

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND A
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is releasing the following documents for public review and comment:

Tentative General Orders and Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study

- Tentative Order No. R9-2016-0004, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers that are Members of a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region* (Third Party General Order).
- Tentative Order No. R9-2016-0005, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers Not Participating in a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region* (Individual General Order).
- Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0136, *Adoption of a Negative Declaration and Initial Study for the Adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations in the San Diego Region* (Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study).

Background Information

The San Diego Water Board is establishing general waste discharge requirements for discharges from commercial agricultural operations in the San Diego Region (Project). If adopted, the Individual General Order and the Third-Party General Order (collectively referred to as Tentative General Orders) will regulate discharges of waste constituents associated with agricultural activities such as pesticides, fertilizers, salts, pathogens, and sediment. The Tentative General Orders require commercial agricultural operations to prevent or reduce discharges of pollutants associated with agricultural activity such that these discharges do not cause or contribute to pollution and nuisance conditions in surface waters or groundwater. It is anticipated, that regulated agricultural operations will be required to adopt management practices to reduce or eliminate polluted runoff, such as proper storage of agricultural chemicals, installation of vegetative buffers, application of fertilizers at agronomic rates and irrigation management. The Tentative General Orders also require agricultural operations to participate in a monitoring and assessment program to evaluate the impacts of agricultural activities to waters of the State. The action to adopt the Tentative General Orders and the associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents is intended to protect, maintain, and improve water quality.

Based on the CEQA Initial Study, San Diego Water Board staff has determined that the Project will not have a significant impact on the environment because many of the agricultural operations in the San Diego Region have already installed the reasonably foreseeable management practices. Additionally, reasonably foreseeable structural or physical changes to an agricultural operation that may be required by the General Orders are not expected to be of the size or scale that could result in significant environmental impacts.

Project Location

This Project affects agricultural operations within the San Diego Water Board's jurisdiction, which includes San Diego County, and portions of Orange and Riverside Counties.

Document Availability

The Tentative General Orders and the Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study are currently available and may be reviewed at the San Diego Water Board's office (2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108) or on the San Diego Water Board webpage at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/tentative_orders/.

Interested persons may also receive copies of these documents by contacting Mr. Barry Pulver by phone at (619) 521-3381 or by email at Barry.Pulver@waterboards.ca.gov.

Submission of Written Comments

Notice is hereby given that the San Diego Water Board will receive written comments on the Tentative General Orders and the Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study in accordance with this notice pursuant to California Water Code section 13167.5. The submission of written comments is the opportunity for interested persons to raise and comment on issues pertaining to the Tentative General Orders, and the Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study.

The deadline for submittal of written comments is **5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2016**. Written comments must be sent to the San Diego Water Board office or e-mailed to sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line of all written comments "Comment - Tentative General Orders Nos. R9-2016-0004/R9-2016-0005, and Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0136."

The early submission of written comments is encouraged. Written comments received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2016, will be provided to the San Diego Water Board members for their review in advance of the public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative General Orders and the Tentative Resolution. All timely written comments will also be posted as they are received on the San Diego Water Board website.

The San Diego Water Board will prepare written responses to significant comments that are timely received.

Consistent with State Water Resources Control Board regulations that apply to this proceeding, written comments received after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2016, will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

Public Workshop

The San Diego Water Board will hold an informational public workshop to receive information and discuss requirements in the Tentative General Orders and the findings in the Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study. No action or voting will occur on these items at the workshop. The public workshop will be conducted during a regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Water Board on **Wednesday, June 22, 2016**, at the **San Diego Water Board Meeting Room, 2375 Northside Drive, San Diego California**. The Board meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing

A public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative General Orders and the Tentative Resolution will be held during a future San Diego Water Board meeting to be held later this year. A separate public notice announcing the public hearing date will be posted prior to the meeting date at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9>.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
AND INTENT TO ADOPT GENERAL WDRS AND
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

June 13, 2016

Contact

For more information, please contact Mr. Barry Pulver by phone at (619) 521-3381 or e-mail at Barry.Pulver@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any person known to you who would be interested in these matters.