

**State Water Resources Control Board
December 16-17, 2014
Item 6 - Executive Director's Report - Revised**

OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE

Conservation Workshop: On December 17, 2014, the State Water Board will hold a public workshop on statewide urban conservation efforts and what additional requirements, if any, are needed if dry conditions persist into 2015. Two panels will precede public comment. The panelists are being asked to respond to questions related to near-term conservation needs, 2015 and beyond conservation needs, as well as what actions should be taken to compel poor performing areas to improve their conservation rates. The workshop will be held at the Metropolitan Water District's headquarters in Los Angeles. For more information on the workshop as well as information on how to submit written comment, please see: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/urban_conservation/notice_urban_conserv_121714.pdf.

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Well Field Stimulation(SB 4): A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been drafted between the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources and the Water Boards to satisfy provisions of Senate Bill 4 (Chapter 313, Statutes of 2013). The draft MOA delineates each agencies' respective authority, responsibilities, and notification and reporting requirements associated with well stimulation treatments and well stimulation treatment-related activities, including water quality monitoring to protect public health and safety and the environment. The draft MOA ([attached](#)) is required by SB 4 to be in place by January 1, 2015.

Online Nitrate Information Tool: The State Water Board has released an interactive tool called "Is My Property Near a Nitrate-Impacted Water Well?" The tool is located here: www.waterboards.ca.gov/nitrate_tool. The interactive tool allows private domestic well owners to view the locations of wells with at least one detection above the maximum contaminant level (since 2000) and determine if their location is within 2,000 feet of a nitrate-impacted well. The blue dots on the map represent the most recent detection above the maximum contaminant level since 2000. The interactive tool will aide well owners in making informed decisions about their groundwater source. Included with the interactive tool is the Frequently Asked Questions flier "Nitrate in Groundwater" that provides information about nitrate contamination and best management practices for reducing or preventing nitrate contamination.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Discharge Monitoring Reports: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulations require major wastewater facilities with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to submit Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) to the State Water Board per the frequency specified by their permits. Historically, these major dischargers had been submitting paper DMRs which must then be entered into U.S. EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System database. This past summer, the State Water Board completed an interface that allows major dischargers to submit DMRs electronically to the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) database. As of November 21, 2014, 95 percent of all major dischargers have submitted electronic DMRs through CIWQS. The remaining five percent consist of major dischargers that are scheduled to submit DMRs electronically by February 2015. Thereafter, staff will provide an update to the Executive Director's report on the electronic submission rate of DMRs.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows Reduction Program: On November 13, 2014, staff presented an update on the progress of the Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) Reduction Program and the Sewer System Management Plan's (SSMP's) five-year update requirement to about 165 attendees at the Sewer Summit 2014 in Fremont, California. Staff received positive feedback on the progress of the SSO Reduction Program, particularly regarding the decrease in the number of SSOs over the past seven years of program implementation and the decrease in volume of SSOs over the past three years. Staff believes the decrease in number and volume of SSOs is due in large part to the implementation of SSMPs and the collection system agencies' proactive approach. Staff will continue to coordinate with stakeholders to provide outreach events in 2015.

Salt and Nutrient Management Planning: The Regional Water Boards' third quarter 2014 updates indicate that approximately 91 percent of Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment priority basins by area, and approximately 47 percent of all basins in California are covered by 45 salt and nutrient management planning groups. Sixteen final or draft Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs) have been received by the Regional Water Boards. Regional Water Board staff are currently reviewing these SNMPs and considering possible Basin Plan amendments. The remaining salt and nutrient management planning groups have requested extensions to complete their SNPMs, which will result in 25 additional SNMPs by 2016. Extensions have been granted to the Central Valley, Lahontan, Colorado River, and Los Angeles planning groups by their respective Regional Board Executive Officers.

Statewide General Order For Discharges From Drinking Water Systems: At the November 18, 2014 meeting, the State Water Board adopted a resolution granting exceptions to the State Implementation Policy for the California Toxics Rule (SIP) and also adopted a statewide NPDES permit for discharges from drinking water systems. Through the resolution, the State Water Board allows water purveyors, statewide, to discharge water as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Health and Safety Code under certain conditions although the discharges conflict with regulatory requirements in the SIP. The statewide permit regulates discharges of water from well development and maintenance, water transmission, treatment, and distribution facilities, and unexpected discharges due to pipe breaks and emergencies. State Water Board staff will be working with drinking water agencies and associations throughout the state to provide application submittal assistance by the statewide permit application due date of September 1, 2015. Water purveyors may submit a complete application package prior to the application due date.

