



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair

CORRESPONDENCE NO. 2
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
(916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING/EARLY CONSULTATION MEETING

Amending the Sacramento/San Joaquin Basin Plan to Revise Groundwater Beneficial Use Designations in the Hodson/Littlejohns Fault Zone Area Located near Copperopolis in Calaveras County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Central Valley Water Board" or "Board") are seeking early public consultation regarding a proposal to amend the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (the "Basin Plan"). The proposal would revise groundwater beneficial use designations in the Hodson/Littlejohns Fault Zone Area (the "Project Area").

BACKGROUND

Highly saline groundwater is found in certain portions of the Salt Spring Valley in western Calaveras County. The Basin Plan currently requires that the Board protect this groundwater so that it can be utilized for various uses, including municipal and domestic supply. Due to the high salt concentrations, the groundwater in portions of this area may not support these uses.

Additional information regarding the proposal is available for download in PDF format from the Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/hodson_littlejohns_fault_zone/index.shtml

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the 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.

PUBLIC SCOPING/EARLY CONSULTATION MEETING PURPOSE

At the meeting, Board staff will provide an overview of the environmental conditions in the Project Area. The public is invited to comment on possible regulatory actions, alternatives¹, and the significant environmental impacts that could be associated with modifying designated groundwater beneficial uses in the Project Area.

Public comments will help the Board refine the scope of its environmental analysis. Prior to amending the Basin Plan, the Board must conduct an environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act². The Board's Basin Planning program has been designated as a certified regulatory program³, and therefore, the Board will conduct its environmental analysis pursuant to regulatory requirements found at California Code Regulations, title 23, section 3775 et seq. The Board will not amend the Basin Plan without first circulating its environmental analysis for further public comment.

¹ The Board is also considering other regulatory options, such as the adoption of site-specific objectives or the implementation of a containment zone at a portion of the Project Area.

² Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.

³ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15251(g).

Written comments for the Public Scoping/Initial Consultation Meeting should be submitted to Gene Davis no later than 14 July 2011 (contact information provided below). All written comments will be included in the final administrative record.

Public Scoping/Early Consultation Meeting Time and Location:

Location	Stockton State Office Building, Auditorium 31 E. Channel Street Stockton, CA 95202
Date	23 June 2011
Time	10:00 am to 11:30 am

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Gene Davis at (916) 464-4687 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

Contact information:

Central Valley Water Board
Attn: Gene Davis
11020 Sun Center Drive, # 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 464-4687
Email: gmdavis@waterboards.ca.gov

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone who might be interested in this matter. Also, this is the only notification you will receive by mail on this Basin Planning effort. If you are interested in receiving additional information on this issue, please subscribe to the "Hodson-Littlejohns Fault Zone Groundwater" email notification service through our webpage at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml or complete and return the attached form.



Kenneth D. Landau, Assistant Executive Officer

1 June 2011



Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
(916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

Amendment to the Central Valley Water Quality Control Plans to add a Variance Policy and an Interim Program for Addressing Salt

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold public scoping meetings to seek input on the environmental information that should be considered in the development and adoption of amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plans) to add a policy for granting variances as described in federal water quality standards regulations (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 131.13) and to incorporate an interim program for regulating salt discharges.

BACKGROUND

The California Water Code allows Regional Water Boards the ability to adopt time schedules to achieve water quality objectives and to include time schedules in waste discharge requirements. However, compliance schedules may be included in NPDES permits only under certain conditions. It is useful for the Regional Water Board to have a mechanism to adopt NPDES permits when discharger compliance with the water quality standards is infeasible at the present time and the Regional Water Board would like to maintain the current water quality standards as goals rather than removing uses that may be ultimately attainable.

At this time, the Regional Water Board is interested in exploring variances from water quality standards for salt while work is in-progress on a comprehensive salinity and nitrate management program called CV-SALTS (Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability). Dischargers regulated by waste discharge requirements but not NPDES permits are not subject to the same compliance schedule regulations as NPDES dischargers; however, the Regional Water Board is interested in including non-NPDES dischargers in the interim program for consistency.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This meeting and workshop will provide participants with: (1) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the proposed amendments and environmental documents to be prepared pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the Regional Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, section 3775 et seq.); and (2) an overview of the conditions in the project area.

Following the workshop, staff will review written comments received, prepare a summary of scoping comments and a draft staff report for public comment. **Written comments should be submitted to Betty Yee no later than 15 July 2011** (contact

information provided below). Comments provided at the workshop will be reviewed and considered prior to Regional Board consideration of any proposed amendment.

