

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD
September 2013

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program monthly report will provide an update on activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) ILRP, as reported in the Central Valley Water Board's October 2013 Executive Officer's report. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) website.

General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)

Development of Individual Grower WDRs:

The General WDRs for individual growers were adopted by the Central Valley Water Board at the July 25-26, 2013 meeting, becoming Order R5-2013-0100. Regional Water Board staff is developing a Notice of Intent form and will work with the State Water Board staff to develop an electronic version.

Tulare Lake Basin WDRs:

On August 27, 2013, revised tentative WDRs were posted on the Central Valley Water Board website for public review. The WDRs are scheduled to be considered for adoption on September 19, 2013 in Fresno.

On August 28, 2013, Regional Water Board staff attended a grower outreach event hosted by the Tule River Sub-watershed. Regional Water Board staff presented a general overview of grower requirements proposed in the tentative WDRs and responded to questions asked by the audience. Representatives of the Tule Sub-watershed presented an outline of the third-party requirements and discussed some of the details regarding formation of a third-party under the new WDRs.

Sacramento Valley Rice WDRs:

On August 2, 2013, the California Rice Commission (CRC) submitted its final version of the Rice-Specific Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR). The report was posted on the ILRP long-term development website on August 29, 2013.

On August 9, 2013, the CRC and Regional Water Board staff had a conference call to discuss comments on the draft WDRs and associated documents.

On August 13, 2013, the administrative drafts of the WDRs and associated documents for Rice Growers in the Sacramento Valley were posted for public comment. Comments are due by September 13, 2013.

Sacramento River Watershed WDRs:

On July 2, 2013, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition representatives and Regional Water Board staff met to discuss the draft WDRs and associated documents (e.g., draft Monitoring and Reporting Program [MRP] Order requirements, Information sheet) for Growers in the Sacramento Valley.

On August 7, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition to further discuss revisions in the MRP and the WDR documents.

On September 5, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with representatives of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition to discuss final revisions to the WDRs prior to the release of the administrative draft.

Delta WDRs:

On July 18, 2013, Regional Water Board staff attended a board meeting of the San Joaquin County RCD to discuss the San Joaquin County and Delta WDRs.

On July 26, 2013, Regional Water Board staff provided the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition draft versions of the Delta Order's Information sheet and attachments for comment.

On August 5 – 8, 2013, Regional Water Board staff attended grower outreach events hosted by the San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition. Regional Water Board staff presented information on the proposed WDRs, the schedule for the board's consideration of the WDRs, and opportunities for growers and other parties to comment. The meetings were held at four different locations in the Coalition area.

On August 13, 2013, the administrative drafts of the WDRs and associated documents for the San Joaquin County and Delta area were posted for public comment. Comments are due by September 13, 2013.

Western San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs:

On June 27, 2013, Regional Water Board staff presented an overview of results from the Westside Coalition monitoring program at a Westside Stakeholder Meeting in Westley, CA.

On July 9, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in a phone conference with the Westside Coalition representatives regarding the potential revisions to the draft WDRs.

By the July 15, 2013 deadline, the Central Valley Water Board received six comment letters on the administrative draft of WDRs and an MR for growers that are members of the third-party group within the Western San Joaquin River Watershed. Following the July 30, 2013, Central Valley Water Board workshop in Los Banos, Regional Water Board staff is revising the draft WDRs for interested party review of tentative WDRs

anticipated to be released in October 2013.

Westlands WDRs:

On July 30, 2013, a Central Valley Water Board workshop was held in Los Banos to discuss draft WDRs and receive comments from interested parties. Regional Water Board staff delivered a brief presentation about the area considered for coverage under the draft WDRs, the contents of the WDRs, and some of the major comments received during the public comment period.