Statewide Marijuana Task Force: Staff from the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement, the North Coast Regional Water Board, and the Central Valley Regional Water Board are continuing to brief and perform outreach to grower associations, trade groups, and related industries on the Water Boards' strategy for the regulation of marijuana cultivation. The inspection program goal for the Northern California marijuana pilot project is 75 inspections; over 30 marijuana growing operations inspections have been completed. The Office of Enforcement has developed a new brochure titled *Cannabis Cultivation in California* that contains information on best management practices to protect water quality. Staff is currently working with the Division of Water Rights to determine water conservation strategies for marijuana grow sites. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2015.

United States Environmental Protection Agency Evaluation of Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention Program: To gain a better understanding of California's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Leak Prevention Program U.S. EPA hired contractor Booz Allen to evaluate compliance with the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 and other crucial elements of the UST Leak Prevention Program. The Booz Allen report, *Implementation of UST Provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Status of Prevention Programs* (September 2014), called out a number of high-performing aspects of California's UST Leak Prevention Program. Booz Allen concluded that California's lower rate of new releases is connected to state requirements that UST systems be double-walled and monitored with advanced technologies. The report also commended the State Water Board for requiring the training and certification of all UST inspectors, contractors, service providers, and owner/operators; providing a consistent foundation of UST technical and regulatory knowledge throughout the state. The report positively identified the State Water Board's UST Leak Prevention Program as meeting and exceeding the federal standards of quality.

State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP): This month's ILRP report is included in Appendix A at the end of this report.

Statewide Policies/Significant General Permits: Below is a pdf copy of this month's Policy and Permits Table.



DWQ-DWR Policies & Permit Table

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Program Activity:

Wastewater Office of Operator Certification: Examinations - The grading process for the Wastewater Office of Operator Certification exam administered on October 4, 2014 is complete. Out of the 630 attendees 342 were successful in passing the exam, which is a 54 percent pass rate. The exam result notification letters were mailed to the Grades I and II examinees on November 5, 2014 and to Grades III, IV and V examinees on November 21, 2014.

Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS): The Division participated in DROPS application assistance workshops in Fresno on November 6, 2014 and in Santa Cruz on November 13, 2014. Division staff will conduct site visits to evaluate potential DROPS projects in the Los Angeles Unified School District on December 2 and 3, 2014 and will coordinate this effort with Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board staff.

Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program: Approximately \$28 million remains available for the Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program. The Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) closed the Clean Beaches Initiative grant program solicitation on July 9, 2014, to review submitted proposals. The Clean Beaches Task Force met on September 24, 2014, to review the applications and determine which proposals to invite to submit a detailed application. From the six research proposals that were submitted, one applicant was not invited to submit a detailed application. From the five implementation project proposals, three applicants were requested to revise the applications to develop more feasible proposals, and one was invited for a detailed application.

Two projects to improve water quality at beaches have received funding approval.

- A \$281,500 grant to Heal the Bay will fund the second phase of work on Predictive Models of Beach Water Quality. The project will pilot water quality forecasting models at two to four California beaches as part of the local beach monitoring and public notification system. The grant has been executed for this work.
- A \$1,988,000 grant to UC Santa Barbara will fund a study to conduct microbial source tracking and verification monitoring at three priority beaches in the Santa Barbara region.

Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund: Stakeholder Meetings on Allocation of a Portion of the Petroleum Storage Fee [Senate Bill (SB) 445 (Chapter 547, Statutes of 2014)] SB 445 is an urgency measure effective September 25, 2014, which, among other things, requires that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) annually provide an informational presentation at a State Water Board meeting, with opportunity for public comment, before determining how funds generated from 3 mills (\$0.003) of the two cent (\$0.02) petroleum storage fee will be allocated among three purposes specified in statute:

1. Providing additional funding to the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Financing Account for loans and grants to assist small business Underground Storage Tank (UST) owners and operators in complying with UST regulatory requirements. These loans and grants would be made through the Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks program. That assistance includes complying with the phase out of single-walled tanks;
2. Providing additional funding, as needed, to the School District Account to reimburse school districts for their costs associated with cleaning up leaking USTs; and
3. Funding the new Site Cleanup Subaccount for the investigation and remediation of harm caused by contaminated surface or groundwater.

Staff held five stakeholder meetings during late November to provide information about the requirement in SB 445 and to engage stakeholders in an ongoing discussion to provide comments at annual State Water Board meetings. The first of two State Water Board meetings scheduled to receive comments was held on December 2, 2014. The second meeting will be held on December 16, 2014 in Los Angeles.