CEQA Scoping Meeting Time and Location:

Location	Regional Water Quality Control Board Office 11020 Sun Center Drive, # 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	Location	State Building 2550 Mariposa Mall, Rm 1036 Fresno, CA 93721
Date:	24 June 2011	Date:	5 July 2011
Time:	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Time:	1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Betty Yee 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.

Contact Information

Questions regarding this issue should be directed to Betty Yee at (916) 464-4643 or byee@waterboards.ca.gov. To continue receiving notifications regarding this basin plan amendment, you must subscribe to the "**Variance**" mailing list through our webpage at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lyrisforms/reg5_subscribe.html or complete the attached form and return it to Betty Yee, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Additional information regarding the proposed amendment is available for download in PDF format from the Regional Water Board's Internet website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/variances/. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional 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.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.



Kenneth D. Landau, Assistant Executive Officer

31 May 2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
concerning

Non-Regulatory Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, and the Tulare Lake Basin, to Provide a Cost Estimate and Potential Sources of Financing for the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) will hold a public hearing to consider adopting amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, and the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plans). The proposed amendments will provide a cost estimate and potential sources of financing for its Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The alternatives for the Long-Term ILRP are described in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report certified by the Board by Resolution R5-2011-0017. After hearing testimony, the Central Valley Water Board may choose to act on the proposal, or may choose to continue or close the hearing and vote on the proposal at a future meeting. The public hearing, to be conducted during the Central Valley Water Board meeting, is scheduled at the time and location noted below:

Date: 12/13/14 October 2011 (the exact date will be identified in the meeting agenda at least 10 days prior to the meeting)
Time: 8:30 am
Place: Regional Water Quality Control Board office
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

A draft staff report will be prepared to describe the rationale for the proposed amendments. Beginning 1 July 2011, interested persons may download the draft staff report for the proposed Basin Plan amendments in PDF format from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/

A copy of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's offices in Rancho Cordova or Fresno:

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. [Brett Stevens -916-464-4642]

1685 "E" Street, Suite 100, Fresno, California 93706-2007 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. [Pam Buford – 559-445-5576]

Written comments must be submitted by **15 August 2011** if they are to receive a written response. After the deadline, staff will not accept written comments

unless the Board Chair determines such comments should be accepted.
Comments shall be addressed to:

Attn: Brett Stevens
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

At the hearing, staff will summarize written comments and will present a final recommendation for Board consideration. Interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Central Valley Water Board at the hearing, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Board Chair.

Confirmation of the hearing date and any questions regarding the proposed amendments should be directed to Brett Stevens at (916) 464-4642 number or bstevens@waterboards.ca.gov. The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least five 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.


Questions regarding this amendment should be directed to Brett Stevens at (916) 464-4642 or bstevens@waterboards.ca.gov. Future notifications regarding this amendment will be made through the mailing list for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Persons wishing to subscribe to the electronic mailing list can do so through our website by clicking on the "Subscribe" button on the right side of our webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml

[Note: Check the box titled "Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program"]

If you have already signed up for the mailing list in the past, you need not sign up a second time. Or, you may fill out the attached form to receive future notifications regarding this amendment via US mail.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.



Kenneth D. Landau, Assistant Executive Officer

27 May 2011

Continued Notifications

To continue receiving notifications regarding the issues in the attached notice(s), you **must** sign up for the electronic mailing list or complete the form below and return it to:

Betty Yee
Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

If you have any questions, you can contact Betty Yee at (916) 464-4643 or byee@waterboards.ca.gov.

If you do not subscribe to the electronic mailing list or return this form, you will not receive any further notice regarding these amendment(s).

Persons wishing to subscribe to the electronic mailing list can do so through our website by clicking on the "Subscribe" button on the right side of our webpage at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

This Continued Notifications only applies to the basin plan amendment(s) described on the attached notice(s). If you are **not** interested in any of these amendment(s), do nothing and you will remain on the basin plan mailing list for future amendments.

Name _____
Affiliation _____
Address _____

Phone Numbers _____
E-mail _____

- Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
- Variance Policy and Interim Salt Policy
- Groundwater in the Hodson/Littlejohns Fault Zone Area

- _____ Yes, please send notifications on the item(s) checked above to my postal address.
- _____ Yes, please send notifications on this item(s) checked above to my e-mail address.
- _____ I have received multiple paper notifications; please remove duplicates from your database.
- _____ No, I am not interested in these issues but would like to remain on the mailing list.
- _____ You can send notifications to my e-mail address.
- _____ Continue sending notifications to my postal address.
- _____ No, I am not interested in Basin Plan Amendments; please remove me from this mailing list.