

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2015

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD:

On March 2, 2015, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) staff participated in the quarterly meeting hosted by the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment (CRAE).

Issues discussed included:

- Review and discuss CRAE 2.0
- Identify and begin discussion of 2015 topic(s)
 - Determine a topic for the first module, which will be addressed in upcoming CRAE meetings. The module will focus on evaluating California's management of water and identifying where CRAE might be able to influence integrated outcomes and investment in agriculture and environmental health.
- Clarify membership commitments.

On March 2, 2015, ILRP staff participated in a conference call with the Farm Food Safety Conservation Network (FFSCN) to discuss future direction and determine FFSCN membership.

On March 3, 2015, ILRP staff participated in a CalRecycle workshop on proposed revisions to CalRecycle regulations. Water Board interest in the proposed revisions includes compost, anaerobic digestion of organic material, and other solid waste issues.

On March 6, 2015, ILRP staff met with CalRecycle and a consultant regarding a project proposed in San Benito County. The consultant is pursuing funding for the San Benito County Resource Recovery Park, or "Hollister Project." This effort is focused on converting local agriculture residues and clean biomass into large quantities of certified biochar for return to sandy local soils

On March 10, 2015, ILRP staff participated in a pesticides workshop with Department of Pesticide Regulation staff regarding the use of the Water Boards' monitoring council portal. No decisions were made, however, ongoing dialogue will determine the practicality of using the portal to track pesticides monitoring among the agencies that conduct such monitoring.

On March 11, 2015, ILRP staff met with California Department of Food and Agriculture to discuss the use of compost credits in nutrient management plan calculations.

On March 12, 2015, ILRP staff participated in the quarterly Certified Crop Advisers (CCA) Board of Directors meeting. An area of discussion was how to best use the CCA to assist growers in meeting regulatory requirements related to nitrogen mass-balancing as required by the ILRP.

On March 20, 2015, ILRP staff participated in a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Biosolids conference call. The purpose of the conference call was to coordinate a multi-state discussion on the federal biosolids regulations and how states are complying with the regulations.

On March 26, 2015, ILRP staff met with CDFA to discuss a strategy on how our agencies are executing the current MOU. Ongoing discussion will provide more detail on how we can better collaborate to implement the MOU

REGIONAL WATER BOARD:

This month's ILRP report provides an update on the activities of the North Coast, San Francisco, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Lahontan, Colorado River Basin, Santa Ana, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board ILRPs through March 2015.

Future monthly reports will alternately present status of the Central Valley Regional Water Board ILRP one month, and the other Regional Water Board ILRPs the alternate month.

Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/

For additional information on the statewide ILRP, please contact State Water Resources Control Board staff:

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ILRP contact information for each Regional Water Board is found at the end of each report below.

NORTH COAST REGION AGRICULTURAL LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM March 2015

Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Agricultural Lands

Update on Permit Development:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff continue to develop the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program, focusing on a series of targeted permits specific to agricultural commodities or geographic areas. In the near term, Regional Water Board staff are developing permits for discharges from vineyards and orchards, agriculture in the Tule Lake watershed, and lily bulb cultivation. An update on these efforts follows:

- **Agricultural Lands Discharges in the Tule Lake Basin**

Regional Water Board staff continue to write a working draft permit to share with the Advisory Group in May of 2015. Regional Water Board staff will then incorporate input from stakeholders and develop documents to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The draft permit and CEQA documentation will be distributed for public review and comment in the fall of 2015. The Regional Water Board hearing to consider adopting the permit is planned for early 2016. Regional Water Board staff provided an information update to the Regional Water Board at their January 2015 meeting that focused on understanding the irrigation system in the Tule Lake Basin and the water quality issues framed in the context of the larger Klamath River Basin.

- **Lily Bulb Cultivation**

Regional Water Board staff continue to sample tributaries in the Smith River plain to screen for the presence of agricultural pollutants and toxicity. Staff recently completed two wet weather sampling rounds and hope to conduct a final round of wet weather sampling by June 2015. Staff also plan to conduct water quality testing on groundwater, starting in 2015. Staff intend to bring the Lily Bulb cultivation discharge permit for Board

consideration in 2017, after adoption of the Tule Lake agricultural lands discharge permit.

