CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-19-27
February 13, 2019
Revised March 13, 2019

REVISED

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON MARCH 7, 2019 AND PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 15, 2019 FOR Draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Agricultural Lands for Dischargers that Are Members of a Coalition Group in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa, Imperial and Riverside Counties Order R7-2019-XXXX

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) has prepared draft Order R7-2019-XXXX for discharges of waste from irrigated agricultural lands in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa, Imperial and Riverside Counties (Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order).

The Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order proposes to regulate owners and/or operators of irrigated agricultural lands (Dischargers) in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa with the potential to discharge waste that may impact the quality of the waters of the state. The draft Order also establishes substantive and procedural requirements for third-party representatives of the Dischargers formed to assist with compliance with the order (Coalition Groups).

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will hold a public workshop to discuss and solicit input on the Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order. Staff will provide an overview of key proposed order provisions and updates, including those relating to precedential requirements from State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WQ 2018-0002, *In the Matter of 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* (Eastern San Joaquin Order). There will be an opportunity for comment from stakeholders and members of the public.

The public workshop will be held at the time and place indicated:

Date:	Thursday, March 7, 2019
Time:	10:00 a.m.
Location:	City of Blythe Council Chambers 235 N. Broadway Blythe, CA 92225

There may be a quorum of the Colorado River Basin Water Board members present at the workshop; however, no Board action will be taken at the workshop.

At the workshop, there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the Colorado River Basin Water Board may ask clarifying questions. The Board will provide an

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opportunity for interested persons to make oral presentations to the Board. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral presentations may be limited to 3-minutes at the discretion of the Board Chair.

A video of the workshop can be watched at:
http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&meeting=2915&owner=RWQCB-COLO

PUBLIC HEARING

The Colorado River Basin Water Board intends to consider adopting the Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order during a public hearing that will commence at the time and place indicated:

Date	**May 15, 2019**
Time:	**10:00 a.m.**
Location:	**(Revised):** **City of Blythe** **Council Chambers** **235 N. Broadway** **Blythe, CA 92225**

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record.

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_info/agenda/docs/bm_procedures.pdf

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Copies of the Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/.

The Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order consists of:

a. Order R7-2019-XXXX
b. Attachment A – Information Sheet
c. Attachment B – DDT/Toxaphene TMDL Alternative
d. Attachment C – Monitoring and Reporting Program

Interested persons requiring a hard copy of the Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order should contact Mary Castañeda at (760) 776-8945.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept written comments regarding the Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order during a thirty-day public comment period, which begins **February 13, 2019** and ends **March 15, 2019**. Persons wishing to submit written comments on the Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order are requested to do so as soon as possible, but no later than **March 15, 2019**.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board has implemented an electronic records management system to reduce paper consumption and improve overall accessibility to records and documents. To submit comments electronically, please convert the signed original documents to Portable Document Format (PDF) and submit via email to Nadim Shukry-Zeywar at Nadim.Shukry-Zeywar@waterboards.ca.gov. Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a disk or portable USB drive and mailed to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100,
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Mailed written comments may be sent to the address above. Written comments may also be faxed to the Colorado River Basin Water Board office at (760) 341-6820.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287. Please be advised that ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the Board meeting at which the Draft Palo Verde Agricultural Order is scheduled for Board action. **For communications concerning any issue in this proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited starting on May 1, 2019.** If the Colorado River Basin Water Board does not take action on **May 15, 2019**, the ex parte prohibition will remain in place until the Board, the Chair, or the Executive Officer directs otherwise. Once lifted, the prohibition on ex parte communications may be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the Board meeting to which the decision is continued. The Board will provide notice if the prohibition is lifted and/or reinstated.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in the workshop or the public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2929 or voice line at 1 (800) 735-2922. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

STAFF CONTACT

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Francisco Costa (Francisco.Costa@waterboards.ca.gov, phone 760-776-8937) or Nadim Shukry-Zeywar (Nadim.Shukry-Zeywar@waterboards.ca.gov, phone 760-776-8942).

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

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