

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

December 2013

This month's ILRP monthly report will provide an update on activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) ILRP, as reported in the Central Valley Water Board's December 6-7, 2013, Executive Officer's report. It also contains an update on State Water Resource Control Board activities. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) website.

STATE WATER BOARD

On December 5, 2013, ILRP staff participated in a California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment meeting.

On December 10-11, 2013, ILRP staff conducted the quarterly ILRP roundtable. The ILRP roundtable was hosted by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board and included an agricultural related field tour.

On December 17, 2013, ILRP staff met with the Leafy Green Marketing Agreement Food Safety technical group to discuss the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Modernization Act.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program:

On October 11, 2013, a Board member, the Executive Officer, and Regional Water Board staff participated in a tour of different farming operations in the Tulare Lake Basin. The tour included members of the agricultural community, the environmental justice community, and University of California Cooperative Extension.

On October 12, 2013, the Executive Officer and Regional Water Board staff met with representatives from the Southern San Joaquin Coalition, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, commodity groups, and the Farm Bureau to discuss several agricultural concepts related to the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed and Tulare Lake Basin.

On October 30, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in a panel discussion at the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (California Department of Food and Agriculture/Western Plant Health Association) conference in Modesto. The panel discussed nitrogen management issues.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Development:

Sacramento River Watershed Rice WDR

The California Rice Commission (CRC) submitted revisions to their draft Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR) in late October 2013. Regional Water Board staff and CRC staff met in November 2013 to discuss the surface water MRP and GAR.

Sacramento River Watershed WDRs (excluding rice)

On September 12, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition representatives to discuss the Coalition's proposed WDRs and MRP. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled for December 2013 or January 2014.

Westlands Area WDRs

On October 5, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the Westlands Stormwater Coalition to discuss Coalition specific issues related to development of the long term ILRP. Topics of discussion included updates to the WDR development schedule, projected program cost estimates, and a brief overview of known hydrologic data in the Westlands area.

Basin Plan Amendments on Cost Estimate and Potential Sources of Financing:

On July 17, 2013, the State Water Resources Control Board approved the (non-regulatory) amendments to the Sacramento/San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Basin Plans that provided cost estimates and potential sources of financing for the long-term ILRP. The amendments have been submitted to the Office of Administrative Law.

Enforcement:

In September 2013, Regional Water Board staff mailed 18 Notices of Violation to landowners in the San Joaquin County & Delta Coalition area for failure to respond to a California Water Code (CWC) §13267 Order.

In October 2013, Regional Water Board staff mailed 67 and 21 CWC §13267 Orders to landowners in the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition area and East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition area, respectively. These Orders were issued to landowners who first received an outreach postcard and subsequently did not respond.

Also, in October 2013, Regional Water Board staff mailed two CWC §13260 Orders to landowners whose property staff had inspected and found to be commercial irrigated lands with the potential to discharge waste.

Compliance and Outreach:

Postcards

In September 2013, Regional Water Board staff mailed 116 postcards to non-participating landowners in Colusa County; and in October 2013, Regional Water Board staff mailed 50 postcards to non-participating landowners in the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition area. Regional Water Board staff screened these

landowners' parcels using aerial photography to target agricultural operations with the potential to discharge waste to surface waters.

Surveillance and Complaint Inspections

On September 28, 2013, Regional Water Board staff received a complaint of excessive dust and a sediment-laden wastewater discharge from recently graded agricultural property near Placerville in El Dorado County. Regional Water Board staff investigated the complaint on October 2, 2013 and found that the property had about 57 mass-graded acres; Regional Water Board staff also found evidence of a sediment discharge. In response to the investigation, the Executive Officer issued CWC §13267 Orders to two parties who were found to own a parcel each that comprise the property. The 13267 Orders require the landowners to prepare an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and submit it to Regional Water Board staff within 30 days.

Coalition Groups:

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

On September 5, 2013, Regional Water Board staff held the 16th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, and potential monitoring site and schedule revisions.

