

REGULATE

IRRIGATED LANDS

GROUP: IRRIGATED LANDS

MEASURE: NUMBER OF FARMING OPERATIONS ENROLLED
SIZE OF OPERATIONS ENROLLED

MESSAGE: *The three regions most active in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program regulated 77% of their agricultural operations and 81% of their agricultural acreage.*

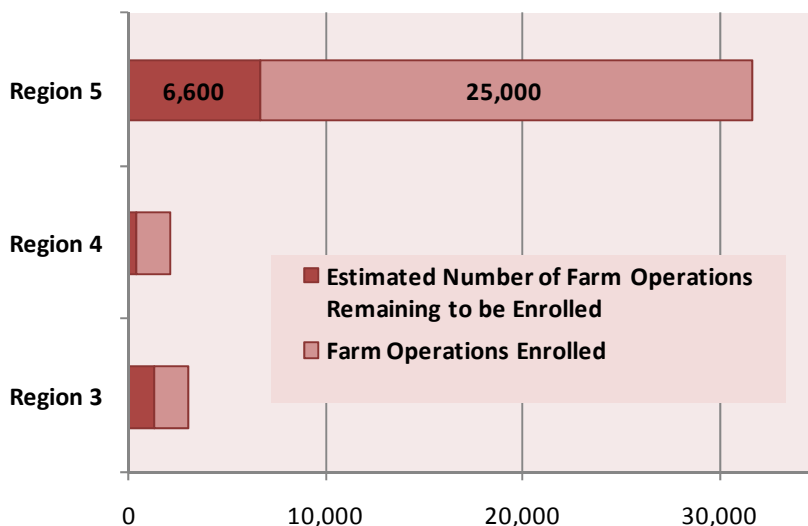
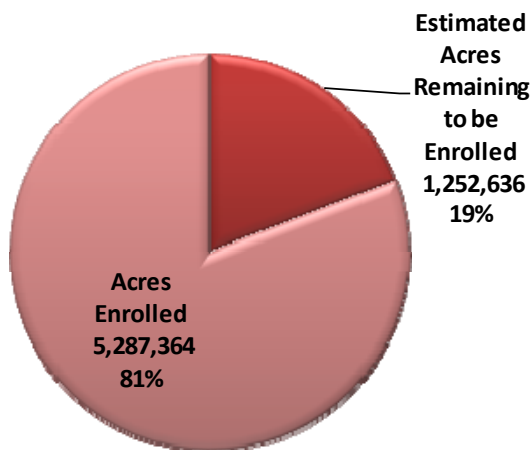
KEY STATISTICS FOR FY 2009-10

FARMING OPERATIONS ENROLLED: 28,421

ESTIMATED FARMING OPERATIONS REMAINING TO BE ENROLLED: 8,281

MEASUREMENTS:

Region	Total Estimated Acres In Region	New Acres Regulated in FY 09-10	Total Acres Enrolled Under Waiver	% Acres Enrolled	Total Estimated Number of Farm Operations	New Operations Regulated in FY 09-10	Total Operations Enrolled Under Waiver	% Operations Enrolled
3	435,000	1,973	397,364	91%	2,993	21	1,712	57%
4	105,000	3,000	90,000	86%	2,109	25	1,709	81%
5	6,000,000	32,400	4,800,000	80%	31,600	220	25,000	79%
TOTAL	6,540,000	37,373	5,287,364	81%	36,702	266	28,421	77%



WHAT THE MEASURE IS SHOWING:

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10, the Central Coast (Region 3), Los Angeles (Region 4), and Central Valley (Region 5) Regional Water Boards, collectively, enrolled 266 irrigated agricultural operations, which comprised 37,373 acres of irrigated agricultural land, under a general conditional waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). This resulted in 77 percent of the irrigated agricultural operators and 81 percent of acreage being regulated in these three



regions. It is evident that Region 5, which covers about 40 percent of the geographical area of the State, has 86 percent of the irrigated agricultural operators and 92 percent of acreage among these three regions.

WHY THIS MEASURE IS IMPORTANT:

Many surface and groundwater bodies are impaired because of pollutants from agricultural sources. Discharges from irrigated agricultural lands, from both irrigation flows and stormwater runoff, can affect water quality by transporting pollutants such as pesticides, nutrients, sediment, salts, heavy metals, and pathogens from cultivated fields into waters of the State. Several Regional Water Boards have made significant progress in developing and implementing an Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), initiated in 2004, to work with the agricultural community to control discharges from irrigated lands. Most of these Regional Boards have adopted a region-wide, general conditional waiver of WDRs to regulate irrigated agricultural discharges. To comply with the conditions of the waiver, irrigated agricultural dischargers implement management measures, monitor water quality, and implement corrective actions as needed to protect water quality. Because each Regional Water Board's ILRP is in a different phase of development, reporting on the number of acres, as well as the corresponding number of agricultural operations, enrolled will increase as additional Regional Boards adopt general conditional waivers of WDRs for discharges from irrigated agricultural land.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Data Source: Water Board ILRP Program database. **Period:** July 1, 2009-July 30, 2010. Extracted in August 2010.
- Unit of Measure: Number of acres enrolled under general conditional waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) at three Regional Water Boards with Irrigated Lands Regulatory Programs.
- Data Definitions: *Acres Enrolled:* Agricultural acreage under the control of commercial irrigated agricultural operators enrolled under a general conditional waiver of WDRs issued by a Regional Water Board as part of their Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.
- References: More information on the Regional Water Boards' Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, including the status of the ILRP at each Regional Water Board, is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/

GLOSSARY:

Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements: A Regional Water Board can formally waive Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for specific discharges to surface waters that are not subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System regulations provided that certain conditions are met, including that the discharge will not cause or contribute to violations in water quality. An individual conditional waiver of WDRs can be issued directly to an individual discharger. For discharges of a certain type, such as discharges from irrigated agricultural lands, individual or groups of dischargers may enroll under a general conditional waiver of WDRs.

Irrigated Agricultural Lands: Lands where water is applied to produce crops such as land planted to row, vineyard, pasture, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, managed wetlands, and rice production that do not currently discharge under waste discharge requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits, or other NPDES permits.