
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERT PANEL PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Expert Panel Public Meeting #1

Monday May 5, 2014 – 9:00 AM (Convene Panel and Invited Testimony)
Tuesday May 6, 2014 – 8:30 AM (Invited Testimony and Public Comment)

Locations different for each day:

May 5: Irrigation and Training Research Center
California Polytechnic State University, SLO
1 Grand Ave, Building 08A, Room 022
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

May 6: The Monday Club
1815 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Expert Panel Public Meeting #2

Wednesday May 7, 2014 – 8:30 (Invited Testimony and Public Comment)
Southern California Edison Energy Education Center
4175 South Laspina Street
Tulare, CA 93274

Expert Panel Public Meeting #3

Friday May 9, 2014 – 8:30 (Invited Testimony and Public Comment)
Joe Serna Jr. – Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Written Public Comment Deadline

Wednesday May 14, 2014 – 12:00 pm noon

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will be conducting a series of three public Expert Panel Meetings May 5-6, 7, and 9, 2014 at the locations and times indicated above. The meetings will be led by members of the Expert Panel. A quorum of Board members of the State Water Board may be in attendance; however no Board action will be taken at these meetings.

Background

Chapter 1 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2008 (SBX2 1, Perata), required the State Water Board to develop pilot projects focusing on nitrate in groundwater in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley, and to submit a report to the Legislature on the scope and findings of the pilot projects, including recommendations. The State Water Board made 15 recommendations in 4 key areas to address the issues associated with nitrate contaminated groundwater. The key areas to address these issues are:

1. Providing safe drinking water.
2. Monitoring, notification, and assessment.
3. Nitrogen tracking and reporting.
4. Protecting groundwater.

Expert Panel

Recommendation 14 of the State Water Board's report to the Legislature was to convene a panel of experts to assess existing agricultural nitrate control programs and develop recommendations, as needed, to ensure that ongoing efforts are protective of groundwater supply quality. The State Water Board has contracted with the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC), a center established within the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo to assemble the expert panel of up to 10 persons. Composition of the panel will be posted on the ITRC website at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>.

Role of Expert Panel

The role of Expert Panel Members is as follows:

- Review the Water Boards' Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.
- Evaluate ongoing agricultural control measures that address nitrate in groundwater and surface water.
- Evaluate and address other risks to water quality posed by agricultural practices.
- Address questions posed by the State Water Board in its order regarding the petitions of the Central Coast Water Board.
- Address questions developed by an Advisory Committee, other agencies and the public as approved by the State Water Board.
- Propose new agricultural control measures, if necessary.
- Hold meetings with the Advisory Committee as necessary.
- Conduct three public meetings to take public comment.
- Prepare Final Report on findings and summary of project discoveries and recommendations.

Meeting Agendas and Questions for the Expert Panel

A separate notice will follow to announce the agendas for the scheduled Expert Panel Meetings and the questions presented to the Expert Panel for their consideration.

Written Comments

The State Water Board will accept written comments and remarks for the Expert Panel's consideration. Comments and remarks must be received by **12:00 noon on Friday, May 14, 2014** and addressed to:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments and remarks may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to the Clerk to the Board via e-mail at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.

If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the document(s) may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Please indicate in the subject line: "**Agricultural Expert Panel Comments**", as applicable.

Couriers delivering hard copies of documents must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Jeanine Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

Schedule (some dates may be changed at a later date and all changes will be noticed).

Date	Event	Location
Completed	Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Sierra Hearing Room, Sacramento
May 5 th -6 th , 2014*	Expert Panel Public Meeting #1	San Luis Obispo 5th: Irrigation Training and Research Center 6th: Monday Club
May 7 th , 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting #2	SCE Energy Education Center, Tulare
May 9 th , 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting #3	Cal/EPA Building Byron Sher Auditorium, Sacramento
June 30 th , 2014	Expert Panel Draft Report Released	N/A
July 1 st – July 30 th , 2014	Public Comment Period on Expert Panel Draft Report	N/A
July 18 th , 2014	Expert Panel Public Meeting on Draft Report	Cal/EPA Building Byron Sher Auditorium, Sacramento
July 28 th , 2014	Advisory Committee Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Sierra Hearing Room, Sacramento
September 23 rd , 2014	Expert Panel presents Final Report at Board Meeting	Cal/EPA Building Coastal Hearing Room, Sacramento

*Expert Panel Public Meeting #1 will be held both May 5th and 6th at separate locations. All public comments for the meeting will be accepted on May 6th only.

