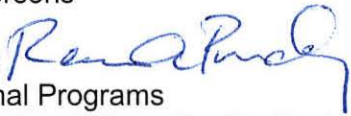# Water Boards

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Renee Purdy
Chief, Regional Programs
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

DATE: February 18, 2016

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ORDER TO CONDITIONALLY WAIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL LANDS

On April 14, 2016, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board) will consider a proposed Order to conditionally waive waste discharge requirements for discharges from irrigated agricultural lands (Conditional Waiver). The proposed Order is a renewal of Order No. R4-2015-0202, previously adopted by the Regional Water Board on October 8, 2015. The Order as proposed will expire on April 14, 2021.

A public hearing is scheduled for

Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 9:00 AM
City of Simi Valley, Council Chambers
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, California

The Regional Water Board will act on the proposed Order after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. The proposed Order is available on the Regional Water Board website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/waivers/index.shtml

Written comments and evidence must be received by the Regional Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2016. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or evidence into the record (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 649.4). Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013
ATTN: Snejana Toneva
snejana.toneva@wateroards.ca.gov

I.   BACKGROUND

As authorized by Water Code section 13269, the proposed Conditional Waiver requires persons who obtain coverage under the waiver to, in part, (1) prepare monitoring plans, conduct monitoring, and report annually on monitoring results, including the identification of Water Quality Benchmark exceedances; (2) develop, as required, a water quality management plan (WQMP), which identifies management practices that will address Water Quality Benchmark exceedances; (3) implement the WQMP and management practices to attain Water Quality Benchmarks; and (4) assess the effectiveness of implemented management practices in attaining Water Quality Benchmarks and, when necessary to attain Water Quality Benchmarks, identify and implement additional management practices or upgrade existing management practices. The proposed Conditional Waiver also requires that, if TMDL-associated Water Quality Benchmarks are not attained within a reasonable time schedule (as set forth in Section D, Table 2 of the proposed Order), then discharges from irrigated agricultural lands comply with discharge limitations. Finally, the proposed Conditional Waiver requires Dischargers to implement management practices that minimize excess nutrient application relative to crop need and to conduct groundwater monitoring in Ventura County to assess trends in groundwater quality beneath irrigated agricultural lands to evaluate the effectiveness of management practices implemented to improve groundwater quality.

The Regional Water Board originally adopted a Conditional Waiver on November 3, 2005 for a five-year term. On October 7, 2010, the Regional Water Board renewed the Waiver for a new five-year term that expired on October 7, 2015. On October 8, 2015, the Regional Water Board renewed the Waiver for a six-month period. The expiration date of Order No. R4-2015-0202 is April 15, 2016.

This Order differs from previous orders by containing more specific monitoring and reporting requirements for the preparation of WQMPs in order to better assess effectiveness of management practices, and more specific time schedules and requirements to ensure that Water Quality Benchmarks are ultimately attained.