

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD
July 2012

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 August 2-3, 2012 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

Long-Term ILRP:

Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs

Staff released the tentative (draft) WDRs for the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed for formal public comment. The anticipated schedule for bringing the Draft WDRs to the board for consideration is as follows:

- July 6 – August 6: Public review of draft WDRs;
- August 6 – September 6: Staff revision of draft WDRs and response to comments; and
- October 4 or 5: Board hearing to consider adoption of WDRs

On 14 June 2012, Regional Board and DPR staff met with the Stanislaus, Merced, and Madera county agricultural commissioners to discuss the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs. They also met with the East side San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition board to discuss the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs.

On 21 June, 26 June and 28 June 2012, Regional Board staff attended the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) member meetings in Madera, Merced, and Modesto, respectively. Staff presented an overview of the new Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program proposed regulations covering groundwater and surface waters. The Coalition representatives discussed proposed nitrogen budgets and reporting approaches.

Sacramento River Watershed Rice WDRs

The California Rice Commission (CRC) and staff have exchanged drafts and comments on the long-term program requirements for surface water and groundwater monitoring. The CRC has submitted two draft documents, a Surface Water Assessment Report and a Groundwater Assessment Report, for staff review and comments. The CRC and staff met on 5 July 2012 to discuss the draft Surface Water Assessment Report and proposed surface water quality monitoring requirement

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJVWQC)

On 24 May, 13 June, and 19 June 2012, staff met with the SSJVWQC to discuss development of the long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Topics of discussion included possible requirements of the upcoming waste discharge requirements and monitoring reporting program. The release of the interested party review draft is scheduled for early July 2012.

Grasslands Bypass Project

On 11 June 2012 Regional Board staff met with representatives of the US Bureau of Reclamation and San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority to discuss the GBP WDRs and MRP and tour the Grassland Farming Area and the Reuse Project Area.

Sacramento River Watershed WDRs (excluding rice)

On 31 May 2012 staff met with the Sacramento Valley Coalition to discuss key issues related to the WDRs for the Sacramento River Watershed (excluding rice). Interested party review of the Draft WDRs is scheduled to begin in November 2012.

On 18 May 2012, Regional Board staff attended a meeting of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Science Advisory Board. The meeting focused on developing incentives for growers to improve fertilizer management in order to reduce the discharge of nitrate to groundwater.

On 18 May 2012, Regional Board staff attended a meeting with State Board staff and other regional boards to discuss information management for the irrigated lands regulatory program. The meeting was an initial discussion of the scope of the effort.

On 18 May 2012, Regional Board staff participated in a meeting with Department of Pesticide Regulation staff to discuss the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs.

On 1 June 2012, Regional Board staff Rodgers gave a presentation to representatives from the Coalitions and other agricultural interests on representative monitoring. Staff also participated in the discussion. In addition to discussing the technical aspects of representative monitoring, the group discussed opportunities for coordinating efforts between the Coalitions.

On 5 June 2012 the Regional Board Executive Officer and staff briefed representatives from the Governor's office, Cal EPA, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Central Coast Regional Board, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation on the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs and the long-term ILRP.

On 6 June 2012, Regional Board Executive Officer and staff discussed the irrigated lands program with the board's agriculture subcommittee (Dr. Longley and Ms. Lester Moffitt).

On 14 June 2012, Regional Board staff met with Undersecretary Schubert from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and other CDFA staff to brief them on the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs and the long-term ILRP.

On 2 July 2012, Regional Board Executive Officer and staff met with director Brian Leahy from the Department of Pesticide Regulation and his staff to discuss issues related to the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs and the long-term ILRP.

Enforcement

In May and June 2012, ILRP staff completed 3 and 19 inspections, respectively, to verify landowner exemption claims to the ILRP. Landowners can respond to ILRP staff's postcards or 13267 Orders by claiming their land is not used for agriculture, not irrigated, or that it has no irrigation tail water or storm water runoff (no waste discharges to surface waters). These claims create a need for verification inspections. Staff verified that the lands associated with 21 of these inspections were exempt from regulatory coverage under the ILRP. Staff determined that one landowner needs to apply for coalition coverage for his property.

In May 2012, ILRP Redding staff completed 2 inspections to verify exemption claims to the ILRP.

Coalition Groups

California Rice Commission:

Monitoring for the 2012 Rice Pesticides Program (RPP) and ILRP monitoring started in early May 2012 due to weather delays.

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition:

On 21 May 2012, staff's review of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) was provided to the Coalition. The review is posted on the Central Valley Water Board website.

On 30 May 2012, the Executive Officer approved the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition 6 January 2012 management plan completion request. The Coalition provided enough information to demonstrate that the management plans for 33 constituent/site pairs were successfully completed. The completion of two management plans was not approved and the Coalition will continue with the outreach and monitoring for pH and copper in Highline Canal at Hwy 99.

On 1 June 2012, the Coalition submitted the Quarterly Monitoring Data Report.

