

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

May 2019

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) update provides a summary of significant activities of State Water Board from April 15, 2019 to May 15, 2019 and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board from March 15, 2019 to May 15, 2019. Next month's report will present activities of the North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Colorado River Basin, Santa Ana, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's Program and cover the period between from April 15, 2019 to June 15, 2019.

STATE WATER BOARD

On April 17, 2019, ILRP staff (staff) participated in the California Bioresources Alliance (CBA) meeting to discuss concepts for the 2019 workshop symposium and potential lectures. CBA plans to focus a significant portion of the symposium on ideas for streamlining permitting. Speakers could identify barriers and opportunities to overcome these barriers.

On April 25, 2019, staff attended the quarterly ILRP roundtable meeting. The meeting was held via conference call. Topics included the development of the program's Administrative Procedures Manual and the enrollment processes across the regions. Staff also discussed potential fee schedule changes and comments received following the previous stakeholder meeting. The next stakeholder meeting to discuss potential fee changes will be held on May 21, 2019 in Sacramento.

On May 1, 2019, staff met with US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, and Natural Resources Conservation Services staff as part of the California Agricultural Partnership Forum (CAPF). Topics discussed included the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), Farm Bill update, source protection water, ILRP program priorities, and managing nitrogen. The group also discussed a pilot project of transporting dairy manure waste to composting facilities.

Staff participated in the Non-Point Source (NPS) roundtable meeting on May 8, 2019. Staff have continued to work with NPS Water Board staff to develop the next NPS 5-year Plan, as required by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Part of the plan will outline the upcoming priorities for the ILRP at both the State and Regional levels.

On May 9, 2019, staff met with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the California Association of Pest Control Advisers to develop a strategy on the involvement of Pest Control Advisers (PCAs) with nutrients and healthy soils. PCAs will potentially be involved as part of Integrated Pest Management.

On May 14, staff attended the Certified Crop Advisory Board of Director's emergency meeting. The meeting was to discuss the future impact of the International Certified Crop Advisers and the Western Region Certified Crop Advisers Executive Committee decision on ending the administrative contract with the California Association of Pest Control Advisers.

On May 14, staff also participated in a Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Surface Water Monitoring Framework Panel. The meeting was the first in a series of meetings to develop panel charge questions, discuss the process for selection of expert review panel members, and identify information that needs to be provided to the selected panel members. The panel was formed in response to direction provided to the Central Valley Water Board in Order WQ-2018- 0002, in which the State Water Board directed the Central Valley Water Board to convene an external expert review of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's surface water monitoring framework.

Staff attended the May 15, 2019, Colorado River Regional Board's meeting in Blythe. The new Waste Discharge Requirements for the Palo Verde Valley and Mesa were proposed for adoption at the meeting and the meeting also served as an informational workshop for the development of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Bard area. Discussions focused on existing nitrate concentrations and site conditions, exemption requirements, consistency and applicability of the precedential requirements from the Eastern San Joaquin petition order adopted by the State Water Board in February 2018, and costs to the farmers. The Board adopted the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Palo Verde Valley and Mesa.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted revisions to the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed General Order (R5-2012-0116-08) on April 5, 2019, to remove the Notice of Intent submittal requirements for growers applying for Coalition membership. Growers obtain membership by applying directly to the Coalition.

Central Valley Water Board staff holds quarterly stakeholder meetings to provide an open forum for communication between staff, agricultural coalitions, environmental justice groups, and other interested parties in the Central Valley Region. The April 10, 2019, stakeholder meeting was held at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, with a focused discussion on the use of the Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model by the Southern San Joaquin Management Practices Evaluation Program Group.

State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ-2018-0002 directs the Central Valley Water Board to convene an external expert review of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's surface water monitoring framework. The review will be conducted as a public process by neutral experts. Steve Weisberg of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project is contracted to manage the review, including a process for

selecting external expert review panel members and facilitating all meetings. A nine-member Advisory Group consisting of 3 agricultural representatives, 3 environmental protection representatives, and 3 Water Boards representatives has been formed and held its first meeting on May 14, 2019.

Central Valley Water Board staff continues to concentrate on compliance, outreach, and enforcement efforts in the following areas: agricultural parcel inspections; Water Code section 13260 Directives; Notices of Violation for failure to respond to a Water Code section 13260 Directive and failure to comply with Orders; and Administrative Civil Liability Complaints. From March to May 2019, Central Valley Water Board staff conducted 1205 parcel inspections to assess the need for ILRP enrollment and six on-farm inspection to evaluate General Order compliance; and issued 243 directives.

Additional information can be found at the following on the [Regional Board website](#).