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**1. Service Overview**

Contractor agrees to provide to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) the services described herein.

Jones and Stokes Associates agrees to complete an Environmental Impact Report for the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region's (Regional Board) Irrigated Lands Water Quality Regulatory Program (Irrigated Lands Program).

**2. Service Location**

The services shall be performed in Northern California areas.

**3. Project Representatives**

A. The project representatives during the term of this agreement will be:

<b>State Water Resources Control Board, California Regional Water Quality Control Board</b>	<b>Jones &amp; Stokes Associates</b>
Edward Hard, Contract Manager	Mike Rushton, Project Director
Phone: (916) 464-4813	Phone: (916) 737-3000
Fax: (916) 464-4600	Fax: (916) 737-3030
e-mail: <a href="mailto:ehard@waterboards.ca.gov">ehard@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	e-mail: <a href="mailto:Mrushton@jsanet.com">Mrushton@jsanet.com</a>

B. Direct all inquiries to:

<b>State Water Resources Control Board, California Regional Water Quality Control Board</b>	<b>Jones &amp; Stokes Associates</b>
Attention: Linda Bracamonte	Attention: Russell Grimes
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	2800 V Street Sacramento, CA 95818
Phone: (916) 464-4654	Phone: (916) 737-3192
Fax: (916) 464-4600	Fax: (916) 737-3030
e-mail: <a href="mailto:bracaml@waterboards.ca.gov">bracaml@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	e-mail: <a href="mailto:radahlgren@ucdavis.edu">mailto:radahlgren@ucdavis.edu</a> <a href="mailto:mes@jsanet.com">mes@jsanet.com</a>

C. Either party may make changes to the information above by giving ten (10) days written notice to the other party. Said changes shall not require an amendment to this agreement.

4. See the following pages for a detailed description of the services to be performed.

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**5. Services to be Performed**

A. Tasks and Objectives:

**Task 1. Project Initiation**

Contractor will conduct a start-up meeting with Regional Board and all members of the project team to obtain materials, determine project elements, alternatives, mapping protocols, schedule, and next steps.

**Task 2. Prepare Administrative Draft Existing Conditions Report**

**Current Regulatory Setting:**

Contractor's team will work with Regional Board staff to compile a summary description of State and federal laws and regulations that are relevant to the development of an Irrigated Lands Program. At a minimum, this will include the following:

- 1) Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act and implementing regulations
- 2) Regional Board Basin Plans
- 3) Regional Board Interim Waiver Program
- 4) SWRCB Non Point Source (NPS) Program
- 5) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- 6) Clean Water Act
- 7) State and federal Endangered Species Acts (ESAs)
- 8) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act
- 9) California agricultural herbicide and pesticide application regulations
- 10) California Department of Health Services (DHS) drinking water standards
- 11) California Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) regulations
- 12) Other regulatory options available for irrigated lands discharges

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**Current Surface Water Conditions:**

Contractor's team will compile existing information on all relevant surface water bodies and their watersheds within the Regional Board's jurisdiction. The list of relevant water bodies will be drawn from the pertinent Basin Plans and Regional Board's files; the Regional Board project manager will approve this list before data collection proceeds.

**Scale/Environmental Setting:**

There will be three major hydrologic units, with a total of twenty-four distinct hydrologic subunits per California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) hydrologic basin classification systems. The Sacramento Valley Basin will comprise the first main hydrologic unit, the San Joaquin Valley Basin will comprise the second main hydrologic unit, and the Tulare Lake Basin will comprise the third and final main hydrologic unit.

*Sacramento Valley Basin:*

The Sacramento Valley main hydrologic unit will be divided into eleven hydrologic subunits identified by major watershed and water supply infrastructure providers.

- 1) **Pit River** Watershed /Hydrologic Unit;
- 2) **McCloud River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 3) **Upper Sacramento River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit above Red Bluff;
- 4) **Lower Sacramento River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit below Red Bluff; including Deer Creek; Cottonwood Creek; and Thomes Creek; Stony Creek; Putah Creek; and Cache Creek;
- 5) **Feather River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 6) **Yuba River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 7) **Bear River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 8) **American River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 9) **Cosumnes River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit; including Dry Creek
- 10) **Mokelumne River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit
- 11) **Westside of Sacramento Valley**, primarily comprising the service area of Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District;

*San Joaquin Valley Basin*

The San Joaquin Valley main hydrologic unit will be divided into seven hydrologic subunits identified by watershed and water supply infrastructure providers.

