

**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE  
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD  
July 2013**

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) 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 July 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.

**General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Development**

**Individual Growers WDRs:**

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 tentative WDRs for individual growers will be considered by the board at the July 25-26, 2013 meeting.

**Sacramento River Watershed WDRs:**

On June 10, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) to continue discussion of development of the Sacramento River Watershed WDRs. The primary focus was on the revised WDR.

**Sacramento Valley Rice WDRs:**

On June 3, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the California Rice Commission (CRC) for a technical discussion on the CRC's revised Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR). Major items discussed were the additional data and information requested by staff that were included in the revised GAR.

On June 28, 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 May 22, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives from the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (SJCDWQC) to discuss the WDRs and monitoring and reporting program (MRP).

On June 17, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives from the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (SJCDWQC) and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) to discuss the boundary at Tyler Island/Staten Island and in the Dry Creek watershed. The current boundary follows

county lines which makes administration of the program efficient for the coalitions. It was agreed that the boundary will not change. To ensure adequate coverage of the Dry Creek watershed, the third parties will take joint responsibility for monitoring and implementation activities.

#### **Western San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs:**

On May 21, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition to discuss draft WDR and MRP Order for the growers within the Western San Joaquin River Watershed.

On June 14, 2013, Regional Water Board staff released an administrative draft WDR and MRP for growers that are members of the third-party group within the Western San Joaquin River Watershed. Interested-person comments are due by July 15, 2013, and a board workshop will be held on July 30, 2013 in Los Banos.

#### **Westlands WDRs:**

On June 14, 2013, staff released the administrative draft of the WDR and MRP for growers that are members of a third-party group within the Western Tulare Lake Basin Area. Interested- person comments are due by July 15, 2013, and a board workshop will be held on July 20, 2013 in Los Banos.

### **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-WM-GDS). On May 21, 2013, the Court issued a final ruling, and on June 15, 2013 it issued a peremptory writ of mandate directing the Central Valley Water Board to take all necessary actions to bring the ILRP into compliance with the State Water Board's Nonpoint Source Policy and Resolution 68-16 (Antidegradation Policy). The Court has directed that these actions be completed no later than January 14, 2015.

Three separate petitions were filed with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the 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 on the Water Boards website.

### **Compliance and Outreach**

#### **East San Joaquin Agricultural Parcel Inspections:**

In May and June 2013, Regional Water Board staff continued 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 5 and 4 days in May and June 2013 respectively, with a total of 279 parcels inspected. Data gathered during these inspections will be used to focus and prioritize the issuance of 13260 directives to commercial irrigated lands that are not covered by the East San Joaquin Coalition.

**Water Code section 13260 Directives:**

In June 2013, Regional Water Board staff mailed 99 13260 directives to landowners in the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed whose parcels are used for commercial irrigated lands (as determined by staff inspections). The directives require the recipients to submit proof of coalition membership or a Report of Waste Discharge.

**Complaint Investigation:**

On June 13, 2013, Regional Water Board staff responded to a complaint of a sediment plume in the San Joaquin River near the community of Crows Landing. Regional Water Board staff found the source of the plume was a bean field discharging sediment-laden irrigation water to an irrigation ditch that outfalls to the San Joaquin River. Regional Water Board staff collected a discharge flow estimate and water samples. Upon returning to the office, Regional Water Board staff contacted the responsible grower and made him aware of the sediment discharge. The investigation is currently ongoing.

**Coalition Groups**

**East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition:**

On April 11, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted the outline for the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) as required by the WDR General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed. Regional Water Board staff reviewed the GAR outline and provided comments to the Coalition on May 6, 2013. The Coalition will provide periodic updates on the progress of the GAR development; the GAR is due on January 13, 2014.

On April 11, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted templates for Farm Evaluation, Nitrogen Management Plan and Summary Report, and Sediment and Erosion Control Plan as required by the WDR. Regional Water Board staff provided comments to the Coalition on June 14, 2013. Regional Water Board staff will meet with the agricultural representatives who participated in the development of the draft templates on July 8, 2013 to discuss further steps for template development. The Coalition will address Regional Water Board staff comments before the templates are made available for public comment. After public comments are received and considered, the Executive Officer will either approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the templates.

On May 1, 2013, Regional Water Board staff received the 2013 Annual Monitoring Report for the San Joaquin Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL Compliance Monitoring

prepared jointly by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. Regional Water Board staff is reviewing the report and preparing comments.