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Water Quality Certification Amendment and CEQA Addendum for the Pit 3, 4, and 5

Hydroelectric Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) currently holds a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Pit 3, 4, and 5 Hydroelectric Project (Project), also referred as FERC Project No. 233. On September 16, 2014, PG&E requested that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) amend the license's water quality certification (certification) to revise: (1) Mitigation Measure 12 of the certification for consistency with the FERC-approved Recreation Resource Management Plan; and (2) Conditions 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the certification to remove inconsistencies with the United States Forest Service's 2011 Revised Final Section 4(e) Conditions. On November 25, 2014, the State Water Board issued a certification amendment and an addendum to its Supplemental California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for the Project. The certification amendment and Supplemental CEQA Document can be found online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/ceqa_projects.shtml#pit

Release of Draft Environmental Document for the Upper North Fork Feather River

Hydroelectric Project: The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is undergoing relicensing of its Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2105. The Project is located on the North Fork Feather River in Plumas County. Before FERC can issue a new license, PG&E must receive a water quality certification (certification) from the State Water Board. The State Water Board released the Project's Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public comment on November 26, 2014. The Notice of Availability (Notice) released with the Draft EIR includes the staff's preliminary recommendation. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments on the Draft EIR and the preliminary recommendation by the comment deadline - Noon (12:00 PM) on March 26, 2015. The Notice and Draft EIR can be found on the Project webpage at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/unfr_ferc_2105.shtml

PUBLIC TRUST UNIT

Phase 4 Presentation and Participation in Delta Conservancy's Public Workshop:

Instream Flow in Delta Tributaries: On December 2, 2014, Division of Water Rights (Division) Public Trust Unit staff participated on a panel at the Instream Flow in Delta Tributaries workshop, hosted by the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. The purpose of the workshop was to provide information to stakeholders on the role of instream flow in creating healthy riverine ecosystems in tributaries to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and highlighted some of the current efforts and issues associated with instream flow in the tributaries. Division staff presented an overview of the Phase 4 the State Water Board's Bay-Delta effort. More information on the workshop is available at: <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/>.

Water Right Curtailments:

The State Water Board issued the following notices that rescinded previous curtailment notices to post-1914 water right holders and allowed them to immediately divert water consistent with the terms and conditions of the water rights:

- On November 12, 2014, the State Water Board issued a notice to holders of post-1914 water rights in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds with a priority date of December 31, 1953, and earlier. This action was taken based on reduced diversion demands after October 31 the switch in diversion demand from direct diversion to storage.
- On November 14, 2014, the State Water Board issued a notice that lifted all post-1914 water right curtailments in effect for the Russian River Watershed.
- On November 19, 2014, the State Water Board lifted curtailments for all remaining post-1914 water rights in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River watersheds based on projected storm events.
- On November 26, 2014, 2014, the Executive Director lifted curtailments for post-1914 water rights subject to Term 91 that protects CVP and SWP storage releases.

Curtailment remains in effect in the Deer Creek, a tributary to the Sacramento River. This curtailment requires diverters to provide a specified fishery flow, before diverting water.

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

South Coastal Region

County Water Company of Riverside (CWC) – Consolidation with Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD):

County Water Company of Riverside is a privately owned water system regulated by the Riverside County Local Primacy Agency (LPA). This system serves 140 homes and 324 persons in Lake Elsinore, CA and is supplied by a single well that has had a long history of water quality and production problems. The single well source produces water with a nitrate concentration ranging from 73 mg/l to 91 mg/l as NO₃ exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 45 mg/l. This system has been providing quarterly public notification to all residents advising them to not drink the water. The DDW, DFA, and Riverside LPA are providing technical and financial assistance to EVMWD, EMWD, and CWC on a series of projects to physically consolidate the system. The overall plan is to provide grant funding for planning and construction projects for an interim and permanent solution with a total anticipated amount of \$6.75x10⁶ through separate finding agreements.

On November 12, 2014, the interim solution (temporary interconnection with EVMW) began operating and serving water to all CWC residents, providing a reliable source of drinking water that meets all drinking water standards. The DDW and DFA continue to work with EMWD and EVMWD on the planning and construction of the full physical consolidation of CWC.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Program Activity:

Update on Water Quality and Water Rights Fee Stakeholder Process: Since the last Executive Director's update, Division of Administrative Services staff sent core dairy program stakeholders a set of questions to obtain information about the dairy operations, including operational costs, CDQAP certification and their thoughts on the State Water Board's stakeholder process. Staff also sent a set of questions to Regional Board dairy program staff to obtain information about the work involved in regulating dairies and to get their input on the stakeholder process. At the December 2, 2014 Board meeting, DAS staff presented a draft plan for the water quality and water rights fees stakeholder process and received feedback from Board members and interested parties.

