

**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE  
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD  
July 2011**

This month's Irrigated Agricultural 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 3-4, 2011 Executive Officer's report. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board Agriculture Regulatory Program](#) website.

**General**

The existing Groundwater Monitoring Advisory Workgroup (GMAW) held a public meeting in the Rancho Cordova office of the Central Valley Water Board on 30 June 2011. The GMAW consists of groundwater experts representing State agencies, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Geological Survey, academia, and private consultants. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from the group of groundwater experts relative to the development of a list of recommended critical questions that should be answered by groundwater monitoring for the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). These questions are meant to assist Central Valley Water Board staff in identifying how groundwater monitoring will be integrated into the ILRP. Groundwater requirements developed for the ILRP will be incorporated into monitoring and reporting programs prepared for coalition waste discharge requirements general orders.

Recommended questions that should be answered by groundwater monitoring will be discussed with Stakeholders during a public meeting of the Irrigated Lands Stakeholder Advisory Work Group (SAWG) to be held in late July. A second meeting of the GMAW is tentatively scheduled for 18 August 2011 to discuss how the questions should be answered. This information will be discussed with Stakeholders during a subsequent meeting of the SAWG. Information from these meetings will be considered as staff develops coalition group waste discharge requirements general orders for consideration by the Central Valley Water Board.

**Outreach**

**Exemption Claim Inspections:**

In May and June 2011, Central Valley Water Board staff completed 14 inspections 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,

which staff regularly conducts. Staff verified that lands associated with 12 inspections were exempt from regulatory coverage under the current ILRP. The outcome of one inspection is pending further investigation; the outcome of the remaining inspection will likely be an enforcement action to require an irrigated lands discharger to get appropriate regulatory coverage.

**Postcards:**

Beginning May 2011, postcards were put on hold to allow staff to meet with legal counsel and management to develop new outreach methods that would be consistent with direction of the Long-Term Program. Current outreach efforts address discharge to surface water only, which is consistent with the existing conditional waiver. Future outreach will need to reflect the Board's direction to address discharge to both surface and ground waters.

**Enforcement**

In May 2011 the ILRP mailed 9 NOVs for failure to respond to a CWC §13260 Order. These NOVs were issued to landowners in Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, and Placer counties who have submitted applications to join a coalition but have not yet done so.

Beginning in May 2011, CWC § 13267 Orders were put on hold to allow staff to meet with legal counsel and management to develop new outreach methods in compliance with the Long-Term Program.

**Coalition Groups**

**California Rice Commission (CRC):**

On 9 June 2011, staff met with the CRC and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition to discuss coordination and the process for development of groundwater quality requirements for the ILRP general orders. Periodic meetings are to be scheduled to continue discussion of the CRC general order.

Due to the late start for planting, monitoring for the Rice Pesticides Program will continue to 12 July 2011. A meeting with stakeholders will be scheduled for October 2011.

**East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition:**

On 1 June 2011, the Coalition submitted its Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period January through March 2011, as required by Order No. R5-2006-0053. After review, these data will be posted on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program web site.

On 1 July 2011, the Coalition submitted an update to its Management Plan Performance Goal Schedule for the third priority subwatersheds. The Coalition informed staff that contacting growers in these subwatersheds will be completed by

15 August 2011.

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

On 17 May 2011, Regional Board staff participated in the SVWQC quarterly Management Plan Meeting.

On 24 May 2011, staff mailed a letter to the SVWQC in response to the Coalition's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), submitted to the Water Board on 1 March 2011 and subsequently amended by the Coalition on 29 April 2011. This latest letter requests revisions to the AMR to be re-submitted on 15 June 2011. This revision was received on time and is pending review by staff.

On 25 May 2011, staff mailed a letter to the SVWQC approving a request to eliminate the DO and pH Management Plan requirements in the Upper Feather River Watershed. This request was reviewed and researched by Regional Board staff who wrote a memo to clarify the issues surrounding this Management Plan.

Also, on 25 May 2011, staff mailed a letter to the SVWQC approving their submitted Schedule of Deliverables. This schedule was requested in a letter from the Executive Officer on 3 December 2010 and initially submitted to the Water Board on 24 January 2011 and most recently amended on 28 April 2011.

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

On 1 June 2011, the Coalition submitted its Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period January through March 2011, as required by Order No. R5-2006-0053. After review, these data will be posted on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program web site.

On 8 June 2011, staff completed review of the annual Management Plan Update Report for the 2010 reporting period. Staff proposed that the 2011 Management Plan Update Report should tabulate exceedances by percentage, compare exceedance percentages by High Priority areas and Zones, and annualize charts to show trends.