On May 30, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition requested an extension for the management plan schedule. The Coalition request for additional time was due to an intensive effort associated with outreach meetings, new member enrollment, and responding to an increased number of inquiries from new and existing members regarding the WDR. The Executive Officer approved the requested extension on June 5, 2013. The granted extension will not affect the subsequent Management Plan milestones.

On June 4, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition requested to remove Silva Drain at Meadow Drive from its monitoring program. The request indicates that Silva Drain has been filled and no longer exists, and that samples believed to be collected from Silva Drain were from a ditch that does not leave the owner's property. The request and the submitted evidence are under staff review.

On June 11, 2013, Regional Water Board staff held the 19th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals and status of other activities in progress. The Coalition provided an update on the monitoring results and outreach in the subwatersheds that have active management plans.

**Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):**

On May 3, 2013, the Coalition submitted a Performance Goals document outlining planned activities to address a Management Plan for malathion in the Colusa Basin Drain. The Coalition also submitted a Source Evaluation Report for lead in the Pit River on May 22, 2013. These deliverables are currently under review by Regional Water Board staff.

On May 8, 2013, Regional Water Board staff attended the Shasta-Tehama Coalition annual meeting in Red Bluff, CA. Discussion focused on upcoming monitoring requirements, the Sacramento River Watershed WDR, and increases in fees.

On May 22, 2013, the Coalition sent a request to the Executive Officer to determine that the Management Plans for organochlorine pesticides and breakdown products (DDT and DDE) are complete. These requests are under staff review.

On June 19, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with SVQWC representatives for a quarterly Management Plan meeting. Regional Water Board staff requested some additional information to complete the review of the Coalition's Annual Monitoring Report, as well as other Coalition deliverables currently under review. Also discussed were the status of monitoring sites in Placer County and significance of recent toxicity exceedances in Sacramento County.

**San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition:**

On June 1, 2013, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition submitted their quarterly monitoring data to staff, as part of the ILRP requirements.

**Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJWQC):**

On June 5, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with a representative of the Buena Vista Water Storage District which represents a portion of growers within the Kern River Sub- watershed. Topics of discussion included the current status of the tentative Tulare Lake Basin Area WDRs, requirements to form a third-party under the upcoming WDRs, and the hydrology of the Buena Vista-Main Drain area.

**Westside Coalition:**

On May 7, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition steering committee meeting. The Coalition reviewed its monitoring and reporting status.

On May 15, 2013, Regional Water Board staff held the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition quarterly meeting. Topics included a summary of prior quarter activity, June SAMR status, Coalition's response to no-flow waterbodies, outreach status, and QAPP status.

On June 4, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition steering committee meeting. The Coalition reviewed its monitoring and reporting status.

On June 12, 2013, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition submitted its Semi-Annual Monitoring Report for the period September 2012 through February 2013. The SAMR is under staff review.

**California Rice Commission Coalition:**

On June 14, 2013, Regional Water Board staff comments were provided to the California Rice Commission (CRC) for the 2012 Annual Monitoring Report. By July 1, 2013, the CRC is to submit a report with the corrective actions to ensure QA/QC requirements are met.

**Grasslands Bypass Project Pilot Treatment Plant**

Construction is under way on a pilot treatment plant that will evaluate methods of removing salt and selenium from agricultural subsurface drainage. The facility is being built by the Bureau of Reclamation in the area served by the Grassland Bypass Project. This project is a key element of the selenium control program in the San Joaquin Basin and manages agricultural drainage from about 100,000 acres of agricultural land in Fresno and Merced Counties west of the city of Firebaugh. Upon completion next winter, the treatment plant will test reverse osmosis, biological

treatment and other technologies. This is part of the ongoing effort to reduce the discharge of selenium and other constituents to Mud Slough and the San Joaquin River.

### **Data Management**

Data from 2009 through 2012 for all Coalitions are available to the public on the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN.) The most recent transfer occurred June 20, 2013 and added data through early 2013 for some coalitions. New data will continue to be transferred to CEDEN on a quarterly basis.

Data reports received in acceptable condition through June 1, 2013 are currently being processed and loaded into the CEDEN comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). This data is planned to be transferred to CEDEN in September 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 and Sacramento Valley Coalition data collected between 2004 and 2008. Once complete, these sets will complement the existing data on CEDEN providing all of the data submitted by both Coalitions since program inception. The current goal is to complete the Westside Coalition data by the end of September 2013 and the Sacramento Valley Coalition Data by the end of the year.

### **Prop 84 Grant Funding**

Forty-one projects have been completed to date. Approximately half of the total construction funds for the implementation of management practices have been disbursed.

Field measurements have begun as part of a study to validate the accuracy of the soil erosion model. 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.