- **Vineyards & Orchards**

Regional Water Board staff are coordinating with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 2) on their development of a discharge permit for vineyards in the Sonoma Creek and Napa River watersheds, with the intent of being as consistent as possible between the regions. Regional Water Board staff from Regions 1 and 2 plan to meet in April 2015 to continue coordination as Region 2 nears completion of their vineyard permit. Regional Water Board staff are also working with third party certification programs to incorporate water quality requirements that are consistent with likely future permit requirements. Regional Water Board staff plan to meet with representatives of the Code of Sustainable Wine Growing in April 2015 to tour vineyards and look at certifiable management practices. Region 1 staff will begin drafting a permit for discharges from vineyards and orchards after the adoption of the other two Agricultural Lands Discharge Program permits.

Regional Water Board staff continue to implement the TMDL Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Scott and Shasta River watersheds. In addition, Regional Water Board staff are currently drafting permits for discharges from cannabis cultivation.

For additional information on the North Coast Regional Water Board's Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Agricultural Lands, please see: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/agricultural_land/

For additional details or information on the items listed above, please contact Ben Zabinsky at (707) 576-6750 or Ben.Zabinsky@waterboards.ca.gov

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM
March 2015**

Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Agricultural Lands

Tentative Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Dairies

On March 18, Regional Board staff publicly noticed a Tentative Waiver that would renew a 2003 Conditional Waiver that expired in 2008. The Tentative Waiver expands upon the 2003 Waiver and incorporates Basin Plan Total Maximum Daily Loads Implementation Plans. Significant revisions include requirements for a) management of grazing lands to protect water quality for dairies that maintain pasture-based grazing; b) management of manure and liquid waste applications to land through the preparation and implementation of site-specific nutrient management plans; c) sampling and analysis of groundwater wells and near-facility surface waters, and d) management of waste water generated from on-site food processing (such as cheese).

On March 13, 2015, Region 1 and Region 2 staff attended a meeting organized by the State Water Board's Fee Unit to solicit input from local dairy owners and operators on proposed fee changes for 2015-2016. Dairies enrolled under our 2003 Conditional Waivers do not pay an annual fee. Dairy owners, operators, and other stakeholders, including the Western Dairymen's

Association, expressed concerns about raising fees for pasture-based dairies, particularly their inability to absorb added costs given the drought and price structure of milk. Stakeholders requested that the State Water Board consider the significant differences between local, pasture-based dairies and the larger, Central Valley operations where added fees and costs can be offset by adding more animals.

State Water Board Members Tam Doduc and Steve Moore attended the meeting and provided background on fees and asked the stakeholders to think creatively about ways to lessen their regulatory burden, including working with the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP), a voluntary partnership between dairy producers, government agencies, and academia that promotes healthy dairy animals and a healthy environment.

Vineyard WDRs Program Development

Regional Water Board staff worked closely with State Water Board staff to translate Region 3's agricultural program's pilot electronic notice of intent (eNOI) to use as an enrollment tool for Region 2's Vineyard Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) program (under development). Following evaluation of quality assurance and quality control of the various fields, State Water Board and Region 2 will beta test the eNOI form.

State Water Board staff worked with Region 1 staff on the expected elements and requirements of the Region 2 Vineyard Program with a focus on the roles, expectations, and approval process for third-party technical assistance groups. Region 2 is working with up to four third-party technical assistance groups who are developing tools and templates to assist growers with compliance with the anticipated requirements of the Vineyard WDRs. Our expectation is that third-parties will provide services ranging from site assessment, farm planning, best management practice selection, annual reporting, best management practice effectiveness monitoring, and possibly, fee collection.

Staff continue to prepare an environmental impact report that evaluates potential environmental impacts from implementing the Vineyard WDRs and have begun work on the draft general WDRs.

Grazing Waiver Program

Staff has worked to develop an inspection strategy to assess enrollee compliance with conditional waivers of WDRs for rangeland grazing operations in the Tomales Bay, Sonoma Creek, and Napa River watersheds. Staff expect to implement the inspection strategy beginning in April.

For additional details or information on the items listed above please click on the following link

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/agriculture/index.shtml) or contact Jim Ponton at (510) 622-2492 or jponton@waterboards.ca.gov.

**CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM
March 2015**

ILRP Activities at a Glance

- Regional Water Board staff is assessing Annual Compliance Form data received for the October 1, 2014 update. We will share our assessment with the Board and public at our May 28, 2015 board meeting. One of the key areas we are focusing on is the management practice section, where growers can check which water quality management practices they are implementing. Staff consider this a key component of reporting since it memorializes the “iterative approach” toward progress in meeting water quality objectives. The section of the Annual Compliance Form housing the management practice information has been available to growers since October 2013. Growers must review and update every October. Therefore, staff have one full year (October 2013 and 2014) of data to assess and use as a baseline for following years.
- Regional Water Board staff sent Notice of Violations (NOVs) to growers who failed to complete the Nitrate Loading Risk to Groundwater Determination (part of the Annual Compliance Form) and/or failed to submit the entire Annual Compliance Form. The Nitrate Loading Risk to Groundwater Determination is used to determine whether a grower is required to submit total nitrogen applied information and irrigation/nutrient management plan implementation information. About 120 growers and 120 landowners received the NOV.
- At the January 2015 Central Coast Water Board meeting, Chris Rose presented an informational item to the board recommending that staff not begin the process of renewing the Agricultural Order until pending petitions against Agricultural Orders in R5, civil suit against the Region 3 Order, and Expert Panel recommendations have been resolved. The Central Coast Water Board agreed with the recommendation. Staff will provide an update to the Board in the fall of 2015. The current Agricultural Order in Region 3 is a waiver and will be five years old in March 2017.

Items for Discretionary Review by the Regional Board

- The Agricultural Order identifies discretionary actions by the Executive Officer that are subject to review by the Regional Board. The discretionary review process was established as part of the State Water Board order that responded to the petition on or agricultural order. Staff updates the list quarterly and posts it at the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) section of our website. The items for discretionary review are located at the following link to our website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/agg_waivers/docs/items_disc_rvw/discretionaryreview_12122014.pdf

Discretionary Review items include the following:

- Provision 11 - Approval or denial of a third-party project or program.
 - No new project or program to report this period.

- Part 2 of the MRP – Approval or denial of a cooperative groundwater monitoring programs.
 - The Executive Officer issued a letter to the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) on February 20, 2015 notifying CRLA that the Central Coast Water Board completed its review of CRLA’s request for discretionary review of the manner in which Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) groundwater testing results are disclosed to the public. The Central Coast Water Board discussed this issue at the January 30, 2015 Board meeting in Santa Barbara, California (Item 16). See additional information below regarding CCGC. The agenda, staff report, and minutes for this item are available at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2015/january/item16/index.shtml
- Provision 18 – Approval of a farm to transfer to a lower tier, or requirement of a farm to transfer to a higher tier.
 - Staff updates the list quarterly and provides the public access through our website (link provided at the beginning of this section).

ILRP Groundwater Activities at a Glance

- As of January 20, 2015, approximately 2883 groundwater wells have been sampled in compliance with the Agricultural Order and associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRPs).
- Approximately 24 percent of the groundwater wells sampled region-wide exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate (as NO₃).
- All ILRP groundwater data is managed in the Water Board’s GeoTracker data management system. All ILRP groundwater data is displayed to the public in GeoTracker GAMA, with the exception of approximately 349 groundwater wells sampled by the CCGC. CCGC data is not yet displayed to the public in GeoTracker GAMA. The public can get a copy of CCGC data by submitting a public records act request to the Central Coast Water Board.

Drinking Water Notifications

- Based on results of individual groundwater monitoring, staff continues to issue “Drinking Water Notification” letters to those growers and landowners whose domestic water supply wells exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate or nitrogen.
- As of January 20, 2015, the Water Board has issued approximately 131 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard – some farms/ranches have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances.
- The CCGC issues drinking water notification letters for growers and landowners who are CCGC members, implementing cooperative groundwater monitoring and reporting. As of January 20, 2015, CCGC has issued approximately 106 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells

which exceed the drinking water standard – some farms/ranches have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances.

Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring - Central Coast Groundwater Coalition

- Staff continues to coordinate closely with the CCGC to implement cooperative groundwater monitoring program requirements. Staff met with CCGC staff on February 10, 2015 to follow-up on the January 30, 2015 Board Item 16 regarding CCGC groundwater nitrate contour maps.
- On February 20, 2015, the Executive Officer issued a letter to CCGC indicating that the CCGC contour maps for the Salinas Valley do not meet the conditions of the Executive Officer's Workplan Approval letter and are not sufficient for providing reliable information to the public, in lieu of the actual groundwater data. In addition, due to the significant impacts to groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water, the Executive Officer stated that the Central Coast Water Board must prioritize safe drinking water and maximize the public's access to information and data regarding nitrate impacts to groundwater. As a result, the Executive Officer's letter further states that the Central Coast Water Board will display CCGC data for the public as individual wells on GeoTracker GAMA on March 15, 2016. Recognizing the CCGC members' desire for anonymity, staff agreed to identify the individual CCGC wells on GeoTracker GAMA with the CCGC well identification number provided by CCGC, rather than displaying individual farm information. In addition, consistent with the Agricultural Order, well location and data will only be displayed on GeoTracker GAMA within a one-half mile radius of the actual well location. Staff continues to work with CCGC to finalize the contour maps for the purposes of making them available to the public as a supplement to the actual data displayed on GeoTracker GAMA.

