

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

June 2016

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program update will focus on updates from the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Region. Next month's update will focus on updates from the State Water Board and the following regions: North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Lahontan, Santa Ana, and San Diego.

STATE WATER BOARD

In June 2016, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff participated in various meetings with outside groups such as the California Bio-Resources Alliance, California Agricultural Partnership Forum, California Association of Pest Advisers/Certified Crop Advisers, California Agricultural Partnership Forum, Farm Food Safety Conservation Network, and the Association of Clean Water Administrators/USEPA/Natural Resource Conservation Service.

On June 22, 2016, staff participated in a field tour with CalRecycle staff to observe the CR&R processing facility in Perris, CA. The processing facility accepts organic waste and converts this material to renewable natural gas. This technology moves methane emissions out of landfills and into their waste collection vehicles. In addition, soon, the facility will produce compost for agricultural operations.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is implementing their Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and responding to the State Water Board's response to the petition of the Eastern San Joaquin Waste Discharge Requirements.

Quarterly ILRP Stakeholder Meetings:

Water Board staff holds quarterly stakeholder meetings to provide an open forum for communication between Water Board staff, agricultural coalitions, environmental justice groups, and other interested parties in Central Valley Region. The April Stakeholder Meeting provided a forum for State Water Board staff to explain and answer questions regarding the State Water Board's Eastern San Joaquin WDR petition response. The July 13th Stakeholder Meeting will be focused on the East San Joaquin Coalition's Groundwater Quality Management Plan.

Meetings with Representatives of Agricultural Coalitions and Environmental Justice Groups:

On May 24th and June 15th, 2016 Water Board staff participated in meetings with representatives of agricultural coalitions and environmental groups to discuss issues raised during the State Water Board Workshops regarding the Eastern San Joaquin WDR petition response.

Compliance, Outreach, & Enforcement:

Water Board staff have concentrated compliance, outreach, and enforcement efforts in the following areas: agricultural parcel inspections; Water Code Section 13260 Directives; Notices of Violation for failure to respond to a Water Code Section 13260 Directive and failure to submit Farm Evaluations; and Pre-Administrative Civil Liability Notification Letters.

Enrollment efforts have been successful in issuing 50 Notices of Applicability to growers in the Tulare Lake Basin Area, which confirmed the enrollment of 5,507 irrigated acres. Approximately 67% of the applications for coverage were voluntarily submitted by growers, and 33% were submitted in response to enforcement activities conducted by Water Board staff.

Board staff issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Rakkar (Trustees) and Rakkar Properties LP for the Discharger's failure to comply with a Water Code section 13260 Directive. The Directive required the Discharger to obtain regulatory coverage for commercial irrigated lands. In June, the Discharger settled the ACL Complaint by agreeing to pay a penalty of \$63,700, with half of this amount going to fund a supplemental environmental project.