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**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**Evaluation of the Municipal and Domestic Supply Beneficial Use  
(MUN) in Agriculturally Dominated Water Bodies  
Notice of Public Workshops and  
California Environmental Quality Act Public Scoping Meetings  
October/November 2012**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will hold three public workshops and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings to discuss and solicit comments and suggestions from the public regarding a proposal to:

- Evaluate appropriate application of the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use in receiving waters of four Publically Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) in the Sacramento River Basin
- Amend the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plans) to incorporate a framework for evaluating the appropriate MUN beneficial use designation as well as water quality objectives and implementation requirements to protect the use in agriculturally (Ag) dominated water bodies.

This MUN beneficial use project is the initial phase of a larger effort to evaluate appropriate protection of all applicable beneficial uses in Ag dominated water bodies.

**BACKGROUND:** By way of the Sources of Drinking Water Policy (Resolution 88-63), the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plans (Basin Plans) designate MUN beneficial use to all water bodies unless they are specifically listed in a Basin Plan as water bodies that are not designated with MUN. During permit adoptions for the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, there have been challenges to protecting the MUN beneficial use designation in constructed agricultural drains due to the stated exception in Resolution 88-63. The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative has also identified the need to evaluate the level of protection of MUN beneficial uses in constructed agricultural drains as well as other agriculturally dominated water bodies. The receiving waters of four POTWs in the cities of Willows, Colusa, Biggs and Live Oak will serve as case studies for the development of a framework to evaluate the appropriate level of MUN beneficial use protection in Ag dominated water bodies. This framework will be expanded upon to include other beneficial uses in later phases of the evaluation.

Preliminary surveys indicate that the MUN beneficial use in the receiving waters of the four POTWs is not an existing use and its protection would require costly measures that are more stringent than required under the Clean Water Act.

Additional information regarding the proposed amendment is available at the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/mun\\_beneficial\\_use/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/mun_beneficial_use/index.shtml)

A staff report describing the project will be available on the website by 28 September 2012. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley 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.

**PUBLIC SCOPING/EARLY CONSULTATION MEETING PURPOSE:** These meetings will provide participants with: (1) Background on previous work conducted evaluating appropriate beneficial uses for agriculturally dominated water bodies and application of the Drinking Water Policy (88-63); (2) an overview of conditions in the four POTW archetype study areas and potential to use case study results as a template for the Central Valley; (3) an opportunity to comment on a methodology for characterizing and defining Ag dominated water body categories; and (4) 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 Central Valley 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.).

**Written comments should be submitted to Anne Littlejohn no later than 15 November 2012** (contact information provided below). Written comments and comments provided at the workshops will be reviewed and considered to draft recommendations for basin plan amendments and a draft staff report for Central Valley Water Board consideration in 2014. All comments will be included in the final administrative record.

#### **CEQA SCOPING MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS:**

##### **WILLOWS**

Wednesday October 24, 2012, 10:00 a.m.  
City of Willows Council Chambers  
201 North Lassen Street  
Willows, CA 95988

##### **RANCHO CORDOVA**

Friday November 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m.  
Central Valley Regional Water Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, St. 200, Board Room  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

##### **TULARE LAKE BASIN**

Wednesday November 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m.  
(A Fresno or Visalia location will be confirmed  
at least two weeks prior to meeting date – please  
contact Anne Littlejohn at (916) 464-4840 for directions)

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Anne Littlejohn at (916) 464-4840 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 Anne Littlejohn at (916) 464-4840 or [alittlejohn@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:alittlejohn@waterboards.ca.gov). To continue receiving notifications regarding this basin plan amendment, you must subscribe to the "Beneficial Uses of Agriculturally Dominated Water Bodies" mailing list through our webpage at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg5\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml) 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

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

Original Signed by  
Frederick Moss, Assistant Executive Officer

7 September 2012

## CONTINUED NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

This Continued Notifications only applies to the issues described in the enclosed notices. If you are not interested in these issues, do nothing and you will remain on the basin plan mailing list for future amendments.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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- Central Valley Pyrethroids TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment
  - Central Valley Diuron TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment
  - Beneficial Uses of Agriculturally Dominated Water Bodies
  - Triennial Review for the Sacramento & San Joaquin River Basins
  - Triennial Review for the Tulare Lake Basin

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\_\_\_\_\_ Please send notifications items checked above to my postal address.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send notifications items 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.

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Regional Water Quality Control Board  
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