Compliance and Outreach

East San Joaquin Agricultural Parcel Inspections:

In July and August 2013, Regional Water Board staff continued conducting inspections of parcels in the East San Joaquin River Watershed. The purpose of these inspections is to determine if the parcels are commercial irrigated lands that require coverage under the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed General WDRs. Regional Water Board staff conducted inspections on six days each in July and August 2013, with a total of 289 parcels inspected. Data gathered during these inspections will be used to focus and prioritize the issuance of 13260 directives to commercial irrigated lands that are not covered by the East San Joaquin Coalition.

Water Code section 13260 Directives:

In July 2013, Regional Water Board staff mailed 87 13260 directives to landowners in the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed whose parcels are used for commercial irrigated lands (as determined by Regional Water Board staff inspections). The directives require the recipients to submit proof of coalition membership or a Report of Waste Discharge. Additionally, 31 and 34 Notices of Violation were mailed in July and August 2013, respectively, to growers who did not respond to 13260 directives mailed in June and July 2013.

Complaint Investigation:

On August 19, 2013, Regional Water Board staff responded to a complaint of chlorine being discharged to the Delta from a potato processing facility. Regional Water Board staff inspected the facility and collected a water sample at the point of discharge. Laboratory results indicate there is a potential for low concentrations of residual chlorine to be discharged to Delta waters. Regional Water Board staff has turned this investigation over to the Compliance & Enforcement section. The investigation is currently ongoing.

Coalition Groups

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition:

On July 1, 2013, Regional Water Board staff completed the review of the March 1,

2013, Annual Monitoring Report to the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition). Regional Water Board staff determined that the Coalition complied with all monitoring and reporting requirements in 2012. The collected data are of high quality, meeting precision, accuracy, and completeness requirements, and the Coalition addressed the key programmatic questions. The review is posted on the Central Valley Water Board website.

On July 1, 2013, the review of the April 1, 2013, Management Plan Update Report (MPUR) was sent to the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition). The MPUR provides comprehensive information regarding achievement of the performance goals outlined in the Coalition's Management Plan and evaluates management practice effectiveness to achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards. The review is posted on the Central Valley Water Board website.

On July 1, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in a meeting with East San Joaquin River Water Quality Coalition representatives and State Water Resources Control Board staff and the US Geological Survey (USGS). Scientists from the USGS provided an overview of the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program and presented a summary of the most recent results from the shallow groundwater monitoring in the Eastern San Joaquin River watershed. Upcoming GAMA groundwater monitoring efforts in the East-side Coalition area were described by the USGS. Potential coordination with the Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program efforts was discussed.

On July 8, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the agricultural representatives who participated in the development of the draft templates to discuss further steps for template development and revisions. After public comments are received and considered, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer will approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the templates.

On July 11, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition submitted its annual member participation list as required by WDRs Order R5-2012-0116.

On August 1, 2013, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition submitted a Monitoring Program Update Report as required by WDR Order R5-2012-0116. The Monitoring Plan Update provides the surface water monitoring schedule for the period October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014. The proposed Monitoring Plan is under staff review.

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition templates for Farm Evaluation, Nitrogen Management Plan and Summary Report, and Sediment and Erosion Control Plan were open for public review and comments from July 15, 2013, through August 16, 2013. Seven comment letters were received by the due date; all letters are posted on the Central Valley Water Board website. The Coalition may make additional revisions to templates per comments received from Regional Water Board staff and from the public before the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer makes the final decision about

the templates.

On August 22, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the agricultural representatives to review proposed revisions to the ESJ WDRs and discuss the next steps in revisions to the templates.

On August 22, 2013, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer and Regional Water Board staff met with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to discuss their approach for reporting nitrogen ratios.

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):

On September 1, 2013, the SVWQC submitted the Electronic Data Deliverables consisting of the monitoring results of the second quarter of 2013. This data will be reviewed for completeness and format by Regional Water Board staff.