On 5 June 2012, staff held the 15th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin

Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, and potential monitoring site and schedule revisions.

On 25 June 2012, staff's review of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Annual Management Plan Update Report (MPUR) was provided to the Coalition. The review is posted on the Central Valley Water Board website.

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):

On 1 June 2012, staff received a request from the Coalition to deem the Management Plans for chlorpyrifos and toxicity to *Ceriodaphnia* in Walker Creek complete. Based on a 25 June 2012 discussion, the Coalition plans to resubmit these requests following completion of the 2012 monitoring season.

On 6 June 2012, staff met with representatives of the SVWQC to discuss requests that have been made to the Water Board to deem various Management Plans complete. Staff requested that future requests include more supporting data to justify completion. Staff also requested more information for Management Plans on Stony Creek and Cache Creek. The group decided that the Water Board will wait until 2012 monitoring is complete and requests are updated before responding to requests regarding toxicity to *Hyallela* on Stony Creek and the Cosumnes River.

On 16 June 2012, the Water Board received requests from the Coalition to determine that the Management Plans for toxicity to *Selenastrum* in Butte Slough and Malathion in Gilsizer Slough are completed. The Butte Slough request is currently under review. The malathion request was approved by the Executive Officer on 20 June 2012.

On 25 June 2012, staff held a Quarterly Management Plan meeting with Coalition representatives. Participants reviewed progress in monitoring and reporting for several Management Plan waterways.

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition:

On 31 May 2012, staff completed the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Review. The review is posted on the ILRP internet site.

On 1 June 2012, the Executive Officer approved the 6 January 2012 San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition request to consider Lone Tree Creek at Jack Tone Road site (specific conductance, copper, diazinon, diuron, *Selenastrum capricornutum*, and *Hyallela azteca* toxicity) and the Unnamed Drain to Lone Tree Creek at Jack Tone Road site (simazine, *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, and *Selenastrum capricornutum* toxicity) sites Management Plans complete.

On 5 June 2012, staff held the 15th quarterly meeting with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, and TMDL monitoring.

On 25 June 2012, staff completed the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition Management Plan Update Report Review. The review is posted on the ILRP internet.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJWQC):

On 7 March 2012, staff received a Management Plan for water quality exceedances within the Main Drain watershed area of Kern County. Subsequently, staff issued a letter to the Kern River Sub-watershed requesting additional detail be provided in eight specific areas of the Management Plan prior to final approval.

Westside Coalition:

On 30 April 2012, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (together with East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition) submitted their annual San Joaquin River chlorpyrifos/diazinon TMDL Report for the period 10 October through 30 September 2012. The report is under staff review.

On 15 June 2012, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition submitted its Semi-Annual Monitoring Report for the period September 2011 through February 2012. The SAMR is under staff review. On 30 June 2012, the Westside Coalition submitted its performance goals for the Focused Plan III. The Performance Goals provide a method to track the Coalition's efforts in improving water quality.

Data Management

Data reports received through 1 June 2012 are currently being prepared for loading into a California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). At this time, data from 2009 through 2011 for all Coalitions have been loaded into the CEDEN comparable database. Over 70% of this data has been successfully transferred to CEDEN. The remaining data sets for this time period, as well as data collected in early 2012, are currently undergoing final review and are slated to be transferred in September 2012. Additionally, work has begun on prioritizing data received prior to 2009 for processing and future upload to the database.

Feedback packages were developed in 2011 to serve as real-time communication from staff to assist the Coalitions with the review and formatting of datasets prior to submission. At this time, all of the Coalitions have received at least one follow-up feedback package for their most recent electronic data deliverables (EDD). The follow-up feedback packages identify areas of progress and areas of persistent or new issues and will be provided for each new submittal. Future data submittals requiring extensive corrections will be returned to the Coalition for revision.

In coordination with the CV RDC, ILRP staff held a data management workshop on 28 June 2012. The workshop began with a brief status update, overview of the ILRP data

processing procedures and expectations for Coalitions and laboratories presented by ILRP staff. Following the ILRP staff presentation was a training module presented by the CV RDC for the online data checker. The data checker provides an online real-time tool to review data electronic data submissions for adherence to the formatting and business rules required for CEDEN comparability. The CV RDC also introduced their updated webpage which contains various tools and information for further comparability assistance.

Prop 84 Grant Funding

The Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) is providing project management for the Prop 84 grant. The grant has been extended to 1 May 2015. Seventeen projects have now been completed and invoiced under the grant program. Those receiving grant funds are required to provide a 50% match for their project. The third round of applications closed 1 July 2012. The Selection Advisory Committee will meet to rank and select approved projects in late August/early September. Projects approved in the second and third round are expected to start after the end of this year's growing season. Approved applicants are required to submit landowner/grower contracts and other documents to CURES before start of any construction. The [CURES website](#) has additional information on the Prop 84 funding and photos of completed projects.