

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street Fresno, CA 93706

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
concerning
TENTATIVE RESOLUTION R5-2026-XXXX
DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PACKING FACILITIES
WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will consider adoption of a Resolution approving an Initial Study and Negative Declaration in support of General Waste Discharge Requirements for Fruit and Vegetable Packing Facilities within the Central Valley Region (or Packing General Order) at a public meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 27/28 AUGUST 2026
TIME: To Be Determined
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Rancho Cordova
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95760

The date, time, and location of the public meeting may change after this Notice is issued. A Final Agenda for the meeting will be made available at least 10 days before the meeting. The Final Agenda will provide the location and format of the meeting, the anticipated date that the proposed order will be considered, 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 Final Agenda, and any information concerning changes to the date, time, location, or format of the public meeting, will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board's website, [Central Valley Water Board's website](#) at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/)

and will be emailed to all persons that sign up for the [GovDelivery subscription list](#) at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.html).

The meeting will be webcast live on YouTube. A weblink for viewing will be provided in the Final Agenda. Any person who would like to participate in the meeting, but who is unable to attend in-person, may participate remotely via video or teleconference. Instructions for doing so will be provided in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov at least five 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. To request oral interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the meeting by calling (916) 341-5254 or e-mailing opp-languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov.

Opportunities to Comment

The Central Valley Water Board will consider oral and written comments on the proposed Resolution before it votes on whether to adopt the proposed Order.

Written comments or evidence concerning the tentative Resolution must be submitted by 5:00 pm on 20 July 2026. Please email comments to centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov and copy Katie Carpenter at Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov, with the subject line, "Comments on Initial Study/Negative Declaration for Packing General Order." While email is preferred, written comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Attention: Katie Carpenter
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

The Board Chair may refuse to admit any comments or evidence received after the comment period unless the submitting party provides a reasonable explanation for why the submission is late and the Board Chair determines that admission of the late submission would not prejudice any other party.

Oral comments concerning the tentative Resolution must be presented at the scheduled public meeting. Interested parties are generally allowed up to three minutes each to provide their comments. Certain designated parties may provide longer comments and have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, cross-examine opposing witnesses, impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence against him or her. A party subject to the proposed Order is considered a designated party. Any other party may request recognition as a designated party by submitting a written statement of how they are directly affected by the discharge(s) to be regulated and why they would like to be considered a designated party. Such requests must be submitted to Central Valley Water Board **no later than 5:00 p.m. on 20 July 2026**. Instructions on how to provide oral comments will be included in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

Proposed Order

The tentative Resolution will approve an Initial Study and Negative Declaration in support of adoption and implementation of General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to regulate discharges to land from fruit and vegetable packing facilities throughout the Central Valley Region. The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates these types of discharges using various waivers and individual WDRs. The proposed Packing General Order will streamline the permitting process and improve

consistency in regulating discharges of process wastewater and associated solids from fruit and vegetable packing facilities. The Packing General Order applies to facilities that wash, sort, store, and ship fruits and vegetables for export or sale and discharge between 10,000 gallons and 180 million gallons of process wastewater annually.

To conserve paper and reduce mailing costs, interested parties may access a digital copy of the tentative Resolution as well as the tentative Packing General Order and associated documents on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders website](#), under the heading, "All Other Items for Future Board Meetings," at

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/).

Copies of the tentative Resolution, tentative Packing General Order and associated documents may also be obtained by visiting the office of the Central Valley Water Board at 1685 E Street, Fresno CA 93706 or by contacting the Board by phone at (559) 445-5116, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Questions concerning the tentative Resolution or anything in this Notice should be directed to Katie Carpenter at (559) 445-5551 or Katie.Carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov.

Other Information

The [Procedures Governing Central Valley Water Board Meetings](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/)

may be found in California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 1.5 (starting with section 647) and are available upon request.

Additional information on meeting procedures can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Meeting Procedures webpage](#) at

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml).

Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

All meeting procedure information is also available on request to any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Mindy Bunn at (916) 464-4839 or Mindy.Bunn@waterboards.ca.gov.

Alexander S. Mushegan
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
Groundwater Quality Protection Program
(Non-15) Manager