For additional information on the Central Coast Region's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, please contact Chris Rose at (805) 542- 4770 or chris.rose@waterboards.ca.gov

Or click on the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/aq_waivers/index.shtml

LOS ANGELES REGION CONDITIONAL WAIVER FOR IRRIGATED LANDS March 2015

Compliance with the Renewed Conditional Waiver

On October 7, 2010, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board renewed a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dischargers from Irrigated Lands (Order No. R4-2010-0186). The Conditional Waiver requires agricultural operators to enroll irrigated agriculture property under the waiver in order to continue discharging waste to waters of the state. Agricultural operators may enroll as an individual discharger or as a member of a discharger group.

The Nursery Growers Association Los Angeles County Irrigated Lands Group (NGA-ILG) and the Ventura County Agriculture Irrigated Lands Group (VCAILG) are the two discharger groups in the Los Angeles Region that have formed to comply with the Conditional Waiver. Regional Board staff met with VCAILG and NGA-ILG in March and is working on potential changes to the Waiver, which will be proposed for renewal later this year.

Enrollment and Outreach

On March 18, 2015 Regional Water Board staff sent out notices to six growers in Ventura County to re-enroll in the Conditional Waiver.

The Regional Board staff continues focusing efforts on outreach to increase enrollment. Staff has increased field visits the past four months to determine the status of irrigated agricultural parcels which are not enrolled in the program and which have previously received a "Notice of Violation". Regional Board staff has been working on enforcement actions to require dischargers to comply with the Order.

Interagency Coordination

The Regional Board staff continues working with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to enroll more tenants in the Conditional Waiver.

On March 23, 2015 Regional Board staff met with representative from VCAILG, NGA-ILG, Environmental consultants, Ventura County Farm Bureau and stakeholders to discuss proposed changes in the upcoming waiver renewal and new ways to increase enrollment in the Conditional Waiver. After the meeting, Regional Board staff visited three agricultural sites where Best Management Practices (BMPs) were implemented.

Annual Monitoring Reports

Regional Water Board staff is reviewing the preliminary 2015 water quality data submitted by VCAILG and will begin compiling annual monitoring report data to assess trends in water quality as part of the Conditional Waiver renewal process.

Irrigated Lands Program Region 4 GIS Database

Regional Water Board staff is updating the Irrigated Lands Program geodatabase. Regional Board staff are also working on updating data for enrollment and best management practice implementation. The new data from the annual monitoring reports, including enrollment information, have been added to the R4 GIS geodatabase.

Grant Management

Regional Water Board staff continues to manage a Clean Water Act section 319(h) grant which was executed for the purpose of identifying the contribution of and reducing metal loadings from nurseries and other irrigated agricultural lands in the San Gabriel River Watershed (Grant Agreement No. 11-098-554). The grantee is the Council for Watershed Health (CWH). CWH is currently conducting outreach and education to ensure that BMPs were installed and is required to submit a final report in April 2015.

For additional information on the Los Angeles Region Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands, please contact Jenny Newman at (213) 576-6691 jnewman@waterboards.ca.gov

LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM REPORT March 2015

During the February/March reporting period the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) staff focused on administrative tasks supporting the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

- Water Board Staff reviewed the irrigation practices report for Bagley Valley, located in Alpine County.

Water Board staff allocated time to contaminated groundwater issues associated with irrigated agricultural areas and irrigated land areas associated with dairies.