- 1) **San Joaquin River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 2) **Fresno River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 3) **Chowchilla River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 4) **Merced River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 5) **Tuolumne River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;
- 6) **Stanislaus River** Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;

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7) **Calaveras River Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;**

*Tulare Lake Basin*

The Tulare Lake Basin will be divided into six hydrologic subunits identified by watershed namely the Kings, Kaweah, Tule, and Kern Rivers.

- 1) **Kings River Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;**
- 2) **Kaweah River Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;** including the St. Johns river and Elk Bayou;
- 3) **Tule River Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;** including Deer Creek and White River;
- 4) **Tulare Lake Bed** (primarily Kings County);
- 5) **Kern River Watershed/Hydrologic Unit;** including upper Kern to east, and Antelope Plain to West, also including the drainage associated with the Grapevine hydrologic unit: Tehachapi Creek, Tejon Creek;
- 6) **Westside San Joaquin Valley in Kings & Fresno Counties,** primarily comprising the service area of Westlands Water District.

To initiate this task, Contractor will perform a comprehensive survey of readily available and relevant digital coverage for the entire Central Valley in a Geographic Information System (GIS) format. Contractor will assume that all information collected in this task will be compatible, to the extent feasible, with use in existing State databases and GIS systems such as SWAMP, GeoWBS and Geotracker. Contractor will evaluate potential GIS datasets, select appropriate datasets, and select appropriate hydrologic units. Selection of datasets will be based on the extent of the dataset, the date of the data collection, scale of the data sets and the condition of the data. Contractor will work with Regional Board to select the appropriate level of California Watershed Unit to use in the analysis. Contractor will be looking for datasets that include, but not be limited to topography, land use cover, water bodies, watershed boundaries, political boundaries, and major roadways. Contractor is aware of the datasets developed by Ducks Unlimited for agricultural coalition groups (CGs) and will consider this as a first source of information. In addition to focusing on land within the watersheds, Contractor will seek data such as SWRCB's GeoWBS GIS system, which identifies impaired water bodies. This information can be used to help focus future analysis on certain areas as priority for water quality. The GIS data collected in this phase of the project will be delivered as hardcopy maps for the report, an ArcReader system for interactive maps, and as GIS files for Regional Board GIS staff.

Contractor will subsequently perform a comprehensive survey of all existing information related to water quality observations within each of the watersheds. Contractor will compile a list of all available documentation. Contractor will also compile the information and organize it in a meaningful system, which will be determined during ongoing scoping sessions with the Regional Board. Contractor's experience in this area suggests that the majority of the documentation is available electronically and the Regional Board may elect to provide access to the information via an interface with a GIS. At this time, however, Contractor will limit this initial scope to performing a search for the data, compiling the data, and cataloguing the results.

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To accomplish the water quality data collection effort, Contractor will work closely with staff from the Regional Board to determine the extent of the database holdings within the Regional Board and SWRCB. After the completion of this initial step, Contractor will revisit their approach to cataloging with the Regional Board in order to determine whether it will be best to augment the existing databases in the current format or to establish a new protocol. In either case, Contractor will then perform an exhaustive search of other known data sources that may contain information on water quality that are not already encompassed by the Regional Board and the SWRCB databases (e.g., DWR, USGS, agricultural CGs).

Contractor will acquire the data if it is readily available and determine where the data will be archived. The budget contained in this Agreement anticipates that the Contractor's scope is limited by a predetermined number of hours dedicated to this search. As the limit is approaching, Contractor will work closely with the Regional Board to communicate the availability of data not yet retrieved, and Contractor will discuss the relative value of obtaining that additional data.

At the end of this task, Contractor will provide the Regional Board with a copy of the data that Contractor has retrieved in the form (electronic or paper) in which Contractor obtained it. Contractor will also provide a list of that data and a brief description. At that time, Contractor will also discuss the various options for cataloging and accessing the data. For example, it may be that Contractor determines the most beneficial use of the data involves providing real-time access to it via a web-based GIS interface organized by watershed. Conversely, it may be determined that it would be best to archive the data in a Regional Board database/library with access limited to distributing physical copies upon request. In any case, Contractor will provide a report that describes the various options and their respective costs, advantages, and disadvantages.

