



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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## 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

***California Environmental Protection Agency***

