
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

February 14, 2020

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL WASTE DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS WITHIN THE CENTRAL COAST REGION

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board), as lead agency, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for waste discharge requirements regulating the discharge of agricultural waste from irrigated lands within the Central Coast Region, "Agricultural Order for Discharges to Irrigated Lands" (Ag Order 4.0). The Draft EIR is available for public review.

The public review period for the Draft EIR is from February 14, 2020 until March 31, 2020. During the public review period, the Central Coast Water Board will receive written comments on the Draft EIR. Also, during the public review period, the Central Coast Water Board staff will hold public workshops on the Draft EIR and Draft Ag Order 4.0; staff will provide notice at least 10-days prior to the workshops. The Central Coast Water Board will receive oral public comment during one or both of the public meetings scheduled for May 6-8, 2020 and May 28-29, 2020, at the Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. The agenda will indicate at which meeting(s) oral public comment will be received as well as the meeting start times, and will be posted online 10 days prior to the meeting at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/2020_agendas.html.

The proposed project (Draft Ag Order 4.0) is the issuance of a permit regulating waste discharges from irrigated lands throughout the central coastal region. The purpose of Ag Order 4.0 is to protect and restore beneficial uses and achieve water quality objectives specified in the Basin Plan for commercial irrigated agricultural areas in the central coast region. The proposed project would replace the existing permit regulating agricultural discharges (Ag Order 3.0).

The Draft EIR identified potentially significant environmental impacts to agricultural resources.

Electronic copies of the Draft EIR can be obtained from the Central Coast Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal.html. Hardcopies of the Draft EIR are available at the Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Written comments are due March 31, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. and may be submitted via email to AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov with “Comments on Draft EIR (Ag Order 4.0)” in the subject line. While email submittal is preferred, we will accept written comments at: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

For additional information, visit the Central Coast Regional Board’s Agricultural Order Renewal website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal.html

or contact the ILRP at (805) 549-3147, or AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov.

To subscribe to the email list to receive information about the ILRP, Ag Order 4.0, and the Draft EIR, please visit our website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.html and choose “Agricultural Discharges” and “CEQA – Agricultural Order 4.0, March 2020.”