A summary version of the water quality data will be developed for inclusion in the draft existing conditions report. The information will be divided by watershed and will include the following:

- 1) General watershed parameters (acreage, land uses, major tributaries, flows, others)
- 2) Impaired list status
- 3) Constituents of concern
- 4) Discharge pathways and sources of contaminants (to the extent this is known)

Contaminant sources and pathways will be identified where there is literature or verifiable data available to make this determination. Knowledgeable technical experts from the Contractor's team, State and federal agencies, and the agricultural industry will also be interviewed to determine, to the extent feasible, the likely sources and pathways of surface water contamination.

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As part of this surface water quality data collection task, the Contractor's team will work closely with the Regional Board to determine the protocol for handling, archiving, and accessing the data currently being submitted by CGs in their monitoring reports. Contractor is prepared to discuss the various options.

#### **Current Groundwater Conditions:**

The Contractor's team will develop a general description of current groundwater conditions in the jurisdictional area of the Regional Board. Contractor will review and analyze existing reports, including information developed by the Regional Board, SWRCB and other entities.

Contractor will document the quality of groundwater in the jurisdictional area of the Regional Board to the extent that information is available in existing, readily available reports. The final product will generally document primary areas of concern as a baseline for further analyzing how agricultural management practices implemented to protect surface water quality will affect groundwater quality. The data will be presented on a watershed basis as agreed upon with the Regional Board staff. Future analysis of impacts to groundwater from agricultural management practices may require that data be presented at a finer level of detail to account for important sub-watershed characteristics.

Contractor will undertake three steps to collect and report the groundwater quality information.

- 1) Contractor will collect and evaluate existing reports from USGS, DWR, DHS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), University of California, Regional Board, CGs and other organizations as appropriate.
- 2) Contractor will be to develop a system to display and analyze the data. Early in the process of preparing the existing conditions report, a decision will be made about how to display and use the groundwater quality information. Similarly to the surface water quality data, Contractor will investigate the use of a GIS for management and data analysis that could include coverage for land use, pesticide use, soils, groundwater quality and geology. Contractor believes that a GIS will support impact analysis of the Irrigated Lands Program. The GIS will provide a mechanism for spatial analysis and comparison of distributions of various constituents with land use, soils, geology, hydrology and hydrography and agricultural management practices (MPs).
- 3) Contractor will prepare a report that summarizes current groundwater quality conditions. The groundwater information will be divided by watershed (or some other physical division acceptable to Regional Board staff) and will include the following:
  - a) General watershed or basin parameters (acreage, land uses, range of depth from surface, overlying surface waters)
  - b) Impaired status

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c) Constituents of concern

Ten (10) paper copies and three (3) electronic copies (CDs) of the Administrative Draft Existing Conditions Report will be submitted to the Regional Board project manager for internal review by Regional Board staff. Information for the various water bodies will be presented in a common format with a common content and, if possible, will be geographically referenced to a GIS system agreeable to the Regional Board.

**Task 3. Prepare Administrative Draft Report on Current Management Practices**

Contractor's team will compile readily available, current information on management practices (MPs) in use by the agricultural industry and those responsible for managed wetlands to control discharge of pollutants to California's waterways. Information compiled by the SWRCB through its NPS program and information supplied to the Regional Board by the CGs in the Central Valley will be the primary sources of information. Managers in the State and federal wildlife refuge systems will also be contacted for MPs. These MPs will be organized by the constituent of concern they address, including but not limited to:

- 1) Common to all constituents of concern
- 2) Turbidity
- 3) Temperature
- 4) Nutrients
- 5) Dissolved oxygen
- 6) Pesticides and herbicides
- 7) Other constituents of concern

Ten (10) paper copies and three (3) electronic copies of the administrative draft report will be forwarded to the Regional Board project manager for review by Regional Board staff. Each MP will be described, and its effectiveness addressed, to the extent that reliable information is available to depict its effectiveness. MPs will be attributed to specific crop types where it is appropriate.

**Task 4. Prepare Consolidated Draft Report on Existing Conditions**

Following receipt of comments from the Regional Board, Contractor will prepare a consolidated draft report on existing conditions within the Central Valley. This document will include information on current regulation of agricultural discharges, current surface and groundwater conditions, and current MPs in use by the regulated community. The sections of the consolidated report will be formatted to act as part of the Environmental Setting in the Irrigated Lands Program EIR. Adjustments to the administrative draft reports will be made in

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response to comments. The Regional Board will compile all comments from its staff and will resolve conflicting direction prior to forwarding the consolidated comments to Contractor.