On October 23, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted request to add Management Plan Performance Goals and Measures for the Hatch Drain at Tuolumne Road, Highline Canal at Lombardy Road, Merced River at Santa Fe, and Miles Creek at Reilly Road site subwatersheds as part of the Coalition's approved Management Plan implementation schedule. The proposed Performance Goals and Measures are under Regional Water Board staff review.

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):

On September 7, 2013, the Executive Officer sent a letter to the Coalition approving the Pilot Watershed annual reports for El Dorado County and Napa County Subwatersheds.

On September 17, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives from the Coalition to discuss and come to agreement on the acceptable contents to be included in documents describing performance goals established in response to Management Plans. This meeting focused on activities in the Z-Drain drainage in Solano County, which is under a management plan for toxicity to *Hyalella azteca*.

On October 1, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives from the Coalition for their Quarterly Management Plan meeting. Regional Water Board staff and the Coalition representatives reviewed the status of several Management Plan elements, agreed upon next steps, and confirmed submittal schedules for required work this quarter.

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition

On September 12, 2013, Regional Water Board staff held the 15th quarterly

meeting with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, and TMDL monitoring.

On September 10, 2013, Regional Water Board staff attended the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition steering committee meeting held in Stockton. The committee discussed the Coalition's monitoring results, management practice implementation, and upcoming TMDLs.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJVWQC)

On October 23, 2013, the Executive Officer issued an approval letter for a Management Plan for water quality exceedances within the Main Drain watershed area of Kern County.

On October 23-24, 2013, Regional Water Board staff received revised Management Plans for the Kings River and Tule River Subwatershed areas. The Management Plan revisions were in response to Regional Water Board staff comment letters issued to both sub-watersheds in July 2013. The revised Management Plans are currently under review.

Westside Coalition

On September 5, 2013, Regional Water Board senior staff approved the June 30, 2013, Westside Coalition performance goals for the Focused Plan III. The Performance Goals provide a method to track the Coalition's efforts in improving water quality.

On September 5, 2013, Regional Water Board senior staff approved the June 15, 2013, Westside Coalition semiannual monitoring report (SAMR). Regional Water Board staff proposed that the Coalition should provide an analysis of the monitoring results before and after management plan implementation in the next SAMR.

On October 31, 2013, Regional Water Board staff held the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition quarterly meeting to discuss 2012 subwatershed review and Quality Assurance Project Plan updates.

Data Management:

Data reports received through December 1, 2012, are currently being prepared for loading into a California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). Additionally, Regional Water Board staff has begun the limited processing of prioritized data sets submitted prior to 2009. These sets have been classified as historical sets and will be loaded to the database and transferred to CEDEN as resources permit.

Data from 2009 through 2011 for all Coalitions are now available to the public on CEDEN. Data as recent as early 2012 is available for some coalitions and new data will continue to be transferred to CEDEN on a quarterly basis. The ILRP monitoring data webpage has been updated to provide a detailed status of available data sets.

The information provided on this webpage also includes a schedule for future transfers and reflects which datasets have been updated recently and are planned to be updated in the next transfer.

Significant improvements in the formatting and business rule adherence of data submissions for Coalitions have been witnessed with implementation of feedback packages. Feedback packages were developed in 2011 to serve as real-time communication from Regional Water Board staff to assist the Coalitions with the review and formatting of datasets prior to submission. This improvement has reduced the amount of resources required by the ILRP to successfully load and transfer the data as well as assisted the Coalitions in meeting the data submission requirements. To continue this progress, submitted data sets that require significant revisions to successfully process and load the data will now be returned to the Coalitions for correction. Regional Water Board staff is continuing to develop and provide resources and tools to assist the Coalitions with their data submissions.

Prop 84 Grant Funding:

Twenty-three projects have been completed and invoiced under the grant program. Most of the projects from the first round of applications in August 2011 are complete. Some second and third round awarded projects are expected to begin construction and implementation before planting in 2013, depending on the weather. All projects should be completed by December 2014.

An additional task will be added to the CURES grant agreement specifying a soil erosion model for conversion from furrow to drip/micro irrigation. Field measurements will be included to validate the model accuracy. The model is expected to be completed in December 2013.

The [CURES website](#) has additional information on the Prop 84 funding and photos of completed projects.