



Linda S. Adams  
Acting Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region Katherine Hart, Chair

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114  
(916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

## IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

### EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### MEETING NOTES

#### 3 May 2011– MEETING No. 11

(Revised on 10 May 2011)

**ATTENDEES:** Chris Jimmerson, Dania Huggins, Melissa Turner, Mike Johnson, and Parry Klassen.

**SUMMARY:** The last quarterly management plan meeting occurred on 8 February 2011. Staff facilitated this meeting to discuss the exceedances reported in the 2011 AMR report (items 3 and 4) and Staff questions on the 2011 Annual MPUR (item 5). Additionally, the Coalition stated that performance goals (PGs) for the 1<sup>st</sup> set of High Priority site subwatersheds are complete. All PGs deadlines for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> set High Priority site subwatersheds have been met to date.

#### ITEMS DISCUSSED

- (1) Change –ESJWQC Regional Board staff liaison
- (2) Review of last meeting action items
- (3) Metal exceedances
- (4) Exceedances at non High Priority site-subwatersheds
- (5) Annual MPUR
- (6) Status on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> High Priority site-subwatersheds
- (7) Status on 3<sup>rd</sup> four High Priority site-subwatersheds
- (8) Next Deliverables
- (9) Action Items
- (10) Next qrtly MPlan mtg No. 12

#### (1) CHANGE –ESJWQC REGIONAL BOARD STAFF LIAISON

**Purpose:** To inform the Coalition about the changes in liaison and status of report and request reviews.

**Outcome:** Dania Huggins described to the Coalition that she will be working for the Point Source Permitting Section, under Jim Marshall in the San Joaquin Delta Permitting Unit starting on 16 May. Before transferring to NPDES, she will complete the following pending tasks:

1. Response Ltr to MRP Plan Amend to omit/reduce specific constituents.
2. ESJWQC Qrtly Mgtm Plan Meeting Notes and Action Items
3. ESJWQC and Westside 3rd TMDL Meeting Notes and Action Items
4. Response to the 1 April 2011 Annual MPUR

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## (2) REVIEW OF LAST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

**Purpose:** To provide a status on the pending action items from the last meeting.

**Outcome:** Staff comments to the MRP Plan Monitoring Modification Request will be sent to the Coalition as soon as the EO approval signature.<sup>1</sup> Staff response to the Annual SJR Chlorpyrifos-Diazinon TMDL Report (submitted on 11/01/2010) will depend on the outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> TMDL meeting (05/03/11). Susan Fregien will follow up with this response after 16 May 2011.

## (3) METAL EXCEEDANCES

**Purpose:** To discuss:

1. The Coalition request to reduce sampling chelating metals that are not applied by agriculture including arsenic, cadmium, lead and molybdenum, and
2. Potential sources of copper exceedances at Cottonwood Creek at Rd 20

**Outcome:**

### a. Coalition request to reduce sampling chelating metals<sup>2</sup>

Staff explained that given the number of detections and exceedances for arsenic, cadmium, lead, and molybdenum, the Coalition's request to reduce sampling of these metals was not approved. The Coalition explained that they were recommending to growers the implementation of sediment control management practices to decrease the sediment runoff for these metals. Molybdenum and arsenic are naturally abundant in certain areas. The Coalition included upstream monitoring in 2007 to determine the source for some metals including copper. However, the patterns were inconsistent and no correlation was found. Alternatives to source identification via upstream sampling are challenging and costly.

### b. Potential sources of copper exceedances at Cottonwood Creek at Rd 20

The Coalition explained that they have not been able to find a correlation between pesticide applications and exceedances since the exceedance is based on hardness and therefore depending on the hardness of the water the same concentration of copper may or may not be an exceedance. Since copper is persistent in the environment, detections of copper do not necessarily correspond to times of high use by agriculture. The Coalition mentioned that perhaps one of the potential sources could be the portable field toilets placed on the fields for the contracted laborer. Portable field toilets may use copper sulfate to control odors. Another possibility is that the soils are naturally high in copper. The Coalition agreed to look into other options for source identification of copper within Cottonwood Creek including soil analysis.

## (4) EXCEEDANCES AT NON HIGH PRIORITY SITE SUBWATERSHEDS

**Purpose:** To discuss follow up actions for exceedances reported in the 2011 AMR report at Deadman Creek @ Gurr Rd.

**Outcome:** The Coalition explained that two notifications were sent to growers regarding the use of chlorpyrifos and how to avoid water quality problems. Additionally, a third notification will be sent by the end of May 2011 to growers in the Deadman Creek @ Gurr Rd area to

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<sup>1</sup> Staff response letter and memo to the Coalition's 11 November 2010 request to modify the MRP Plan monitoring strategy was mailed on 6 May 2011. Staff emailed the electronic copy of the cover letter and memorandum on 05/10/11.

<sup>2</sup> The EO approved a sampling frequency of four times a year: once during each storm event (two sampling events) and during high TSS irrigation events (two sampling events) for arsenic, cadmium, lead and molybdenum (ltr mailed on 05/06/11).

address 2010 exceedances and how to avoid water quality problems during the 2012 irrigation season. The Coalition agreed to evaluate their site-subwatershed prioritization schedule at the end of the irrigation season. Any potential changes to the schedule are going to be discussed with Staff during the quarterly management plan meetings.