Contractor will provide to the Regional Board, one hundred (100) paper copies and two hundred (200) electronic copies (CDs) of the draft report for distribution and use by the Regional Board and one (1) photo-ready copy. The reports will include up to two (2) large-format colored maps to display information that may include watershed boundaries, groundwater basin boundaries, water quality monitoring locations and land use. Land use data will be drawn from DWR Central Valley inventories.

#### **Task 5. Conduct Public Outreach on Draft Existing Conditions Report**

Contractor staff will organize, prepare for and conduct up to nine (9) public outreach meetings regarding the content of the Draft Existing Conditions Report. The goal of these meetings will be to solicit public and regulated community comments on the accuracy and completeness of the report. The meetings will be organized around the CG configuration; one (1) meeting could be held within the boundaries of each CG and could be organized to coincide with regular meetings of the CGs. Contractor will provide one (1) meeting facilitator from their public affairs group, two (2) members of their management team and four (4) technical specialists to present information and respond to comments on the report. A Power Point presentation and an executive summary of the draft report will be used to support the meeting. Large format graphics will be produced to display information contained in the report.

The location of the meetings will be Bakersfield, Visalia or Hanford, Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, Sacramento, Colusa or Yuba City, Red Bluff or Orland, and Fall River. Following the meetings, Contractor will prepare a summary of public comment and meet with Regional Board staff to make decisions on modifications to the Draft Existing Conditions Report.

#### **Task 6. Prepare Final Existing Conditions Report**

Based on the results of the public outreach efforts and guidance from the Regional Board, the Contractor's team will prepare a Final Existing Conditions Report. The sections of this report will be designed to act as elements of the Environmental Setting for the Irrigated Lands Program Draft EIR.

Contractor will provide to the Regional Board, one hundred (100) paper copies and two hundred (200) CDs of the final Existing Conditions Report for distribution and use by the Regional Board and one (1) photo-ready copy. Up to two (2) color, large-format folded maps will be included in the final report.

#### **Task 7. Prepare Administrative Draft Irrigated Lands Program**

Using the existing SWRCB NPS Program and the Regional Board Interim Waiver Program as a base, Contractor's team will work with the Regional Board staff to develop alternative strategies for improving the regulatory program. This may include a wide array of actions, including additional MPs, expanded monitoring and reporting programs, commodity-specific MPs, watershed-specific actions to be carried out by the use of a Basin Plan amendment(s),



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general waste discharge requirements (WDRs), and/or waivers of waste discharge requirements. Changes in MPs will be suggested only where there is credible information that supports the effectiveness of the MP.

The first draft of this program will be developed in a collaborative, iterative process, matching the information collected on existing conditions with the regulatory tools available to the Regional Board. Contractor's team will meet with Regional Board regulatory compliance staff to make decisions on priority water quality issues and the range of actions that could best improve water quality given existing MPs available to farmers and regulatory tools available to the Regional Board. One tool that may be used in this process is the development of a matrix of issues matched against MPs and regulatory tools. This task and its sub-tasks will be further defined in early meetings with Regional Board staff and as information is compiled during Tasks 1 and 2 of this Agreement.

Ten (10) paper copies and three (3) electronic copies of the Administrative Draft Irrigated Lands Program Report will be forwarded to the Regional Board project manager for review by Regional Board staff.

#### **Task 8. Prepare Draft Irrigated Lands Program**

Following receipt of comments from the Regional Board, Contractor will prepare a draft description of the Irrigated Lands Program and program alternatives. This document will describe all elements of the program and all alternatives. The description of the program will include those elements determined to be the preferred program by the Regional Board. Alternative program elements will be described and rationale for not including them in the preferred program will be presented. This report will be formatted to act as part of the project and alternatives description sections of the Irrigated Lands Program EIR. Adjustments to the administrative draft reports will be made in response to comments. The Regional Board will compile all comments from its staff, and will resolve conflicting direction prior to forwarding the consolidated comments to Contractor.

Contractor will provide to the Regional Board one hundred (100) paper copies and two hundred (200) CDs of the draft Irrigated Lands Program Report for distribution and use by the Regional Board. The reports will include up to two (2) large-format colored maps to display information that may include watershed boundaries, groundwater basin boundaries, water quality monitoring locations and other program-related information.

