

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Renee Purdy *RaP*  
Chief, Regional Programs  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**DATE:** September 1, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ORDER TO  
CONDITIONALLY WAIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS**

On October 8, 2015, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) will consider a proposed Order to conditionally waive waste discharge requirements for discharges from irrigated lands (Conditional Waiver). The proposed Order is a renewal that is essentially identical to Order No. R4-2010-0186, previously adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board on October 7, 2010. The Order as proposed will expire on March 10, 2016.

**A public hearing is scheduled for  
Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 9:00 AM  
Metropolitan Water District  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90071**

The Los Angeles Water Board will act on the proposed item after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. The proposed Conditional Waiver is available on the Los Angeles Water Board website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/waivers/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/waivers/index.shtml)

Written comments and evidence must be received by the Los Angeles Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2015. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or evidence into the record (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 649.4). Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
ATTN: Snejana Toneva  
[snejana.toneva@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:snejana.toneva@waterboards.ca.gov)

## I. BACKGROUND

The Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands within the Los Angeles Region (Conditional Waiver) (Order No. R4-2010-0186), which has been in place since 2005, requires agricultural operators (dischargers) to enroll irrigated agriculture property under the Conditional Waiver. The intent of this Order is (1) to ensure that discharges from irrigated lands to waters of the State attain water quality benchmarks through a process that quantitatively assesses water quality impacts of discharges from irrigated lands, and (2) when necessary to attain water quality benchmarks, to require dischargers to implement effective management practices. Agricultural operators may enroll as an individual discharger or as a member of a discharger group. The Nursery Growers Association Los Angeles County Irrigated Lands Group (NGA-ILG) and the Ventura County Agriculture Irrigated Lands Group (VCAILG) are the two discharger groups in the Los Angeles Region that have formed to comply with the Conditional Waiver. Order No. R4-2010-0186 expires on October 7, 2015.

For the past several months, Los Angeles Water Board staff have been working on a staff report to support a new Order that would apply when Order No. R4-2010-0186 expires on October 7, 2015. Los Angeles Water Board staff have undertaken review and analysis of seven years of water quality monitoring data contained in annual monitoring reports submitted by VCAILG and NGA-ILG in order to assess trends in water quality due to implementation of the Conditional Waiver. Los Angeles Water Board staff have also created a GIS database, including a variety of data such as water quality, enrollment status, and implemented BMPs in order to evaluate the success of the Conditional Waiver program.

The Order is proposed for a six-month term, expiring on March 7, 2016 rather than the full five years allowed by the Water Code. Los Angeles Water Board staff need additional time to complete the data review and to determine if existing requirements contained in Order No. R4-2010-0186 should be modified or if additional requirements are needed to adequately protect waters of the State from irrigated land discharges. To provide the necessary additional time, the proposed Order is identical to Order No. R4-2010-0186.