

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

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

Public Notice 7-14-29
April 25, 2014

**Public Notice of
Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration
For
Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges
of Wastes from Agricultural Operations in the Coachella Valley,
Riverside County**

**Public Comment Period:
April 29 to May 29, 2014**

The public is invited to review and comment on an Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration, prepared by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Basin Water Board), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.), for a project consisting of a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for discharges of wastes from agricultural operations in the Coachella Valley in Riverside County.

To obtain coverage under this Conditional Waiver, agricultural dischargers must choose one of the two following options: (1) submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with this Order, or (2) participate in a Coalition Group that submits an NOI to comply with this Order. Under option 1, above, the agricultural discharger must also: (a) prepare a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and, if applicable, a Drain Water Quality Improvement Plan (DWQIP) for review and approval by the Colorado River Basin Water Board, (b) conduct periodic water quality monitoring of the discharge and its receiving water(s), (c) prepare a Quality Assurance Project Plan for the proposed monitoring, and (d) submit annual monitoring reports to the Colorado River Basin Water Board. Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition has agreed to organize and manage a coalition group and develop and implement a compliance program to comply with this Conditional Waiver. Agricultural dischargers shall pay annual fees for coverage under this Conditional Waiver as established under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Chapter 9 for waivers of WDRs for irrigated lands.

The proposed Negative Declaration is supported by the Initial Study, which evaluates whether this project may have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed Negative Declaration reflects the determination by the Colorado River Basin Water Board that a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for discharges of waste from agricultural operations in the Coachella Valley will not have a significant effect on the environment. No known site is present in the affected agricultural areas on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code including, but not limited to, lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, and hazardous waste disposal sites, and the information in the Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement required under subdivision (f) of that section.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will consider adopting the proposed Negative Declaration during a **Public Hearing** that will commence at the time and place indicated below:

Date: **June 26, 2014**
Time: **10:00 a.m.**
Location: **Town of Yucca Valley
Community Center – Yucca Room
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284**

The public hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 800-735-2929.

Written comments on the proposed Negative Declaration must be postmarked no later than May 29, 2014, for delivery to:

Doug Wylie, Senior Engineer
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control Board
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

WHERE YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION:

The proposed Negative Declaration and other project documents are available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

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

CONTACT:

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the project, please contact Doug Wylie, Senior Engineer, (760) 776-8960, or Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer at (760)776-8932.