#### **Task 9. Conduct Public Outreach on Draft Irrigated Lands Program**

Contractor staff will organize, prepare for and conduct up to five (5) public outreach meetings regarding the draft Irrigated Lands Program Report. The goal of these meetings will be to solicit public and regulated community comments on the proposed regulatory program and its alternatives. The meetings will be organized around the CG configuration; one (1) meeting could be held within the boundaries of each coalition and could be organized to coincide with regular meetings of the CGs. Contractor will provide one (1) meeting facilitator from our public affairs group, one (1) member of our management team and two (2) technical specialists to present information and respond to comments on the report. A Power Point presentation and an executive summary of the draft report will be

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used to support the meeting. Large format graphics will be produced to display information contained in the report.

The location of the meetings will be Fresno, Modesto, Sacramento, Colusa or Yuba City, and Red Bluff or Orland. Following the meetings, Contractor will prepare a summary of public comment and meet with Regional Board staff to make decisions on modifications to the Draft Irrigated Lands Program Report.

#### **Task 10. Prepare Final Irrigated Lands Program**

Based on the results of the public outreach efforts and guidance from the Regional Board, the Contractor's team will prepare a final Irrigated Lands Program Report. The sections of this report will be designed to act as elements of the project and alternatives descriptions for the Irrigated Lands Program Draft EIR.

Contractor will provide to the Regional Board one hundred (100) paper copies and two hundred (200) CDs of the final Irrigated Lands Program Report for distribution and use by the Regional Board and one (1) photo-ready copy. Up to two (2) color, large-format folded maps will be included in the final report.

#### **Task 11. Prepare Notice of Preparation**

Contractor will prepare a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the EIR for Regional Board distribution. The NOP will include a description of the proposed project and alternatives, a brief listing of the issues to be addressed in the EIR, and the dates and locations for scoping meetings. The description of the proposed project and alternatives will be summarized from the Final Irrigated Lands Program Report described in Task 10 above. An Initial Study will not be prepared.

Contractor will submit five (5) paper copies and one electronic copy of the NOP to the Regional Board. With Regional Board approval, the NOP will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. It is assumed that this new NOP will supercede the Agricultural Waiver Program NOP submitted previously by the Regional Board. The NOP will be distributed to up to six (6) newspapers in the Central Valley region for publication.

#### **Task 12. Conduct Public Scoping Meetings**

At a minimum the Contractor' project manager and a community affairs team member will attend five (5) meetings, with possibly two (2) more at locations to be determined at the extreme north and south ends of the Central Valley, for a total of seven (7) meetings. The locations of the five (5) meetings will be Fresno, Modesto, Sacramento, Colusa or Yuba City, and Red Bluff or Orland. Contractor will arrange meeting rooms, list of presenters, court reporter, bilingual presenter/materials if necessary, and answer questions regarding the CEQA process. Contractor will rely upon the Regional Board to select dates for the scoping meetings, and to send out notices of the meetings. Contractor will summarize meeting information for posting on the Regional Board Website.

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**Task 13. Finalize Project Description and Alternatives**

Contractor will meet with the Regional Board to review agency and public comment, and will incorporate those comments into the project description and alternatives as appropriate. Based on comments received, Contractor and the Regional Board will take this opportunity to revisit the work plan for completing the EIR, and will agree on the level of effort and detail that will be included in the EIR. Contractor and the Regional Board will revise the work plan and budget as necessary.

**Task 14. Develop Administrative Draft EIR**

The Contractor's team will prepare the Administrative Draft EIR in compliance with requirements of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The contents of the EIR will include the following:

**Table of Contents**

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Project Description
- Environmental Setting
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
  - General Methodology
  - Aesthetics and Visual Resources
  - Air Quality
  - Biological Resources and Wetlands
  - Cultural Resources
  - Economics
  - Farmland
  - Geology and Soils
  - Hazards and Hazardous Material
  - Hydrology and Water Quality
  - Land Use
  - Noise
  - Population and Housing
  - Public Health and Safety
  - Public Services and Utilities
  - Transportation
- Alternatives
- Cumulative Impacts
- Growth-Inducing Impacts
- Significant, Irreversible Environmental Changes Resulting from the Project
- Agencies and Persons Contacted
- References and Literature Cited
- Report Preparers
- Glossary
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)
- Appendices

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Because the EIR is programmatic in nature, the detail for each of the topic areas will be sufficient to describe the overall settings and impacts at a programmatic level, but will not address issues specific to a given location. For instance, effects to farmland from employing a specific MP that may be identified in the program will be described generally without reference to specific parcels or ownership. The Table of Contents may also be modified at this point to reflect the nature of the program and stakeholder comments. Contractor and the Regional Board will agree to all changes.