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition:

On July 5, 2013, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer approved the San Joaquin and Delta Coalition's request to replace Drain to Bishop Cut at North Rio Blanco Road with the Empire Tract at 8 Mile Road because access has not been available due to construction activities. This will modify the sampling routine in the Coalition's Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJVWQC):

On June 14, 2013, representatives from the Buena Vista Water Storage District (District) submitted a Notice of Intent to form a Coalition under Resolution R5-2011-0032 (Conditional Waiver). On June 25, 2013, the Central Valley Water Board Assistant Executive Officer issued a Notice of Applicability to the Buena Vista Coalition designating the District as a representative Coalition under the Conditional Waiver for growers within a portion of Kern County.

Westside Coalition:

On June 27, 2013, Regional Water Board staff presented monitoring results and discussed the long-term ILRP at a Stakeholder Meeting in Westley for the Westside Coalition.

On July 2, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition steering committee meeting. The Coalition reviewed its monitoring and reporting status.

On July 24, 2013, Regional Water Board staff met with the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) staff to discuss organophosphate exceedance results in the Westside Coalition area. Chlorpyrifos and diazinon exceedances appear to be frequent in several watersheds. DPR staff indicated they would contact Stanislaus and Merced County agriculture commissioners to discuss strategies to address the exceedances. Regional Water Board staff will follow up with DPR.

On July 29, 2013, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition submitted its Focused Plan IV Management Plan for Blewett and Marshall Drain. The Focused Plan addresses exceedances in these subwatersheds by identifying irrigated agriculture source, identifying management practices to implement, and more. The Focused Plan is under staff review.

On August 14, 2013, the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer approved the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition management plan implementation schedule. The amendment will continue the management plan schedule to 2016, identifying and prioritizing new watersheds to address water quality concerns.

On August 27, 2013, Regional Water Board staff and Westside Coalition representatives held a Quarterly Management Plan meeting to review the status and progress of management plans.

On September 3, 2013, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition steering committee meeting. The Coalition reviewed its monitoring and reporting status.

California Rice Commission Coalition:

On July 2, 2013, the CRC submitted corrective actions, as requested, per the staff review of the 2013 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The corrective actions were necessary to ensure quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) requirements.

Grasslands Bypass Project

On July 16, 2013, Regional Water Board staff held a conference call with representatives of the Grassland Bypass Project (the US Bureau of Reclamation and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority) to discuss a portion of the updated WDRs that are under preparation. Comments were received and the timeline for future actions was discussed.

Data Management

Data from 2009 through 2012 for all Coalitions are available to the public on California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). The next transfer is planned for mid-October 2013 and will add data through early 2013 for some coalitions. New data will continue to be transferred to CEDEN on a quarterly basis.

Data reports received in acceptable condition through September 1, 2013, are currently being processed and loaded into the CEDEN comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). This data is planned to be transferred to CEDEN in early January 2014.

Data collected prior to 2009 will continue to be available on the ILRP surface water quality data webpage until those sets have been processed and transferred to CEDEN as resources permit. Regional Water Board staff is currently processing the Westside Coalition and Sacramento Valley Coalition data collected between 2004 and 2008. Once complete, these sets will complement the existing data on CEDEN providing all of the data submitted by both Coalitions since program inception. The current goal is to complete the Westside Coalition data by the end of the year.

Rice Pesticides Program

The Rice Pesticides Program (RPP) monitoring was completed early in July 2013. Monitoring of thiobencarb showed three exceedances of the performance goal in drains. No detections of thiobencarb were observed at the West Sacramento or City of Sacramento water intakes. A stakeholder meeting will be scheduled in October 2013 to discuss the 2013 season results.

Prop 84 Grant Funding

Fifty projects have been completed and invoiced to date. Twenty-seven projects are still open. The completion and invoicing of projects are required by December 2014.

Field measurements have begun as part of a study to validate the accuracy of the soil erosion model. The model is scheduled to be completed in December 2013. The [CURES website](#) has additional information on the Prop 84 funding and photos of completed projects.