, Clerk to the Board, either by fax (916) 341-5620 or mail addressed to State Water Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California, 95812-0100. Please also indicate in the subject line, "COMMENT LETTER – 11/16/05 PUBLIC WORKSHOP on Salinity." If you have questions about the agenda, call (916) 341-5600. For specific questions about the Salinity Workshop, contact Wayne Verrill via e-mail at [wverrill@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wverrill@waterboards.ca.gov) or call (916) 341-5585. For a map to our building, see our web site at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>.

All visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge prior to attending any meeting. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level so please allow up to 15 minutes for this process. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Adrian Perez, Office of Employee Assistance, at (916) 341-5880.

An audio broadcast will be heard via the World Wide Web at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/>.

  
Debbie Irvin  
Clerk to the Board

Date: OCT 21 2005

***California Environmental Protection Agency***