As part of developing the Administrative Draft EIR, the Contractor's team may also suggest additional mapping and data organization that will lend itself to impact analysis. Any additional data manipulation and presentation will be agreed to prior to the Contractor's team commencing this work. Additional data not previously developed that will be necessary for completion of the EIR will be developed at the direction of the Regional Board as agreed upon. In order to hasten review of the Administrative Draft EIR, environmental topic discussions will be provided to the Regional Board as available. Once all of the topic areas have been completed to the agreed upon level of detail, the sections will be compiled into a complete Administrative Draft EIR, and provided to the Regional Board for review according to the agreed upon schedule.

Contractor will provide ten (10) paper copies and three (3) CDs of the Administrative Draft Report to the Regional Board project manager for review by Regional Board staff. The Administrative Draft EIR will include a draft of the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP). The MMRP will ensure that mitigation measures are implemented as required under Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code. The following is a brief description of the plan content. The MMRP will:

- 1) Identify each impact of the project that will be mitigated.
- 2) Contain a brief explanation of each relevant mitigation measure.
- 3) Specify the agency or individual responsible for implementing and monitoring each mitigation measure and the specific qualifications for monitoring and reporting personnel.
- 4) State when and how frequently each mitigation measure should be implemented.
- 5) Provide details of the monitoring program.
- 6) Present the specific criteria for judging successful implementation of each measure.

#### **Task 15. Develop Draft EIR**

Following receipt of the Regional Board's comments on the Administrative Draft EIR (including the MMRP), the Contractor's team will meet with Regional Board staff to review all of the Regional Board's comments and agree on the appropriate responses to those comments. Following the meeting, The Contractor's team will prepare the Draft EIR, incorporating changes in response to the Regional Board's comments. Three (3) print-

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check copies of the Draft EIR will be forwarded to the Regional Board staff to verify that changes were properly incorporated into the document.

Following approval of the print-check copy of the Draft EIR, Contractor will produce one hundred (100) paper copies and two hundred (200) CDs of the Draft EIR for distribution and use by the Regional Board and one (1) photo-ready copy. It is assumed that the Regional Board will develop the Draft EIR mailing list and will distribute all documents.

Contractor will prepare a Notice of Completion (NOC) for the Draft EIR and forward it to Regional Board staff for review. Once the NOC has been reviewed and revised, the Regional Board will forward the NOC to the State Clearinghouse, along with fifteen (15) copies of the Draft EIR. Contractor will publish the NOC in up to six (6) newspapers in the Central Valley region. The NOC will describe the location and date for the public hearing on the Draft EIR.

#### **Task 16. Public Hearings on Draft**

At a minimum, the Contractor's Project Director and Project Manager and two (2) technical team leaders will attend a public hearing on the Draft EIR, which will be located in Sacramento. Contractor will prepare the necessary presentation and materials and work with the Regional Board to develop the list of presenters. The Contractor's team will answer questions regarding the preparation of the EIR, and will rely on the Regional Board to summarize the meeting information for posting on the Regional Board's Website.

#### **Task 17. Prepare Administrative Draft Response to Comments, Administrative Final EIR**

Following the close of the public comment period on the Draft EIR, the Contractor's team will prepare responses to all of the comments received on the Draft EIR. Contractor assumes a moderate level of public interest and comment on the Draft EIR. Contractor further assumes that comments on the Draft EIR will not result in the need for analysis of issues not covered in the Draft EIR, and will not require additional technical analysis or modeling. The Regional Board will supply Contractor with a complete copy of all comments to which the Regional Board expects responses to be prepared. In addition, while the Contractor's team will attend the public comment meeting on the Draft EIR and the Regional Board will provide a summary of comments made at the hearing, plus a list of the commentors.

The Contractor team will prepare a table listing all comments with the proposed approach to responding to each comment. Following Regional Board review of this table, the Contractor team will meet with the Regional Board to discuss the approach to response preparation, resulting in agreement on the approach for each comment. At this point, the Contractor's team will assess the level of effort required for response in relationship to the existing budget to determine whether the budget is adequate to address those comments. If necessary and agreed to by the Regional Board, the budget will be adjusted prior to initiating the responses to comments and preparation of the final EIR.