Project Tools and Information

Project information, including meeting notices, agendas, meeting minutes, and other pertinent material/documents will be posted online at <http://www.itrc.org/001/swrcb.htm>. This webpage will be managed by the ITRC and once nominations have been reviewed and the selection finalized, a list of the individuals selected to the Expert Panel will be posted.

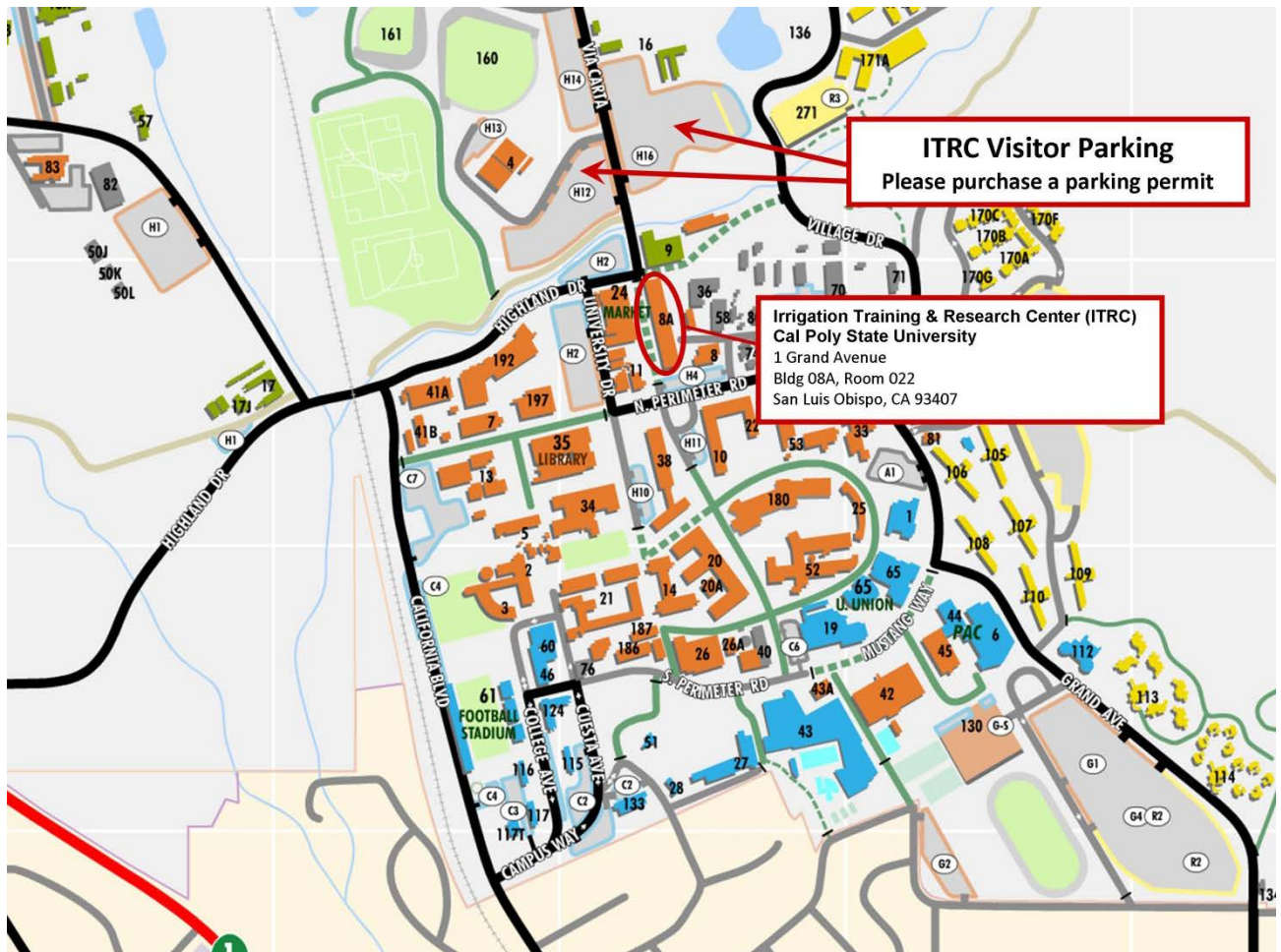
Please direct any questions about this notice to Johnny Gonzales at (916) 341-5510 or Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911.

