

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD
May 2013

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program monthly report will provide an update on activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) ILRP, as reported in the Central Valley Water Board's May 30-31, 2013 Executive Officer's report. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) website.

Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

On March 27, 2013, the ILRP Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup met in Merced. At this meeting Regional Water Board staff provided an update on development of the tentative WDRs for individual growers, and tentative WDRs for the Tulare Lake Basin. Representatives from the agricultural and environmental justice communities attended the meeting.

On April 16, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives from the International Plant Nutrition Institute to discuss the ILRP and the role the Institute might play in research and outreach to growers.

On April 17, 2013, the ILRP Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup met in Merced. The focus of the meeting was on the templates submitted to the board by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and other agricultural groups. The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition also described their outline and approach for the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report. Representatives from the agricultural and environmental justice communities attended the meeting.

On April 24, 2013, Regional Water Board staff attended a meeting of the Nitrogen Management Ad Hoc Committee convened by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR). The discussion included an update of CDFA's efforts to create a web site with plant nutrition information. UC ANR provided an update on their work with CDFA and California Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) in developing a nitrogen management certification program for CCAs.

On April 29, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with private, state, and federal wetland managers to discuss the long-term ILRP. The wetland managers wanted to discuss the goals of the program, how their current water quality investigations could be used to meet those goals, and the options available to managed wetlands under the ILRP.

General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)

Development Individual Growers WDRs:

Regional Water Board staff circulated the tentative WDRs for individual growers (those not part of a third-party group) for a thirty-day comment period, which ended April 22, 2013. Eight comment letters were received by the due date. The hearing originally scheduled for the May 2013 board meeting has been cancelled. A new hearing will be scheduled pending resolution of the litigation in Sacramento County Superior Court.

Tulare Lake Basin WDRs:

The Regional Water Board held a workshop in Fresno on April 25, 2013 to discuss the tentative Tulare Lake Basin WDRs. The hearing originally scheduled for June 2013 has been cancelled. A new hearing will be scheduled pending resolution of the litigation in Sacramento County Superior Court.

Sacramento River Watershed WDRs:

On April 24, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) to discuss the development of the Sacramento River Watershed WDRs. The meeting covered the basic elements of the WDR and highlighted areas of agreement and a few concerns that the coalition and board staff agreed to continue to work on.

Sacramento Valley Rice WDRs:

On March 18, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of the California Rice Commission (CRC) to discuss the CRC comments and recommended changes to the WDR and surface water monitoring proposed by Regional Water Board staff.

On April 10, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the CRC for a technical discussion on the CRC's submitted Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR). Major items discussed were based on a comparison of the requirements in the ESJ WDR and MRP to the submitted GAR.

On May 2, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the CRC to continue discussion of the revised WDR, surface water monitoring requirements, and next steps for the GAR.

Delta WDRs:

On April 3, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (SJCDWQC) to discuss the language in the Draft WDR Order. The Coalition provided WDR concepts regarding low threat and deliverable time lines, including revised language to be considered. The meeting participants developed a task list to address the comments, which are to be discussed at the next meeting scheduled for May 2013.

Western San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs:

On March 27, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of the Westside Coalition to discuss proposed changes in the Waste Discharge Requirements for the growers within the Western San Joaquin River Watershed. The next meeting will be held in May 2013.

Westlands WDRs:

On April 18, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with Westlands Stormwater Coalition to discuss development of the Draft Waste Discharge Requirements for the long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Litigation and Petition

The Sacramento County Superior Court hearing on the Program Environmental Impact Report and the short-term renewal of the conditional waiver took place on March 29, 2013 (Case No. 34-2012-80001186-CU-WMGDS). The Court has issued a tentative ruling and asked for a supplemental written briefing.

Three separate petitions were filed with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the Regional Water Board's adoption of the "Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group" (Resolution No. R5-2012-0116). Those petitions are identified as [A-2239\(a\)](#); [A-2239\(b\)](#); [A-2239\(c\)](#) and can be found at on the Water Boards website.

Outreach and Compliance**Final Notice to East San Joaquin Watershed Growers:**

In January, Regional Water Board staff used Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) data, county tax assessor's parcel information, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Member lists, and lists of parcels under the Dairy General Order to identify landowners with parcels that likely require coverage under the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed (General Order). The FMMP maps identify where farmland is located; the county tax assessor information identifies parcel number and landowner; and the Coalition Member lists, and Dairy parcel information indicate which parcels already have necessary regulatory coverage. All these information sources can have errors or can be out of date, which means the initial identification of the number of parcels, landowners, and acres of land requiring regulatory coverage will be in error to a degree. In January and February 2013, a total of 4,937 landowners with a total of 284,013 acres of land were mailed an outreach letter informing them of new ILRP requirements under the General Order, and how they could join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition or get more information.

As a follow up to the above mail out, Regional Water Board staff sent a final notice to those landowners who had received, but not responded to, the earlier letter. A total of 2,370 letters were sent to these landowners on April 18, 2013. The letter urged the recipients to join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, if applicable, by May 13, 2013 or potentially face penalties for non-compliance.

