

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

PUBLIC HEARING

Concerning

TENTATIVE ORDER

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5 2024-####
OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
PAULSELL LATERAL EXPANSION PROJECT
STANISLAUS COUNTY

A tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order (Order) is proposed for the Oakdale Irrigation District (Permittee), Paulsell Lateral Expansion Project (Project) in Stanislaus County. The 65.45-acre Project will support groundwater (GW) sustainability in the Modesto Subbasin Number 5-22-02 (Subbasin). Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) proposes to divert up to 25,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of available surface water from the Stanislaus River under existing water rights to facilitate recharge outside OID's service area in the Modesto and Eastern San Joaquin Subbasins. Infrastructure improvements are needed to increase the capacity of OID's Paulsell Lateral to convey the available surface water to lands currently dependent on GW. The project is anticipated to increase groundwater levels, increase groundwater storage, prevent subsidence by reducing withdrawal of groundwater, support interconnected surface water, and increase water supply reliability.

The project will strategically rehabilitate, automate, and increase the capacity of the Paulsell Lateral from 30 cubic feet per second (CFS) up to a maximum of 180 CFS at the headgate located at Cashman Dam to accommodate and deliver available surface water to the Area Served by the project. The entire length of the Paulsell Lateral will be thoroughly evaluated to confirm the specific infrastructure improvements needed to increase capacity (e.g., canal and siphon enlargements) and the automation improvements to enhance operations and provide optimal groundwater sustainability. The project is also expected to improve irrigation service to OID's in-District customers served by Paulsell Lateral (approximately 4,600 acres), broadly encouraging beneficial use of available surface water in lieu of groundwater.

The tentative Order provides details of the proposed Project activities, including compensatory mitigation measures planned to compensate for the permanent loss of waters of the state and requiring avoidance and minimization measures to reduce on-site impacts during construction activities. The tentative Order describes waste discharge requirements to be met throughout the implementation of construction activities to protect applicable beneficial uses of State waters.

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A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 17/18 October 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: TBD
Clearlake, CA; and
Remote Meeting via Video Teleconference

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 designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

Oakdale Irrigation District

Only designated parties will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. Interested persons may not cross examine witnesses and will not be subject to cross examination. Interested persons may submit evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data) if the evidence is submitted in accordance with the deadlines for submitting evidence described below. Interested persons who present evidence may be subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Board **no later than 5 p.m on 29 August 2024**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is affected by the discharge.

Persons wishing to comment on this item must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board via email to Carter.Cook@Waterboards.ca.gov **no later than by 5:00 p.m. on 29 August 2024**. Written materials submitted after 5:00 p.m. on the above date will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record absent a ruling by the Board Chair. Any party requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause for the late submission, and the Chair must find that the late submission would not prejudice the Central Valley Water Board or any designated party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Central Valley Water Board meeting and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair.

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Anyone having questions regarding the hearing item should contact Carter Cook at (916) 464-4699, or by email at Carter.Cook@Waterboards.ca.gov. Interested parties may download the tentative Order and related documents from the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The [final meeting agenda](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) will be available at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the specific date the Board Meeting will be held for this item, indicate the anticipated order of all agenda items, and may include staff revisions to the proposed order.

The [Procedures Governing Central Valley Water Board Meetings](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

[Information on Meeting and Hearing Procedures](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml) is available on the Central Valley Water Board's website or by contacting any one of the Central Valley Water 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 at 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.

ADAM LAPUTZ,
Assistant Executive Officer

29 July 2024