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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

29 January 2021

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Information Item: The Food Safety Project White Paper on the Reuse of Produced Water for Irrigation of Food Crops Grown in Central Kern County, California**

**18/19 February 2021  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Video and Teleconference Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency: As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, this meeting will occur solely via remote presence.**

#### HOW TO ATTEND THIS MEETING:



##### **TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE WEBCAST (NOT PARTICIPATING):**

If you do not need to participate but would like to watch and listen in to this meeting, please use the "PUBLIC MEETING WEBCAST" link below.

**18 February 2021:** [YOU TUBE LIVE STREAM URL](https://youtu.be/itTlpt43-uA) (https://youtu.be/itTlpt43-uA)

**19 February 2021:** [YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM URL](https://youtu.be/FmuK5NHobfA) (https://youtu.be/FmuK5NHobfA)



##### **TO COMMUNICATE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING (via ZOOM):**

A ZOOM video conference meeting invitation will be emailed through the Board's Email Subscription List **prior to the meeting**. To subscribe to the Email List:

1. Visit our [Board Meeting Calendar page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\_info/meetings/)
2. Click on the drop-down box on the top right-hand side of the page titled "**Subscribe Directly to the Regional Board Agenda Email List**"
3. Type in your **Email Address**
4. Type in Your **Full Name**
5. Click on the "**Subscribe**" button

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or "Board") will present an information item regarding the Food Safety Project and White Paper on the Reuse of Produced Water for Irrigation of Food Crops Grown in Central Kern County, California (White Paper). The

White Paper was prepared by Central Valley Water Board staff and Science Advisor and reviewed by the Food Safety Expert Panel (Panel).

## **BACKGROUND:**

Oil field produced water (produced water) is a by-product of crude oil production. In the southern Central Valley of California, produced water with relatively low salinity is blended with other sources and used to irrigate approximately 94,000 acres of commercially grown crops. The discharges of produced water are regulated through individual waste discharge requirements adopted by the Board.

In 2015, Board staff convened a Food Safety Expert Panel (Panel) to help the Board evaluate this practice. The Panel includes experts in public health, local wildlife, toxicology, food, risk assessment, and agriculture. The Panel provided its expertise during the Food Safety Project, which examined the state of knowledge regarding the practice and potential risks of reusing produced water for the irrigation of food crops.

As a part of the Project, Board staff managed three studies or “tasks” conducted by a third-party consulting firm (GSI Environmental, Inc. or “GSI”). The Panel provided input on the study designs and the interpretation of the results. The three tasks (Tasks 1-3) included:

- Task 1 – The completion of a preliminary hazard assessment and the creation of a Chemicals of Interest list for further study. As a result, 143 chemicals were put on the Chemicals of Interest list.
- Task 2 – The completion of a literature review evaluating the state of knowledge about the Chemicals of Interest in the context of the Food Safety Project.
- Task 3 – The completion of a sampling program to compare the chemical composition of crops irrigated with produced water (treated samples) with crops that were irrigated with traditional sources of water (control samples). The results indicate that while analytes were detected (in treated and control samples), the concentrations detected did not exceed the concentrations expected in food crops grown in the US, and therefore consumption of these do not appear to pose a threat to public health.

After reviewing of results of Tasks 1-3, the Panel developed recommendations on the current practice of produced water reuse and future studies and identified data gaps. The Panel recommendations were compiled by Board staff into the subject White Paper that also summarizes the results of the Task reports.

## **MEETING PURPOSE:**

The White Paper summarizes the Board’s Food Safety Project, which studied potential impacts on the reuse of oil field produced wastewater to irrigate commercially grown

food crops situated in Kern County, California. The purpose of this meeting item will be to provide participants with an opportunity to learn about the White Paper, including conclusions of tasks conducted under the Food Safety Project, data gaps and recommendations by the Panel regarding the reuse of oil field produced water for irrigation, and next steps of the Food Safety Project. The meeting is open to the public and will be held:

**DATE:** 18/19 February 2021  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Remote Meeting Only (will be webcast)

At least ten days before the meeting, the final meeting agenda, meeting materials, information on how to view the meeting, and general meeting information will be available on the Central Valley Water Board's Agenda Calendar web page:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/).

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information on the Food Safety Project can be found on the Food Safety web page at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/oil\\_fields/food\\_safety/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/oil_fields/food_safety/index.shtml)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Written comments regarding this item can be submitted in advance of the meeting via email to: [waterboardfoodsafety@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:waterboardfoodsafety@waterboards.ca.gov).

Individuals requiring special accommodations or language translation services are requested to contact Rebecca T. Asami at least 14 working days prior to the meeting via email at [rebecca.asami@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rebecca.asami@waterboards.ca.gov). TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.