
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

12 December 2024

**NOTICE OF INTENT/NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO ADOPT A CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SMALL FOOD PROCESSORS AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS
WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

Water Code section 13269 authorizes the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) to conditionally waive waste discharge requirements if the waiver is consistent with the Central Valley Water Board's water quality control plan and is in the public interest. The Central Valley Water Board is proposing to adopt a Conditional Waiver to regulate the discharge of wastewater and residual solids from small food processing operations and certain agricultural operations (such as nut hulling and seed washing operations). The proposed Conditional Waiver will renew the previous Waiver (Order R5-2020-0002) which allowed discharges of up to 1,000,000 gallons of process wastewater per year to irrigate crops or landscaped areas and the use of the associated residual solids as a soil amendment on cropped or landscaped areas provided that the characteristics of the discharge meet the criteria specified in the Waiver.

The Central Valley Water Board's adoption of the Conditional Waiver is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Central Valley Water Board is the lead agency for the project. There are no substantial changes proposed in the project or the circumstances under which the "project" will be undertaken, that will require revisions of the previously adopted Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration that evaluated the prior conditional waiver. The adoption of this resolution is exempt from CEQA insofar as it continues to provide regulatory coverage, in the form of a conditional waiver per Water Code section 13269, for existing facilities and operations; there are no substantial expansions in operations authorized under this resolution and waiver.

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
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RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS

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A public hearing to consider the adoption of the proposed Conditional Waiver will be conducted during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

DATE: **20/21 February 2025**
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

This public meeting is currently scheduled to take place in-person and via video and teleconference, but the format may be changed in the future. Any person wishing to obtain information about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the meeting should visit the [Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings).

The final meeting agenda will be available on the Board's website at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the location and format of the meeting, the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item, and the anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the proposed order.

The Board is soliciting comments and recommendations from the public regarding the proposed Conditional Waiver. The Board will be accepting comments from **12 December 2024 until 5:00 p.m. on 10 January 2025**. Late comments will not be considered or included in the record unless allowed by the Board Chair.

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Anyone with questions or who needs paper copies should contact Valerie Rasmussen at the address above, (530) 224-6130, or valerie.rasmussen@waterboards.ca.gov. The Central Valley Water Board is a paperless office system. Therefore, please submit your comments by email or convert your comment letter to Portable Document Format (pdf) and email it to: centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov

The final meeting agenda will be available on the [Water Board's Agenda web page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/) at least ten days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the dates the Board meeting will be held, indicate the anticipated order of agenda items, and may include staff revisions to the proposed order(s).

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The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The [Laws and Regulations Relevant to Current Public Proceedings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) and [Information on Meetings and Meeting Procedures](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) are available on the Water Board's website or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to the Central Valley Water Board Sacramento Office at (916) 464-3291.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 464-4620 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.

Bryan J. Smith, P.E.
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

cc electronically : County Clerks
Sacramento Bee
Fresno Bee
Record Searchlight