- Water Board staff are investigating nitrate impacts on local groundwater from dairy and irrigated land practices in the Hinkley community. In January and February, Water Board staff sampled nine additional residential wells in Hinkley. The results of the analyses were provided to the residents.
- Water Board staff will visit the Hinkley area to offer additional residential well sampling.
- Water Board staff is reviewing a draft Cleanup and Abatement Order for the Harmsen Dairy requiring it to apply wash water and manure at agronomic application rates to irrigated land areas and to stop discharging wash water to unlined ponds.
- A draft Cleanup and Abatement Order for the B & E Dairy is in the final stage of public review. The CAO would require the dairy to sample affected down gradient areas and to provide bottled water to residents whose water contains nitrate and TDS concentrations over MCL and SMCL limits due to past application of manure and wash water on irrigated land areas in excess of agronomic rates.
- Water Board staff is drafting a Cleanup and Abatement Order to require the Dutch Dairy to sample residential down gradient wells and provide bottled water to residents whose water contains nitrate and TDS over the MCL and SMCL limits due to past application of manure and wash water on irrigated land areas in excess of agronomic rates.
- A meeting is scheduled with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Mojave Water Agency, Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority and community representatives from Newberry Springs to discuss groundwater nutrient impacts related to irrigated land areas. Groundwater over draft in the Newberry Springs area is exacerbated by irrigated farming operations (alfalfa and other crops).

For additional details or information on the items listed above, please contact Eric Taxer at (530) 542-5434 or etaxer@waterboards.ca.gov

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN ILRP MONTHLY REPORT
CONDITIONAL WAIVER FOR AGRICULTURAL DISCHARGES
MARCH 2015**

Colorado River Basin Water Board staff continue to implement four Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) in 2015. The majority of agricultural areas (99.7%) in the region are now regulated by Conditional Waivers.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural wastewater discharges within the Palo Verde Valley in Riverside and Imperial Counties (Board Order R7-2012-0047) on September 20, 2012. This Conditional Waiver affects over 130,000

acres in eastern Riverside County and northeastern Imperial County. The responsible parties include individual farmers and the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID). Implementation has begun with PVID forming the Palo Verde Outfall Coalition (PVOC) group that represents landowners and farmers regulated by the Conditional Waiver. According to the PVOC group, membership is at over 99 percent. The PVOC group's water quality monitoring program began in November 2013, and it submitted its first Annual Monitoring Report dated March 7, 2014 to the Colorado River Basin Water Board, stating that the water quality objectives of the Basin Plan are being met. The PVOC continues to submit quarterly water quality reports. The PVOC group will continue with the Group Compliance Program and plans to submit its second Annual Monitoring Report in March 2015.

On February 25, 2015 Colorado River Basin Water Board staff met with PVOC staff to discuss implementation of the Conditional Waiver. Jose Angel suggested that Water Board staff and PVOC staff meet quarterly to discuss the challenges that the district is experiencing in implementing PVOC, and what issues the coalition staff are hearing from members (i.e., to discuss what works and what is not working as envisioned). The first meeting is planned for April. The PVOC staff and Regional Water Board staff also plan to invite the Public (coalition members) to attend an annual forum to express concerns with/or suggestions about the Conditional Waiver and the Coalition Program. This will be in June, although no specific date was decided.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural wastewater discharges originating within the Bard Unit of Reservation Division (Board Order R7-2013-0002) on January 17, 2013. This Conditional Waiver affects approximately 6,688 acres of farmland along the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The responsible parties include individual farmers, and the Bard Water District (BWD). Implementation has begun; BWD has formed the Bard Unit Coalition Group (BUCG), a nonprofit organization that will represent landowners and farmers regulated by the Conditional Waiver. According to the BUCG group, membership is at over 99 percent. Regional Water Board staff finalized the Compliance Program and Monitoring and Report Program Plan in November 2014. The BUCG sent notice that it began implementing its Compliance Program in December 2014. The BUCG is currently accepting membership into its Compliance Program. On January 20, 2015 a Draft Quality Assurance Program Plan was submitted to Colorado River Basin Water Board staff. Staff have reviewed the draft document, and sent comments to BUCG and its consultant on March 3, 2015. Once the QAPP is approved by the Executive Officer of the Colorado River Basin Water Board, the next step will be for the BUCG to begin monitoring.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural dischargers in the Coachella Valley (Order No. R7-2014-0046) on June 26, 2014. This Conditional Waiver affects about 60,000 acres of farmland in central Riverside County. The responsible parties include individual farmers, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC) group. The CVILC group, a nonprofit organization, submitted a Notice of Intent to the Regional Water Board in September 2014, stating that it will develop and implement a Coalition Group Compliance Program for eligible members to obtain coverage under the Conditional Waiver. The CVILC group will be responsible for fee collection from agricultural landowners and the monitoring program. On October 31, 2014, CVWD, the local water purveyor, submitted a list of its current customers who receive water for irrigated land in the Coachella Valley; and the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) of the irrigated land. A Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan was adopted with the Conditional Waiver in June 2014.

