

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Fertilizer Education and Research Program

BOARD ACTION: *No board action – information item.*

BACKGROUND: Staff from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will be presenting information on this item and provides the following background:

CDFA recognizes that our state's water supply has many beneficial uses. Our water is essential to supporting a unique agricultural sector which provides a diverse food supply on a national and international level. CDFA also recognizes the importance of providing clean drinking water for all those who live in California. CDFA is working closely with agricultural stakeholders and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board staff to coordinate practical solutions to addressing nitrates in groundwater.

Over the last two decades, the CDFA Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) has funded research projects addressing environmental issues related to fertilizers. This research has covered a variety of topics including nitrates from nitrogen fertilizers, agronomic efficiency in the management of plant nutrients, precision irrigation, fertigation practices, and soil-fertilizer interactions. CDFA's presentation to the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board will include a discussion on the history of FREP, examples of current and past research projects, this year's research priorities, as well as an overview of the program's new initiatives and ongoing education and outreach activities.

More information on FREP can be found at CDFA's web site at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep.html>.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

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