Expert Panel Public Meeting Location Maps

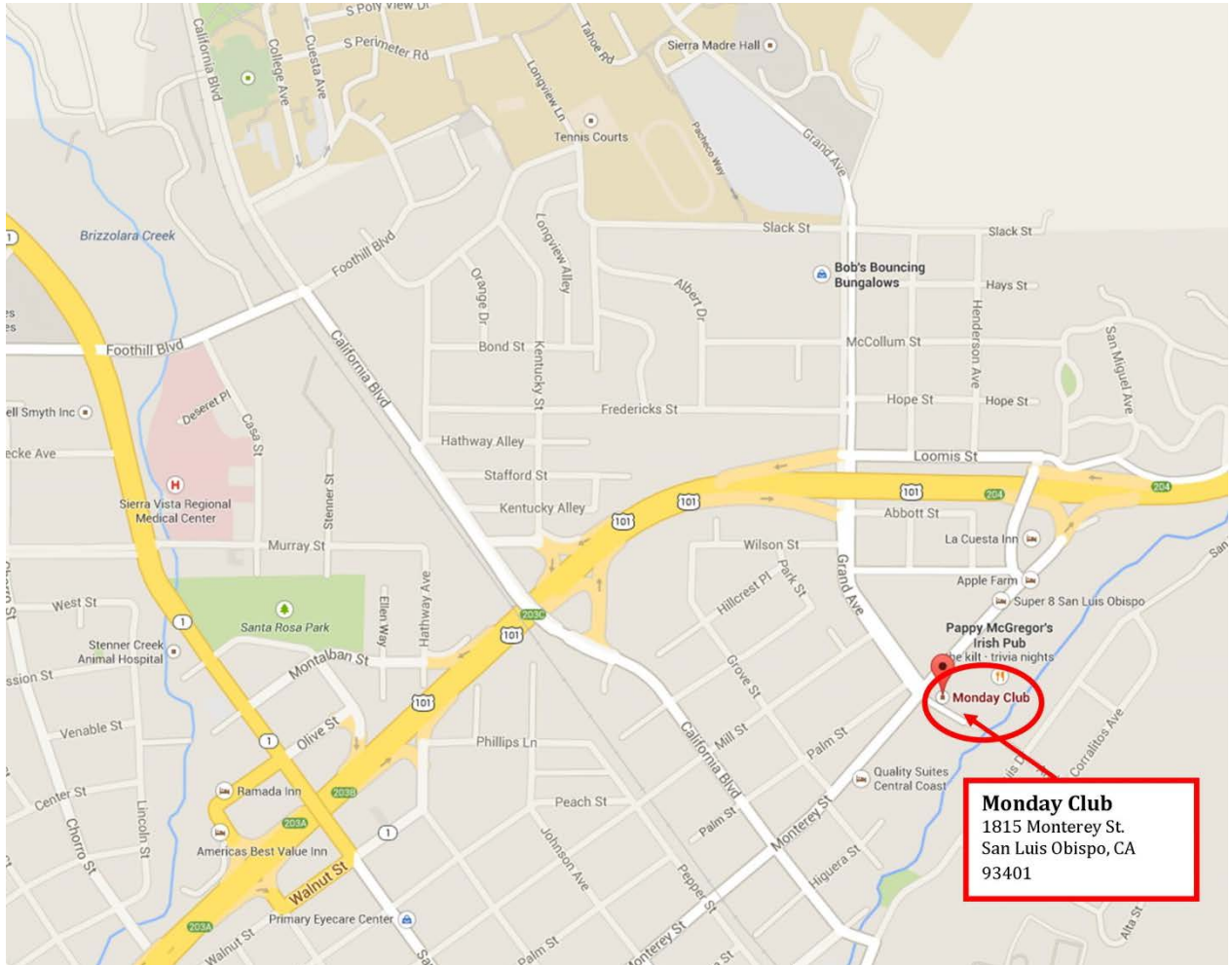
Maps for the locations of Public Meeting #1 and #2 are included below.