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

On 1 June 2011, the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition submitted its Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period January through March 2011. Staff is currently reviewing the report.

**Westlands Coalition:**

On 31 May 2011, the Westlands Coalition submitted its Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period January through March 2011. Staff is currently reviewing the report.

**Westside Coalition:**

On 1 June 2011, Regional Board staff attended the Westside Coalition grower meeting. The Coalition presented new requirements under the long-term Program, presented 2010 water and sediment monitoring results, and grant information to its

growers.

On 15 June 2011, staff received the Westside Water Quality Coalition semi-annual monitoring report for the September 2010 – February 2011 reporting period as required by Order No. R5- 2006-0053. The report is under staff review.

On 28 June 2011, the Westside Coalition submitted a revised performance goal report in response to staff comments. The Coalition identified milestones it will complete to measure its success with implementing its Focused Management Plan II. The performance goals are under staff review.

### **Individual Dischargers**

#### **Merced Irrigation District:**

On 25 May 2011, the Executive Officer approved the 2 May 2011 Merced Irrigation District request to join a coalition group. The District submitted a Notice of Termination to end their individual coverage and provided an application to join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition. On 1 July 2011, the East San Joaquin Coalition confirmed membership.

#### **Modesto Irrigation District:**

On 25 May 2011, the Executive Officer approved the 2 May 2011 Modesto Irrigation District request to join a coalition group. The District submitted a Notice of Termination to end their individual coverage and provided an application to join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition. On 1 July 2011, the East San Joaquin Coalition confirmed membership.

#### **Oakdale Irrigation District:**

On 25 May 2011, the Executive Officer approved the 2 May 2011 Oakdale Irrigation District request to join a coalition group. The District submitted a Notice of Termination to end their individual coverage and provided an application to join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition. Termination of the Individual conditional waiver will occur upon confirmation of their membership with the Coalition.

#### **South San Joaquin Irrigation District:**

On 25 May 2011, the Executive Officer approved the South San Joaquin Irrigation District request to join a coalition group. The District submitted a Notice of Termination to end their individual coverage and provided an application to join the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition. Staff confirmed that the District is a member of the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition on 1 July 2011.

#### **Turlock Irrigation District (TID):**

On 25 May 2011, the Executive Officer approved the 2 May 2011 Turlock Irrigation District request to join a coalition group. The District submitted a Notice of Termination

to end their individual coverage and provided an application to join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition. On 1 July 2011, the East San Joaquin Coalition confirmed membership.

### **Data Management**

Data reports received through June 1st, 2011 that arrived in an electronic SWAMP comparable format 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). These reports and future data sets will be sent to the CV RDC to be uploaded into CEDEN for state-wide assessment efforts. At this time, 32 reports have been successfully processed and loaded into the CEDEN comparable database.

The most recent electronic data submittals (June 2011) received from the Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, Westlands Storm Water Coalition and Westside San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition are currently being formatted, reviewed and loaded within the database. Concurrent to these efforts, data submission feedback packages have been developed to assist the Coalitions with formatting and reviewing data prior to submission to meet the electronic data submittal requirements of the program. The feedback packages contain guidance documents, electronic versions of quality assurance project plans, review checklists and code look up lists. The Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition has received their data feedback package for the March 1st, 2011 submittal. The feedback packages for Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and Westlands Storm Water Coalition are in final review and are slated to be provided to the Coalitions in early July 2011. The feedback package for Westside San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition is in development for their July 15th, 2011 submittal.

### **MOU Pilot Program**

The final report for the MOU Pilot Program with the Glenn County and Butte County Agricultural Commissioners has been posted on the ILRP website.

### **Prop 84 Grant Funding**

On 1 July 2011, the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) received the first round of applications for grant funding. The applications will be reviewed for completeness before being submitted to the Advisory Committee for review and ranking.

## **Fertilizer Research Education Program**

ILRP staff submitted Fertilizer Research Education Program (FREP) project suggestions to the California Department of Food & Agriculture on 1 March 2011. Subsequently, the FREP program manager told Board staff that the four project concepts were accepted. Staff worked with the Center for Irrigation Technology at CSU, Fresno (CIT) and the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) to develop full proposals. Full proposals were submitted to CDFA for the following projects and are pending a decision from CDFA: 1) crop-specific nutrient management plan templates (CURES); 2) web-based information management tools for nutrient information (CIT); and 3) compilation and assessment of BMPs for salt and nitrate management (CURES).