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The final EIR will include:

- 1) Response to comments-document containing all of the comments made as well as responses to each comment
- 2) EIR text, revised as necessary based on responses to comments on the Draft EIR
- 3) MMRP, revised as necessary based on responses to comments on the Draft EIR and changes in the EIR text

Contractor will provide ten (10) paper copies and three (3) CDs of the administrative final EIR to the Regional Board project manager for review by Regional Board staff.

### **Task 18. Prepare Final EIR**

Following receipt of the Regional Board's comments on the Administrative Draft Response to Comments and Final EIR (including the MMRP), the Contractor's team will meet with Regional Board staff to review all of its comments and agree on the appropriate responses to those comments. Following this meeting, the Contractor's team will prepare the Final EIR, incorporating changes in response to the Regional Board's comments on the Administrative Final. Three print-check copies of the Final EIR will be prepared and forwarded to the Regional Board to ensure that all comments have been properly incorporated into the Final EIR. Following approval by the Regional Board, Contractor will submit one hundred (100) paper copies and two hundred (200) CDs of the Final EIR, plus one (1) unbound-reproducible copy. The Regional Board will develop a distribution list for the Final EIR and will distribute the document.

Contractor will prepare draft findings for each significant impact and statement of overriding consideration for significant impacts found to be unavoidable (if applicable) for the Regional Board's use in certifying the Final EIR and approving the project. The findings will be in compliance with Sections 21081 and 21081.5 of the California Public Resources Code. Following review and comment of the draft findings by the Regional Board, Contractor will finalize the findings for adoption. One (1) paper copy and one (1) CD will be provided to the Regional Board.

### **Task 19. EIR Adoption/Certification Hearings**

At a minimum, the Contractor Project Director, Project Manager and two (2) technical team leaders will attend a certification hearing on the Final EIR, which will be located in Sacramento. Contractor will prepare the necessary presentation and materials and work with the Regional Board to develop the list of presenters. Contractor will answer any questions regarding preparation of the EIR, and will rely on the Regional Board to summarize the meeting information for posting on the Regional Board's website.

Following Regional Board action on the EIR and the proposed project, Contractor will prepare a notice of determination (NOD) for filing with the State Clearinghouse. A draft of the NOD will be submitted to the Regional Board staff for review and modification prior to filing. It is assumed that the Regional Board will file the NOD.

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Scope of Work

**Task 20. Attend Meetings**

During the course of this work, Contractor team members anticipate the need to attend numerous Regional Board/Contractor team internal meetings. These meetings will be in addition to those described above related to public outreach. Major strategy meetings will be needed to initiate the data collection efforts in Tasks 2 and 3, and the program development efforts of Task 8. Monthly management team status meetings will be needed to keep the Regional Board up to date on our progress and to discuss issues that arise during the planning process. It is difficult to predict the ultimate frequency of these meetings, but this work program includes four (4) major team meetings (includes the Contractor management team and task leaders with Regional Board staff) and nine (9) monthly project progress meetings (includes two (2) Contractor management team members and Regional Board staff). Contractor has including time in this Task to have up to ten (10) non-management/non-task leader technical team members to attend one (1) of the above-described meetings.

In addition, Contractor has included time in this Task for one (1) Contractor management team member to attend the various Irrigated Lands Program-related advisory group and CG meetings during the EIR process. Contractor has estimated up to eighteen (18) meetings will be attended. Contractor's team attendee will be prepared to make brief presentations regarding the progress of the initial program effort and to answer questions.

Contractor staff will compile a record of all significant decisions and action items developed in the course of the meetings, and will distribute this information to meeting attendees for their use.

**Key Assumptions**

The Irrigated Lands Program EIR will be a programmatic document that will rely primarily on previously collected data. The Contractor does not expect to conduct environmental surveys of any kind.

- 1) The project description for the Irrigated Lands Program and all alternatives will be finalized prior to beginning preparation of impact analysis. Changes in the project description and alternatives during the course of preparing the EIR impact analysis may require modifications to this Scope of Work and Budget.
- 2) Regulatory compliance efforts beyond CEQA are not included in this Scope of Work.
- 3) The Regional Board will provide the Contractor team with access to its relevant reports, data and databases during the course of the project.
- 4) The Regional Board staff will maintain the project's administrative record; Contractor will contribute relevant reports and other information to that record at the end of the project.