

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

September 2019

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

STATE WATER BOARD

Staff traveled to the North Coast Region to attend a board meeting on August 15, 2019. The Board adopted the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dairies in the North Coast Region (Order R1-2019-0001). Additionally, staff participated in an information item on the [Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio](#). Comments received from the Board included recognizing forests as resources and prioritizing drought-tolerant root stalks in agricultural activities.

Between August 15, 2019 and September 15, 2019, staff participated in several meetings to discuss the Salt River and Calleguas National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) projects. The meeting goals were to advance the NWQI Readiness applications, identify any missing information, and focus on a final budget. Completing the application is a commitment to completing the full Watershed Assessment. The NWQI Team will be discussing what the projected hours and costs are, as well as who will participate in completing the Watershed Assessment this fall.

On August 20, 2019, staff met to discuss the development of the Nonpoint Source (NPS) 5-year plan for 2020-2025. The plan will set goals and corresponding timelines for the ILRP. The final plan will likely be presented to the Board next summer.

Staff participated in a California Bioresources Alliance (CBA) Planning Committee meeting on August 21, 2019 to finalize the CBA Annual Symposium agenda. This year's symposium will be held on November 14 – 15, 2019 at the Ziggurat Building Auditorium in Sacramento and will feature a special workshop designed to understand and improve the permitting process for organics projects in California. There will also be sessions addressing financial onramps for organics projects, incentives for certain bioresources technologies and products, distributed bioresources projects and community composting, and use of bioresources for energy and greenhouse gas reduction. research posters and flash presentations on new bioresources projects and technologies will also take place.

On September 5, 2019, staff attended an orientation for a panel reviewing the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Grants. Grant applications were due on August 30, 2019. Projects receiving funding will be announced in November 2019.

On September 12, 2019, staff participated in the Confined Animal Facilities Roundtable meeting. Topics of discussion included an inspections Administrative Procedures Manual (APM) update, changes to the fee schedule, Nitrogen Management Planning Tools, CIWQS and GeoTracker databases, and ADA compliance.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

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 October 9, 2019 stakeholder meeting will be held at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, with focused discussions on implementation of the drinking water well monitoring requirements in the Tulare Lake Basin and the status of the CV-SALTS Basin Plan Amendments.

State Water 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 CA Coastal Water Research Project has been contracted to facilitate and manage the review. A nine-member Advisory Group consisting of 3 agricultural representatives, 3 environmental protection representatives, and 3 Water Boards representatives has been formed, and a five-member panel has been selected. The first panel meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7-9 January 2020. More information about the meeting will be provided via ILRP Lyris and be available on the ILRP website shortly.

State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ-2018-0002 also directs the Central Valley Water Board to develop an on-farm drinking water well monitoring program. This program has been initiated in the East San Joaquin Coalition, and hundreds of groundwater sample results have been uploaded into GeoTracker. Outreach of the program requirements in the Tulare Lake Basin coalition areas will begin this Fall with implementation to start in 2020. When the GeoTracker data are available to the public for review, an ILRP Lyris email will be sent to interested parties.

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 documentation for

Administrative Civil Liability Complaints. From July to mid-August 2019, Central Valley Water Board staff conducted 276 parcel inspections to assess the need for ILRP enrollment and issued 767 Notices of Violation for failure to respond to directives and failure to submit order-mandated reports.

Additional information can be found on the [Central Valley Water Board program website](#).