TMDL Summary

Diazinon is a pesticide that is used on crops in the Sacramento Valley. Diazinon was also used in urban areas until non-agricultural uses were cancelled by USEPA in 2004. In the early 1990’s, diazinon was observed in the Sacramento and Feather Rivers at levels that are toxic to aquatic life, and these rivers were listed as impaired by Diazinon in 1994. Since then, efforts have been undertaken by a variety of agricultural dischargers and other stakeholders, researchers and regulatory agencies to reduce diazinon discharges. The Central Valley Water Board adopted a TMDL for diazinon in the Sacramento and Feather Rivers in 2003. The TMDL established limits on concentrations of diazinon in discharges to the Sacramento and Feather River. Through the implementation of changes in agricultural practices and reduced urban use, diazinon discharges are now meeting the TMDL allocations, diazinon water quality objectives are being attained and these rivers were de-listed in 2010. The approaches used and lessons learned are helping to address other pesticides in the Central Valley.

For more information, please see: http://epa.gov/region9/water/watershed/measurew/feather-sac/index.html.

Water Quality Outcomes

- The Sacramento and Feather Rivers are currently meeting water quality objectives for Diazinon and were delisted during the 2010 303(d) list update.
- The observed reductions in Sacramento River’s diazinon concentrations mean significant reductions in diazinon loads entering the Delta.