

African American Farmers of California
Buena Vista Coalition
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners Association
California Cotton Growers Association
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Rice Commission
California Tomato Growers Association
Cawelo Water District Coalition
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
Kings River Water Quality Coalition
Nisei Farmers League
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition
San Joaquin Drainage Authority on behalf of Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority on behalf of Grassland Drainage Area Coalition
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Growers Association
Western Plant Health Association

February 23, 2016

Via Electronic Mail Only

Michael A.M. Lauffer
Chief Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Michael.Lauffer@waterboards.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Workshop Dates for Proposed Order Regarding Waste Discharge
Requirements General Order No. R5-2012-0116 for Growers Within the
Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed

Dear Mr. Lauffer:

The above-listed organizations respectfully request that the proposed workshop dates and the proposed date for submittal of written comments on the State Water Resources Control Board's *Own Motion Review of Waste Discharge Requirements General Order No. R5-2012-0116 for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group* (Draft ESJWQC Order) be extended by at least 30 days, respectively. As you know, the State Water Board released the Draft ESJWQC Order on

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February 8, 2016, after taking over three years to review the petitions filed and after taking up the matter on its own motion review. The Draft ESJWQC Order is voluminous in that it includes a 62 page draft order plus an extensive revised version of the waste discharge requirements as originally adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Board) in December 2012. Further, the Draft ESJWQC Order, if adopted as proposed, would be precedential and apply statewide “(except where a regional water board expressly finds that there are truly significant site-specific conditions that render these requirements inappropriate).”

The agricultural community and many other stakeholders have awaited the State Water Board’s release of this draft order for a significant period of time. It will inevitably be controversial, and will garner much public comment and debate. The Draft ESJWQC Order addresses many significant policy issues, and will have far-reaching impacts for many years to come. Considering the importance of the Draft ESJWQC Order, we believe it equally important that the impacted agricultural community, and all other interested parties, have an appropriate amount of time to review and prepare responses to the draft documents. The schedule as proposed is not sufficient, and should be adjusted accordingly.

To provide more time for all involved, and based on the State Water Board’s workshop schedule as posted on its website, we recommend that the workshop be scheduled for 2016 April 20, or at another workshop date after April 20. Written comments could then be due three weeks later, or on or about 2016 May 13. This recommended time period would provide for the needed additional time to truly comprehend the Draft ESJWQC Order, and to prepare meaningful responses to the draft order.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Tess Dunham at (916) 446-7979, or at tdunham@somachlaw.com.

Sincerely,



Theresa A. Dunham

cc (via email only): Felicia Marcus, Chair, SWRCB
Dorene D’Adamo, Member, SWRCB
Tam Doduc, Member, SWRCB
Frances Spivey-Weber, Member, SWRCB
Steven Moore, Member, SWRCB
Darrin Polhemus
Emel Wadhvani
Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer, CVRWQCB

TAD:cr