

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Regulation of Managed Wetlands: Options and Proposed Strategy

BOARD ACTION: *Informational Item Only*

BACKGROUND: Managed wetlands have been included under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP or Program) since 2003. During the adoption of WDRs Orders in 2012-2014, managed wetlands representatives raised concerns about continuing to include managed wetlands in the Program. Based on direction from the Board, staff initiated a Managed Wetlands Workgroup to discuss potential alternatives to regulation in the ILRP.

On 15 April 2015, the Central Valley Water Board held a Managed Wetlands Workshop at the San Luis NWR in Los Banos, CA. All Workshop materials and presentations are available at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/1504/index.shtml#5

The information item will address several questions which arose from the 2015 Workshop: 1) whether potential threats to water quality differ between private duck clubs and publicly managed wetlands; 2) the definition of a managed wetland; 3) the potential effects of surface water percolating to groundwater from managed wetlands in the Tulare Lake Basin; and 4) the potential threats/concerns to water quality from managed wetlands.

Staff will also discuss recommendations for a regulatory strategy that balances the need to meet Water Board obligations under Porter-Cologne with the desire for a streamlined approach with minimal costs for managed wetlands.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only.

Mgmt. Review SYM
Legal Review PEP
10-11 December 2015