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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
and  
NOTICE OF FILING OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS  
concerning  
Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for  
the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the  
Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin to Add  
Policies for Variances from Surface Water Quality Standards for Point Source Dischargers,  
Variance Program for Salinity,  
and Exception from Implementation of Water Quality Objectives for Salinity

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plans) to add policies for variances from surface water quality standards for point source dischargers, a variance program for salinity, and exceptions from implementation of water quality objectives for salinity. The variance policy will allow the Central Valley Water Board the authority to grant short term exceptions from meeting water quality based effluent limitations to dischargers subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The policy will only apply to non-priority pollutants. The variance program for salinity and the exception for salinity establish the procedures for dischargers to obtain a short term exception from meeting water quality based salinity requirements in NPDES permits and waste discharge requirements.

The Board's Basin Planning Program is considered a certified regulatory program, which means that the Board is exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report for basin planning activities under the California Environmental Quality Act because a sufficiently rigorous environmental review is incorporated into the basin planning process itself. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.5.; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251, subd. (g).) The Board's environmental review of the proposed Basin Plan Amendments is contained in a draft Staff Report.

The public hearing, to be conducted during the June 2014 Central Valley Water Board meeting, is scheduled at the time and location noted below:

Date: 5 to 6 June 2014 (Please contact staff two weeks prior to the meeting for the exact date.)  
Time: 8:30 am  
Place: Regional Water Quality Control Board office  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

After hearing testimony, the Central Valley Water Board may choose to act on the staff proposal, make revisions to the proposal, or may choose to continue or close the hearing and vote on the proposal at a future meeting.

Draft environmental documents have been prepared for the proposed amendments pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3775-3781. Interested persons may download the draft staff report for the proposed Basin Plan amendments, which includes the environmental documentation required under CEQA, in PDF format from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/variances/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/variances/index.shtml).

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Staff contact information: Betty Yee, 916-464-4643, [betty.yee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:betty.yee@waterboards.ca.gov). Confirmation of the hearing date and any questions regarding the proposed amendments should be directed to Betty Yee at 916-464-4643 or [betty.yee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:betty.yee@waterboards.ca.gov).

In order to be included in the written response to comments that is a part of the final administrative record, written comments must be submitted by **21 April 2014** to Betty Yee at the above postal or email address. Written comments received after this date will not be accepted. Staff will review comments received and prepare responses and final recommendations for the Board to consider during its June Board meeting.

At the hearing, staff will summarize written comments and will present a final recommendation for Board consideration. Interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Central Valley Water Board at the hearing, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. All exhibits presented at the hearing, including charts, graphs, and other testimony, must be left with the Board and will become part of the administrative record. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Water Board Chair.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

*Original Signed By*

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KENNETH LANDAU, Assistant Executive Officer

28 February 2014