

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Tentative Order No. R9-2015-0003

General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Commercial Agricultural and Nursery Operations within the San Diego Region

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) will hold a series Public Workshops in September 2015 to provide an opportunity for discussion and to receive comments, information, and input from the public on Tentative Order No. R9-2015-0003, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Commercial Agricultural and Nursery Operations within the San Diego Region* (Tentative General Order). Two or more San Diego Water Board members may be present at the workshop, but no actions or voting will occur.

Background

Agricultural and nursery operations (collectively referred to as agricultural operations) can have significant effects on the quality of surface waters and groundwaters throughout the San Diego Region. Significant water quality threats posed by agricultural operations include fertilizer and pesticide use, which can result in runoff of chemicals from agricultural lands into surface waters and percolation of chemicals into groundwater, causing or contributing to conditions of pollution or nuisance.

Since the 1980s, the San Diego Water Board has regulated discharges from agricultural operations within its jurisdictional boundary to protect and improve water quality, under a conditional waiver regulatory program implemented in lieu of waste discharge requirements. The most recent waiver, the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Agricultural and Nursery Operations (Waiver), expired in February 2014.

The Tentative General Order, if adopted by the San Diego Water Board, will replace the expired Waiver. Consistent with the expired Waiver, the Tentative General Order proposes to require agricultural operations to implement management measures and/or practices to prevent or minimize the discharge of pollutants that may adversely impact the quality or beneficial uses of the Waters of the State.

As part of the public participation process, an administrative draft of the Tentative General Order (Administrative Draft) was made available for public review and comment on July 3, 2015. Written comments on the Administrative Draft were due to the San Diego Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2015. The San Diego Water Board also held workshops on July 14 and 15, 2015, to receive public comments on the Administrative Draft. Approximately 60 individuals attended those workshops. A summary of the comments received and the changes made to the Tentative General Order as a result of those comments will be presented to the public at a facilitated Public Workshop to be held at the San Diego Water Board on August 18, 2015. A Revised Public Notice announcing the August 18, 2015 Public Workshop was released on July 24, 2015.

Objective of Public Workshops

The objective of the September Public Workshops is to gain a greater understanding of the perspectives that the public, growers, irrigated land monitoring groups, water purveyors, governmental agencies, non-governmental environmental organizations and other interested stakeholders have regarding key elements of the Tentative General Order. The Tentative General Order will be available for public review prior to the Public Workshops.

Document Availability

A separate Public Notice for the Tentative General Order will discuss the procedures for submitting formal comments. The San Diego Water Board is tentatively scheduled to consider adoption of the Tentative General Order in late 2015.

Public Workshops Procedure

The Public Workshops will be informal and structured to provide for participation by stakeholders, while preserving the ability for the meeting facilitator to ensure a collaborative discussion on the issues. Workshop participants may present comments and ask clarifying questions.

Public Workshop Schedule

The Public Workshops, including the previously noticed August 18, 2015 Public Workshop, are scheduled as follows:

Workshop Date	Time	Location
August 18, 2015	10:00 am to noon	San Diego Water Board Board Meeting Room 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100 San Diego, California 92108
September 10, 2015	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Wild Willow Farm School 2550 Sunset Avenue San Diego, CA 92154
September 15, 2015	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	San Diego Farm Bureau 1670 E. Valley Parkway Escondido, CA 92027
September 17, 2015	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Rancho California Water District 42135 Winchester Road Temecula, CA 92590

Electronic Mailing List

The San Diego Water Board has established an electronic mail list specifically for its Irrigated Land Regulatory Program. The San Diego Water Board uses the email list to notify interested persons of upcoming important events and the availability of on-line documents. Persons interested in receiving future notices and information on this specific project can subscribe to the electronic mail lists titled "Agriculture and Nurseries," located on the San Diego Water Board website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg9_subscribe.shtml

Persons who wish to receive hard copy notices of future notices or meetings on the Tentative General Order in lieu of electronic notices should submit a request to Mr. Barry Pulver, 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92108-2700, or via email at barry.pulver@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please bring this matter to the attention of any person known to you who may be affected by the Tentative General Order.

Information Regarding Workshops

If you have any questions regarding this notice please contact Mr. Barry Pulver (619) 521-3381 or via e-mail at barry.pulver@waterboards.ca.gov.

Accessibility

The facility is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who have special accommodation or language needs, please contact Ms. Chris Blank at (619) 521-3382 or cblank@waterboards.ca.gov at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer
San Diego Water Board

August 10, 2015