#### (5) ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE REPORT

**Purpose:** To discuss staff questions regarding:

1. Responses to the 26 April 2010 Grower Notification for CURES-AWEP funding
2. Percentage of implemented management practices at the 1<sup>st</sup> set of High Priority areas
3. Chlorpyrifos applications and exceedance (Westside vs ESJ – Analysis found on page 121)

**Outcome:**

1. Responses to the 26 April 2010 Grower Notification for CURES-AWEP funding  
Notification regarding 2010 AWEP funding was sent to 429 members located within the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> set of High Priority areas. Another notification regarding 2011 funding was sent on 10/8/11 to growers within the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> high priority subwatersheds. (2011 Annual MPUR pages 44-46). The follow up responses from Duck Slough at Hwy 99 growers indicated that the recommended management practices were not implemented due to lack of resources. It is anticipated that AWEP and NRCS funding will be used by Duck Slough growers to implement structural management practices.

2. Percentage of implemented management practices at the 1<sup>st</sup> set of High Priority areas  
The Coalition explained that the percentage of implemented management practices was greater than 100% because growers implemented management practices in addition to those recommended. The percentage is based on the practices recommended versus those implemented and therefore if a grower implements a practice beyond those recommended to him than the overall percentage may be greater than 100% for that specific practice. This information was obtained during the follow up surveys.

#### 3. Chlorpyrifos applications and exceedance

The Coalition provided a summary on the number of applications, pounds of active ingredient applied, and the acres treated for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> event. Staff had some questions regarding the differences in numbers and quantities among the ESJWQC and Westside Coalitions. The Coalition explained, briefly, that geographically both coalitions are significantly different.

#### (6) STATUS OF 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> HIGH PRIORITY SITE SUBWATERSHEDS

**Purpose:** To provide a status on the outcome of the performance goals and measures.

**Outcome:** Performance goals 1, 2, and 3 have been completed for the 1<sup>st</sup> High Priority areas. Follow up meetings occurred during April 26 and 28, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Priority areas. The Coalition will follow up with the remaining growers via phone or email. It is anticipated that AWEP and NRCS 2011 funding will be used by Duck Slough growers to implement additional structural management practices. The Coalition will be monitoring for management plan constituents at the first set of high priority site-subwatersheds for an additional year to obtain more water quality data at these sites.

(7) STATUS OF 3<sup>rd</sup> SET OF HIGH PRIORITY SITE SUBWATERSHEDS

**Purpose:** To provide a status on the outcome on Performance Goal 1. Individually contact members on adjacent properties to waterways to complete surveys where discharges have been identified.

**Outcome:** 100% of the targeted growers were contacted by March 30, 2011. The Coalition is working on completing Performance Goal 2, Performance Measure 2.1 (Record in an Access database current management practices used that may reduce agricultural impact on water quality) which is to be completed by July 30, 2011 for all four subwatersheds. The new number of growers to be met with to record current management practices in the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of High Priority area is:

**Table 1.** Number of growers to be contacted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of High Priority areas<sup>1</sup>

<i>Site-subwatershed</i>	<i>Target (as of 05/03/11)</i>	<i>Growers With Recorded Management Practices as of 05/03/11</i>
Lateral 2 ½ @ Keyes Rd.	26 growers	13
Berenda Slough along Ave 18 ½	22 growers	1
Dry Creek @ Rd 18	18 growers	0
Livingston Drain @ Yosemite Rd	11 growers	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>17 (22%)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Completion date is 30 July 2011

## (8) NEXT DELIVERABLES

**Purpose:** To provide a status on the next set of deliverables

**Outcome:** Staff has two deliverables pending:

**Coalition**

- a. TMDL Proposed reporting schedule → XX May 2011
- b. Annual SJR C-D TMDL Report → XX ??? 2011

**Regional Board**

- a. Staff response to MRP Plan Monitoring Modification Rqst (submitted on 11/11/2010)
- b. Staff response to Annual SJR Chlorpyrifos-Diazinon TMDL Report (submitted on 11/01/2010)

## (9) NEXT STEPS

The following summarizes today's meeting action items.

Regional Board

- a. Provide Staff response to Annual SJR Chlorpyrifos-Diazinon TMDL Report (submitted on 11/01/2010). **Pending**
- b. Provide a Schedule a visit to Cottonwood Creek and other sites. **Pending**
- c. Provide Staff response to MRP Plan Monitoring Modification Request (submitted on 11/11/2010). **Completed on 05/10/11**

ESJWQC

- a. Share maps and other detailed information of the levees and geography for the Cottonwood Creek area.
- b. Evaluate potential metal sourcing techniques that could be used by the Coalition in Cottonwood Creek.
- c. The Coalition will send a notification to growers in the Deadman Creek @ Gurr Rd site subwatershed by the end of May 2011 regarding 2010 exceedances and how to avoid water quality problems in and future irrigation seasons.

(9) NEXT ESJWQC QUARTERLY MEETING ==> **2011 meetings, are scheduled for the following dates:**

**August 2011** → Tuesday, August 2nd

**November 2011** → Tuesday, November 1st