East San Joaquin Surveillance Inspections:

In April 2013, Regional Water Board staff began conducting inspections of parcels in the East San Joaquin River Watershed. The purpose of these inspections is to determine if the parcels are commercial irrigated lands that require coverage under the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed General Order. Staff conducted inspections on five days in April 2013, with a total of 159 parcels inspected. Data gathered during these inspections will be used to focus and prioritize the issuance of 13260 Orders to commercial irrigated lands that do not become members of the East San Joaquin Coalition by the May 13, 2013 deadline.

Postcards:

In March 2013, ILRP staff mailed 59 postcards to non-participating landowners in Contra Costa County, which is within the San Joaquin County & Delta and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalitions' boundaries.

Coalition Groups

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition:

On March 20, 2013, representatives of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition met with Regional Water Board staff to discuss the draft outline for the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report.

On April 1, 2013, Regional Water Board staff received the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Annual Management Plan Update Report (MPUR). Staff is reviewing the MPUR and preparing comments.

On April 5, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of grower coalitions and commodity groups to discuss the draft templates for Farm Evaluation, Nitrogen Management Plan and Summary Report, and Sediment and Erosion Control Plan.

On April 11, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted the outline for the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) templates for Farm Evaluation, Nitrogen Management Plan and Summary Report, and Sediment and Erosion Control Plan as required by the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed. The templates and the GAR outline are under Regional Water Board staff review.

On April 23-25, 2013, Regional Water Board staff attended the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) New Member Signup Meetings. New member Signup Meetings were hosted by the Madera, Merced and Stanislaus county farm bureaus and the Coalition. Regional Water Board staff presented information and answered questions about the Central Valley Water, regulatory background, and the requirements and options for coverage under the long- term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):

On March 20, 2013, representatives of the SVWQC met with Regional Water Board staff for a quarterly Management Plan meeting. The discussion focused on Coalition progress on Management Plans in Yolo, Solano and Sutter Counties.

On April 2, 2013, the Coalition submitted a request to the Executive Officer to approve the completion of the Management Plan for Malathion on Ulatis Creek. This request is under review by Regional Water Board staff.

On April 15, 2013, the Coalition submitted a Management Plan Progress Report for the 2012 water season. This report is under review by water board staff.

On April 8, 2013, the Coalition submitted a final revision of a table for the *Hyalella azteca* toxicity performance goals document for Z-Drain in Solano County. On April 26, 2013, the Coalition submitted an addendum to their performance goals documentation for Diazinon on Gilsizer Slough. Both documents are being reviewed by Regional Water Board staff. The Executive Officer determined that the Management Plan for Selenium in Willow Slough has been completed as of March 26, 2013. On April 8, 2013 the Executive Officer sent a letter to the Coalition stating that the Management Plan for *Selenastrum* toxicity on Butte Slough was complete.

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition:

On April 1, 2013, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted their 2013 Annual Monitoring Report. The AMR is under Regional Water Board staff review and will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board website.

On April 15, 2013, in response to the March 15, 2013 management plan approval letter, staff prepared a response to the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition's request to consider the remaining management plans as complete. This is currently being reviewed by management.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJWQC):

On April 9, 2013, Regional Water Board staff responded to a complaint regarding potential impacts to a water supply well from discharges from irrigated lands. Regional Water Board staff sampled the well for a general suite of constituents including nitrate and pesticides. Analytical results are pending.

On April 15, 2013, Regional Water Board staff issued a Notice of Violation to the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition for failure to comply with electronic data submittal formatting and quality control requirements. The Notice of Violation instructed the Coalition to correct and re-submit monitoring data collected between July and December 2012 and ensure all future monitoring data is submitted according to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program required data submission format.

Westside Coalition:

On March 21, 2013, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition provided a focus plan implementation schedule through 2016, as part of the required updates to their Management Plan. Regional Water Board staff provided comments for the Coalition to append their Management Plan general approach.

On April 2, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in a portion of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition steering committee meeting.

On April 18, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed tour hosted by the coordinator of the Middle San Joaquin Watershed East and West Stanislaus RCDs. The tour goals included providing examples of agriculture and the types of conservation practices.

Data Management

Data from 2009 through 2011 for all Coalitions are available to the public on CEDEN. The most recent transfer occurred February 15, 2013 and added data through late 2012 for some coalitions. New data will continue to be transferred to CEDEN on a quarterly basis.

Data reports received in acceptable condition through March 1, 2013 have been processed and loaded into the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). This data is planned to be transferred to CEDEN in June 2013.

Data collected prior to 2009 will continue to be available on the ILRP surface water quality data webpage until those sets have been processed and transferred to CEDEN as resources permit. Regional Water Board staff is currently processing the Westside Coalition data collected between 2004 and 2008. Once complete, this set will complement the existing data on CEDEN providing all the data submitted by the Westside Coalition since program inception.

Prop 84 Grant Funding

Thirty projects have been completed to date. Funding was re-allocated, freeing up

additional funds for another round of applications. This last round of funding is concentrated in subwatersheds where previous projects were awarded.

A Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) has been submitted and accepted for the sampling to be performed for the soil erosion model. Field measurements are included to validate the model accuracy. The model is scheduled to be completed in December 2013.

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