

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Agricultural Discharges Originating within the Coachella Valley, Riverside County, California

State Clearinghouse Number: 2014041112

Lead Agency Name and Address: California Regional Water Quality Control Board,
Colorado River Basin Region
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Project Location: Colorado River Basin Region (southeastern California), Riverside County

Project Description: The proposed project is a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural wastewater discharges originating within the Coachella Valley. This Conditional Waiver applies to agricultural wastewater discharges from irrigated lands, specifically: 1) storm water runoff from irrigated lands, and 2) irrigation return water, which includes surface discharges (also known as "tailwater"), and subsurface discharges (known as "tilewater" in tiled areas, or "seepage" in areas not tiled). It also applies to discharges of wastes from drain operation and maintenance (O&M) activities in the area. The purpose of the Conditional Waiver is to protect the beneficial uses of water in Coachella Valley Drains and the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel, which are tributary to the Salton Sea, by ensuring that farmers and drain maintenance entities implement management practices (MPs) to reduce pollutant concentrations in agricultural wastewater and in discharges from drain O&M activities.

Finding: The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, has prepared an Initial Study of the project described above and has determined that the proposed issuance of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements will not have a significant effect on the environment. A copy of the Initial Study that supports this finding is attached.

Mitigation Measures: Based on the conclusions provided in the attached Initial Study, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

Doug Wylie
Signature

6-26-14
Date