
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE SECOND STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL EXPERT PANEL FOR THE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold the kick-off meeting of the Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel (Panel) on Friday, August 8, and Thursday, August 14, to evaluate the data currently collected as part of the State's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) and consider the approaches adopted in the State Water Board [Order WQ 2018-0002](#), In the Matter of Review of Waste Discharge Requirements General Order No. R5-2012-0116 for Growers Within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group (East San Joaquin Petition Order) and State Water Board [Order WQ 2023-0081](#), In the Matter of Review of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Order No. R3-2021-0040 (Central Coast Ag Petition Order). Additional information about this project is provided below.

A quorum of the State Water Board may be present, but no decisions will be made.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold the first day of the kick-off meeting to provide the Panel an overview of the program and to establish the Panel leadership and charter.

This meeting will be held in person and virtually on:

**Friday, August 8, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento
And via Video and Teleconference**

To participate virtually via Zoom or by phone, registration is required in advance. If you prefer to call in, a phone number will be provided upon registration. Please register at:

<https://csus.zoom.us/meeting/register/OByBNEZ5TGmtR2tZV3C9tg>

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will hold the second day of the kick-off meeting to provide the Panel presentations on ILRP implementation and available data sources.

This meeting will be held in person and virtually on:

**Thursday, August 14, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sacramento State University Downtown Campus
304 S Street, Sacramento
Room DRN 104/105
And via Video and Teleconference**

To participate virtually via Zoom or by phone, registration is required in advance. If you prefer to call in, a phone number will be provided upon registration. Please register at:

https://csus.zoom.us/meeting/register/gwBswe6sROKv2aEmYkY_2A

The meeting agenda will be accessible through the Water Board Agriculture –Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel website at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/2025-expert-panel.html on or before August 4, 2025. To receive an email notification about the Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel, including agenda, any change to the date, time, or meeting location in this public notice, subscribe to the email distribution list at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/.

Enter your email address and password, then select the submit button. If this is your first time subscribing to a Water Boards email subscription list, you will have to register and create a password.

Participation Options

At the two-day meeting there is limited time for public comments. Oral comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker. If you would like to provide oral comments, please email your name and a summary of your comment to DWQ-ILRP@waterboards.ca.gov two days prior to each meeting day – by August 6 for commenting at the August 8 meeting and by August 12 for commenting at the August 14 meeting. At the meeting, all commenters will be given an opportunity if time allows, however priority will be given to those who emailed requests to comment at least two days before each meeting day.

Language Services

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services, please use one of the following options as soon as possible and no later than July 25, ten (10) business days before the first meeting on August 8, and no later than July 31, ten (10) business days before the second meeting on August 14:

- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Comuníquese con nosotros para solicitar servicios lingüísticos o información en su idioma.

Свяжитесь с нами, чтобы запросить информацию на вашем языке.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

Accessibility

Users of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or the teletype (TTY) voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Any person who requires a reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5254, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. Learn more about accessibility within Zoom at www.zoom.com/en/accessibility.

Building and Parking Information

Meeting on August 8, 2025:

- The meeting will be held in the Coastal Hearing Room, Second Floor Joe Serna Jr. the CalEPA Building. Directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.
- Visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance on 10th Street.
- Please allow 5 to 10 minutes to receive security clearance.

Meeting on August 14, 2025:

- The meeting will be held at the Sacramento State University Downtown Campus, first floor meeting room DRN 104/105, located at [304 S Street, Sacramento](#)
- Parking is available in metered surface street spaces and in the S+P parking garage located at [500 R St, Sacramento](#).

Background

Water quality impacts associated with agriculture are complex and addressing them requires pooling and focusing the knowledge, expertise, and resources of all interested parties, including growers and their representatives, regulatory agencies, environmental advocates, and environmental justice communities. The State Water Board and the regional water quality control boards must develop and implement a long-term sustainable Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program that protects the quality of waters of the state while supporting the viability of agriculture. Collectively, with the help of our partners, the Water Boards made substantial progress in defining a science-based

approach that we believe provides a solid foundation for our next steps. Due to the complexity of the impacts of agriculture on water quality, the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program is constantly evolving.

In 2018, the State Water Board adopted the East San Joaquin Petition Order. Prior to development of the East San Joaquin Petition Order, the State Water Board convened an agricultural expert panel (the “First Agricultural Expert Panel”) to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and to develop recommendations to ensure that ongoing efforts are protective of groundwater quality. The First Agricultural Expert Panel delivered its report to the State Water Board in 2014. Based on the recommendations from the First Agricultural Expert Panel, the State Board established new statewide precedential requirements for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program in the East San Joaquin Petition Order. Among these precedential requirements was the requirement for growers to report nitrogen applied (A) and nitrogen removed (R) values to their third-party group to calculate outliers based on similar crops and similar growing practices. The First Agricultural Expert Panel determined there was insufficient knowledge and data to set regulatory limits using the A/R metric. The East San Joaquin Petition Order requires the use of A/R to determine which growers should receive additional education to improve management practices. The East San Joaquin Petition Order additionally required the calculation of A-R.

In 2021, the Central Coast Regional Water Board adopted R3-2021-0040, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (2021 Central Coast Ag Order). The 2021 Central Coast Ag Order includes regulatory limits on nitrogen application and nitrogen discharge using an A-R metric. The 2021 Central Coast Ag Order also allows growers to factor in certain discounts of A and additional credit considerations for R. The State Water Board reviewed the Central Coast Ag Order on petition and remanded it to the Central Coast Regional Water Board. In the Central Coast Ag Petition Order, the State Water Board committed to convening a Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel to evaluate the data collected as part of the State’s Irrigated Lands Regulatory Programs so far and consider the approaches adopted in the East San Joaquin Petition Order and the Central Coast Ag Order.

Sacramento State University, in contract with the State Water Board, will facilitate the Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel. The Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel will develop a report responding to the [proposed questions](#), considering all supplemental data provided by the contractor, and informed through public comments received. There will be two additional public Panel Meetings, one in late 2025 and another in early 2026. There will be two public listening sessions for extensive public comment to be scheduled between each public Panel Meeting in Fall 2025. It is anticipated that the Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel will develop a report with recommendations to be presented to the State Water Board responding to the questions in 2026.

Additional Information

Please direct all questions regarding this notice to Water Board ILRP at DWQ-ILRP@Waterboards.ca.gov. For additional information check Water Board Agriculture –Second Statewide Agricultural Expert Panel website at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/2025-expert-panel.html.

July 17, 2025

Date


Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board