

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE January 2020

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program update provides a summary of significant activities of State Water Board from December 15, 2019 to January 15, 2020 and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board from November 15, 2019 to January 15, 2020. 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 December 15, 2019 to February 15, 2020.

STATE WATER BOARD

State Water Board staff are working with UC Davis to develop an online computational modeling toolbox that will allow users to rapidly assess potential groundwater quality improvements associated with changes in nonpoint source loading of nitrate, including crop type and nitrate loading rates.

Staff are also working with UC Davis to evaluate best management practices for stockpiling manure versus composting manure. The results of that research are anticipated by the end of 2022 and should provide additional information on best management practices for composting agricultural materials with manure.

Additional information can be found on the [State Water Board's website](#).

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Central Valley Water Board staff hold regular stakeholder meetings to provide an open forum for communication between staff, agricultural coalitions, environmental justice groups, and other interested parties in the region. The next stakeholder meeting will be held at the Madera County Farm Bureau on March 12, 2020 and will focus on the coordination between ILRP, the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS), and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

State Water Board Order WQ-2018-0002 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. The expert review process is being facilitated by Steve Weisberg of Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), and five Panel members have agreed to perform the external review. The first public Panel Meeting was held from January 7 to 9, 2020, with two days at the Central Valley Water Board's Rancho Cordova office and one day touring the Coalition's monitoring locations. The Panel is developing a list of questions and plans to reconvene from April

28 to 30, 2020. Additional [panel and meeting information](#) is available on the SCCWRP website.

State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ-2018-0002 also directed the Central Valley Water Board to develop an on-farm drinking water well monitoring program. This program has been initiated in several coalition areas. Groundwater sample results have been uploaded into GeoTracker, which is available for public review.

On December 5, 2019, the Central Valley Water Board adopted revisions to Waste Discharge Requirements for San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project to permit discharges beyond December 31, 2019. The revised Order includes additional monitoring and reporting, requirements for annual public meetings, opportunity for public review and comment of management plans and several reopeners if triggered by certain scenarios.

Additional information can be found on the [Regional Water Board agriculture webpage](#).