

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Status Report on Groundwater Monitoring at Dairies

BOARD ACTION: *No Board Action. Information Item Only*

RECOMMENDATION: On 3 May 2007, Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2007-0035 for Existing Milk Cow Dairies (General Order) was adopted. The General Order includes Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2007-0035 (MRP). Attachment A to the MRP requires Dischargers to install and sample groundwater monitoring wells when ordered to do so by the Executive Officer based on an evaluation of the threat to water quality at each dairy, and sets the expectation that 100 to 200 Dischargers will be ordered to install groundwater monitoring wells per year. The issuance of such orders commenced in the fall of 2009 and 49 orders had been issued through April 2010. The monitoring required by Attachment A is in addition to monitoring of water supply wells required by the General Order.

During the Board hearing at which the General Order was adopted, staff was directed to continue working with Stakeholders to further evaluate groundwater monitoring alternatives at dairies. The purpose of this information item is to update the Board regarding ongoing efforts with Stakeholders to establish alternatives to installation of individual groundwater monitoring systems at all dairies and proposed modifications of the MRP. Staff proposes modifying Attachment A of the MRP to allow consideration of work plans proposing a representative monitoring alternative to individual groundwater monitoring. In addition, staff is making minor modifications to other portions of the MRP based on comments provided by Stakeholders and to address issues identified since the General Order was adopted. Prior to approval of the amended MRP, comments will be solicited from the stakeholders followed by a 30-day public comment period. It is anticipated that modification of the MRP will be approved by the Executive Officer following consideration of submitted comments.

Stakeholder meetings were recently held on 4 February and 5 April 2010 to present information regarding the proposed process to approve an alternative to individual monitoring and technical information regarding how representative monitoring could be accomplished. Currently, the Community Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (Dairy CARES) is preparing a work plan to propose a representative monitoring alternative and is forming a coalition to implement the work plan.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review EGW _____
27 May 2010

11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670