On February 26, 2015 CVILC submitted its Coalition Group Compliance Program Plan (CPP) for Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer approval. Colorado River Basin Water Board staff are reviewing the CPP. Once the CPP is approved by the Executive Officer, the next step will be for the CVILC group to start the Group Compliance Program, prepare a Quality Assurance Program Plan, and begin monitoring.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural dischargers in the Imperial Valley (Order No. R7-2015-0008) on January 15, 2015. This Conditional Waiver affects over 450,000 acres of irrigated lands in the Imperial Valley near the International Boundary with Mexico. The interested parties include individual farmers, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB). The ICFB currently manages a Voluntary TMDL Compliance Program and plan to transition this into a Coalition Group Compliance Program. The IID and ICFB have agreed to form a Coalition Group Compliance Program.

On February 15, 2015 IID submitted a list of its current customers who receive water for irrigated land in the Imperial Valley; and the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) of the irrigated land.

On March 16, 2015 the IID Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of its staff's recommendation to co-chair with the Imperial County Farm Bureau the proposed IID-ICFB Coalition Group to implement the Conditional Waiver. Further, the IID Directors also directed its staff to act as the collector of the Conditional Waiver fees required to be paid to the State Water Resources Control Board. This should ease implementation of the Waiver. The unanimous vote reflects the outreach and education efforts of the IID staff, ICFB, and Colorado River Basin Water Board staff.

On March 16, 2015, IID provided Colorado River Basin Water Board its proposed Selenium Study work plan for review and approval. Colorado River Basin Water Board staff are reviewing the work plan.

The next steps are for IID-ICFB to send a Notice of Intent to the Colorado River Basin Water Board, prepare a Group Compliance Program Plan, and a Quality Assurance Program Plan.

For additional information on the Colorado River Basin Water Board Conditional Waivers for agricultural discharges, please contact Logan Raub at 760-776-8966, or at logan.raub@waterboards.ca.gov.

**SANTA ANA REGION
CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL
DISCHARGES (CWAD PROGRAM)
March 2015**

Latest drafts of CWAD documents have been revised to call for mitigation and offset measures for TDS and Nitrogen impacts to groundwater, and to address concerns regarding land application of mulch or untreated green waste on dry, non-irrigated farmland as "soil amendment." The Draft Staff Report and Order have been revised to include recommendations from the CWAD Advisory Group and have been posted on the program webpage for public

review. A draft of the CEQA Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration for the CWAD is currently being developed and will be available for the 30 day comment period.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/planning/ag_waiver.shtml

Santa Ana Water Board staff are continuing to work towards adoption and initial implementation of a conditional waiver of WDR for the agricultural operations in the San Jacinto River Watershed of the Region. Initial implementation will be characterized by enrolling at least 50 percent (40-50 operations) of known agricultural operations who meet enrollment criteria in the conditional waiver. Regional Board staff anticipate a Board hearing by June 19, 2015. The objective for FY 2015-2016 is to adopt and begin implementing the conditional waiver by focusing on agricultural operations in the Upper San Jacinto River watershed.

The desired outcome of the conditional waiver is to measurably reduce NPS pollution, principally Nitrogen and TDS loadings to surface and ground waters from agricultural operations in San Jacinto River Watershed.

Based on an estimate of 100 potentially eligible enrollees, the program will seek to attain at least 20 percent enrollment by September 2015.

The CWAD Program advisory group of stakeholders and agricultural operators meets on a regular basis to coordinate the development of waiver requirements and group monitoring program for the San Jacinto River Watershed CWAD.

For more information, please contact:

[Imtiaz-Ali Kalyan](mailto:Imtiaz-Ali.Kalyan@waterboards.ca.gov) (951) 782-3219

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**SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM REPORT
March 2015**

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) is developing general waste discharge requirements (WDRs), referred to as the 'Ag Order,' and the associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for consideration for adoption by the San Diego Water Board in late 2015.

San Diego Water Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) Team: A multi-branch team has been assembled to benefit from the collective knowledge, skills, and experience needed to draft the Ag Order. Weekly meetings are conducted to discuss the various issues and to ensure that the schedule for Ag Order development is met.

Status of Ag Order Development: The San Diego Water Board will release an administrative draft of the Ag Order in summer 2015.

Stakeholder/Public Outreach: Stakeholder meetings were conducted in January and February 2014. Another series of stakeholder meetings is scheduled for the summer of 2015.

For additional information on the San Diego Water Board's ILRP, please contact Mr. Dat Quach at (619) 521-5899 (dquach@waterboards.ca.gov).