Expert Panel Public Meeting #1

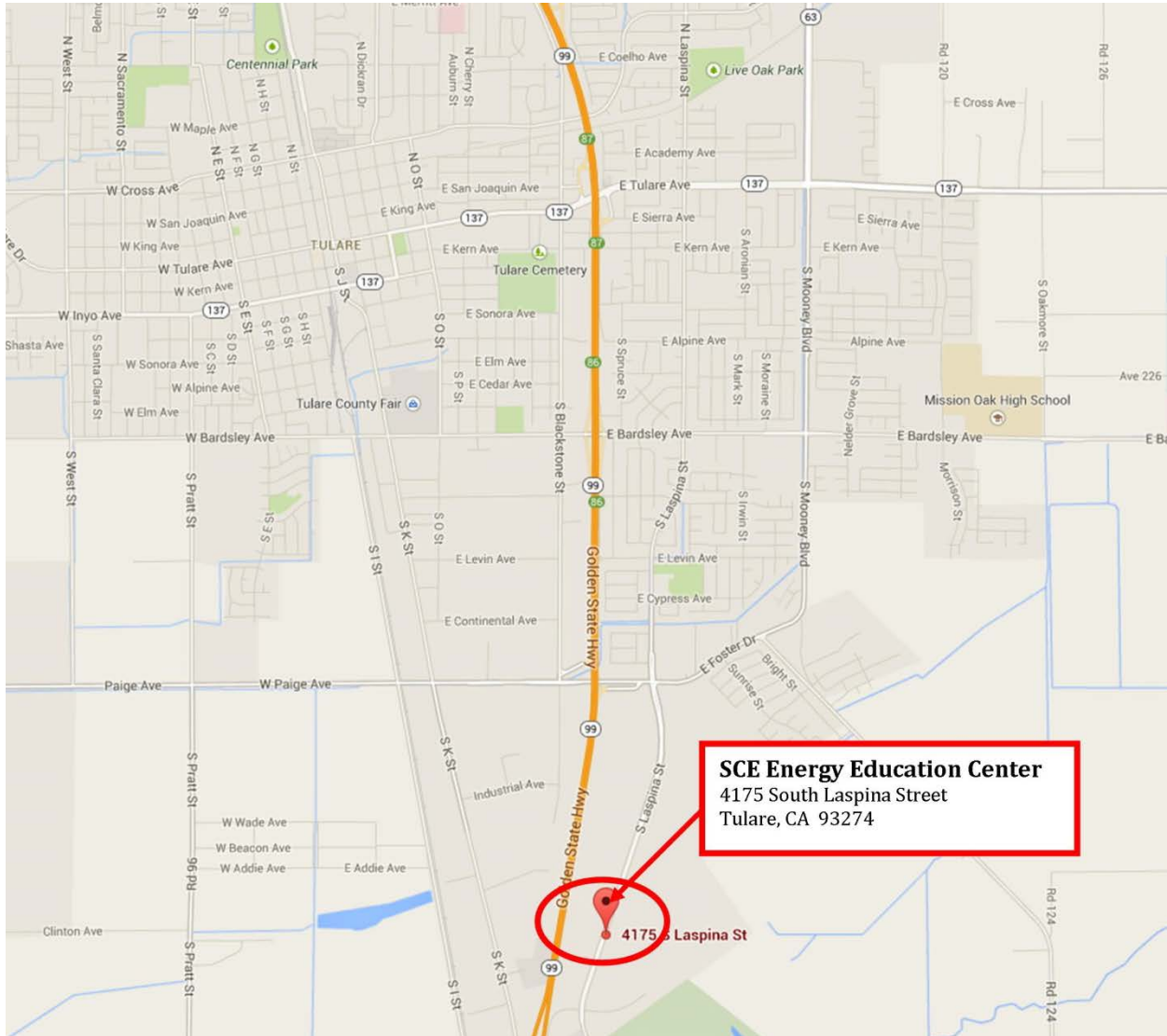
May 5th: Irrigation Training and Research Center, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo



Expert Panel Public Meeting #1
May 6th: Monday Club, San Luis Obispo



Expert Panel Public Meeting #2
May 7th: SCE Energy Education Center, Tulare



Expert Panel Public Meeting #3
Joe Serna Jr. – Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Parking, Accessibility and Security

The Cal/EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations, including real-time translation services, at any of the public meetings are requested to contact Ashley Zellmer at (916) 341-5911.

Due to enhanced security precautions at the Cal/EPA Building, all visitors are required to register with security staff prior to attending any meeting. To sign in and receive a visitor's badge, visitors must go to the Visitor and Environmental Services Center, located just inside and to the left of the building's public entrance. Depending on their destination and the building's security level, visitors may be asked to show valid picture identification. Valid picture identification can take the form of a current driver's license, military identification card, or state or federal identification card. Depending on the size and number of meetings scheduled on any given day, the security check-in could take up to fifteen minutes. Please allow adequate time to sign in before being directed to the hearing.