

ITEM: 7b.

SUBJECT: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands – Program Report

BOARD ACTION *Information Report – No Board Action*

BACKGROUND This Information Report provides an overview of program elements and their current status, including the proposed renewal of the Conditional Waivers.

The renewal overview includes discussion on process, such as meetings with major stakeholders, what has not changed in the proposed renewal, and what may change. The major discussion point include: a proposed 5-year term for the Conditional Waivers, a list of numeric limits to implement water quality objectives in Attachment A, combining the Notice of Intent into the Conditional Waivers, consolidating the Watershed Evaluation Report, Implementation Plan, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan into one technical Report, eliminating the “phased” monitoring approach and requiring the submittal of a long-term watershed wide monitoring strategy, and the development of a Water District Monitoring and Reporting Program.

In addition to the proposed renewal of the Conditional Waivers, this Report discusses the following:

- *Environmental Impact Report for a Permanent Irrigated Lands Water Quality Regulatory Program.* The existing conditions report is under development by the Contractor. The report will be presented at several public workshops in the fall.
- *“De Minimis” Conditional Waiver.* Conditional Waiver to address discharges from small, rural or other growers with a minimal effect on water quality. Staff are meeting with various stakeholders with the goal of circulating a draft proposed Conditional Waiver for public comment this coming winter.
- *Monitoring and Reporting Program Revisions.* The Executive Officer signed revised Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R5-2005-0833 for Coalition Groups on 15 August 2005, after input and comment from the Technical Issues Committee, Coalitional Groups and other interested parties.
- *Compliance.* The Executive Officer has issued Water Code 13267 Orders requiring Technical Reports to 126 growers in Yolo, Madera and Fresno Counties between March and July, and on 22 August 2005, issued 196 Orders to growers in Yuba, Butte, Sutter and Colusa Counties.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

15 September 2005
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Rancho Cordova, CA