

ITEM	12
SUBJECT	Rice Pesticide Program, Management Practices for the 2007-2009 Rice Seasons
BOARD ACTION	<i>Consideration of Approval of 2007-2009 Management Practices</i>
BACKGROUND	<p>A Basin Plan prohibition of discharge is in effect for irrigation tailwater containing specific pesticides until the Water Board approves management practices. The Water Board may approve the program as proposed by the California Rice Commission (CRC), approve the program subject to new or additional conditions or take no action, which would keep the prohibition in effect. Staff recommendation is to approve the practices as proposed by the CRC.</p> <p>The Basin Plan states that the discharge of irrigation return flows containing carbofuran, malathion, methyl parathion, molinate and thiobencarb is prohibited unless the discharger is following management practices approved by the Water Board, and that implementation of these management practices must be expected to result in compliance with the performance goals. The Basin Plan contains performance goals for the five pesticides and a 1.0 µg/l thiobencarb water quality objective. The water quality objective level, applicable to waters designated as municipal or domestic supply, is also the secondary MCL set to prevent taste complaints in drinking water supplies.</p> <p>Each year the California Rice Commission (CRC), a commodity group representing all of California's rice growers and handlers, submits an annual report to the Water Board summarizing the previous season's monitoring efforts and implementation of management practices. The annual report also recommends management practices for the upcoming rice season.</p> <p>On 17 March 2006, the Water Board approved management practices for 2006, continuing conditions that have evolved since the early 1980's. These conditions include holding water on treated fields for specific time periods following applications of the pesticides. Recent additions to the program have included increased monitoring of thiobencarb, a prohibition on the use of Bolero® 10G in the Sacramento Valley, restrictions on the use of thiobencarb near rivers, and increased education efforts including CRC-hosted preseason mandatory stewardship meetings.</p> <p>Water Board approval of management practices continues to allow rice farmers to discharge to surface water. Without approval of the</p>

Program farmers will face prohibition of the discharge of return flows containing the five rice pesticides, as stated in the Basin Plan.

The CRC has proposed conditions for the 2007 season. Since this program has consistently met its goals, staff recommends that these management practices be approved for 2007 through 2009. CRC would continue to conduct monitoring and submit annual reports. The program would be brought back to the Board if monitoring indicates a trend that may result in exceedances of performance goals or objectives. Additional details are provided in the attached staff report.

RECOMMENDATION Adopt the proposed resolution.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review

15/16 March 2007
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