In the coming months, staff will be distributing a survey to obtain general information from the fee payers and will be working with the existing Cost of Compliance groups to obtain information and maximize the effectiveness of the fee stakeholder process. In addition, DAS staff is working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Air Resources Board, and the Local Air Districts to obtain information on their Dairy Fee Programs and comparing these programs with the State Water Board's Dairy Fee Program. DAS staff will be holding a stakeholder meeting on December 19, 2014 to explain the annual budget process and how the upcoming stakeholder meetings will fit in with that process.

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT

Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) and Cleanup and Abatement Actions Issued November 2014

a. ACL Complaint(s) Issued

Region	Discharger/Facility	Violation(s) Addressed	ACL Complaint Amount	Date Issued
WATER QUALITY				
2	California Water Service Company	Discharge of 8,207,560 chlorinated potable water from October 25 – 29, 2013, to surface waters, resulting in at least 276 fish dead, of which 70 were rainbow trout or steelhead	\$3,060,700	11/17/2014
2	Atlantic Richfield Company / 411 High Street, Oakland	Failure to comply with CAO requirement to implement and submit report on offsite remedial action/mitigation	\$561,800	11/17/2014
5	Modoc Joint Unified School District / Alturas High School Geothermal Project	Effluent limit violations (2/120/13 – 6/30/2014: pH)	\$21,000 (MMP)	11/7/2014
5	City of Chico / Water Pollution Control Plant	Effluent limit violations (10/23 – 27/2013: total chlorine residual – 19)	\$21,000 (MMP)	11/7/2014
5	Collins Pine Company / Chester Sawmill	Effluent limit violations (4/2012 – 4/2013, 11/21/2013 – 4/2014: pH, copper, lead, chemical oxygen demand)	\$213,000 (MMP)	11/7/2014
7	Salton Community Services District / Sanitary Sewer	Unauthorized discharge 11/26 – 29/2011	\$19,810	11/3/2014
8	Active Plating, Incorporated	Failure to obtain coverage under industrial stormwater general permit	\$5,900 (MMP+staff costs)	11/6/2014
WATER RIGHTS—NO ACL COMPLAINTS ISSUED NOVEMBER 2014				

b. ACL Order(s) Issued

Region	Discharger/Facility	Violation(s) Addressed	ACL Order Amount	Date Issued
WATER QUALITY				
3	Monterey Peninsula Unified School District	Failure to timely submit industrial stormwater annual reports for 2010-2011 and 2012-2013	\$8,000 (all to CAA)	11/24/2014
4 (OE, OIMA)	Lubricating Specialties Company / Pico Rivera Facility	Effluent limit violations (10/2010 – 3/2014: oil and grease, petroleum hydrocarbons, cadmium, copper, lead, selenium, zinc, pH, BOD, total suspended solids)	\$246,000 (all to CAA)	11/3/2014

Region	Discharger/Facility	Violation(s) Addressed	ACL Order Amount	Date Issued
4	Astrocosmos Metallurgical	Failure to submit 2013-2014 industrial stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	BSI Saticoy Development	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$2,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	Centinela Valley Union High School District	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	Mt. San Antonio College	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	Doubletree By Hilton Hotel	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	Port of Hueneme-Oxnard Harbor District	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$2,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	Garvey Senior Affordable Partners, LP	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	California Domestic Water Company	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/10/14
4	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	Failure to submit 2013-2014 construction stormwater annual report	\$2,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/18/14
4	Omega Precision	Failure to submit 2013-2014 industrial stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/18/14
4	Bragg Investment Co., Inc.	Failure to submit 2013-2014 industrial stormwater annual report	\$1,500 (MMP + staff costs; all to CAA)	11/24/14
5	Donner Summit Public Utility District / Wastewater Treatment Plant	Effluent limit violations (3/2012 – 6/2014: manganese, ammonia)	\$9,000 (all to CP)	11/6/2014
5	Carlos Estacio / Former Dairy at 7924 Bradbury Road in Turlock	Failure to submit 2008 annual report	\$1,400 (all to CAA)	11/17/2014
5	Carlos Estacio / San Isidro Jersey Dairy	Failure to submit 2009 annual report and failure to submit monitoring well installation and sampling plan required by 13267 order	\$7,300 (all to CAA)	11/17/2014
5	City of Colusa / Wastewater Treatment Plant	Effluent limit violations (1/2013 – 7/2014: chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, BOD)	\$21,000 (CP: \$13,816.19; CAA: \$7,183.81)	11/25/2014

WATER RIGHTS—NO ACL ORDERS ISSUED NOVEMBER 2014

c. Cleanup and Abatement Order(s) Issued

Region	Discharger/Facility	Action(s) Required	Date Issued
1	Fernbridge Tractor and Equipment Company (operator) and Barnes Tractor and Equipment Company (owner) / 20 Depot Street, Fortuna	Immediately cease further discharge of equipment washing and other wastewater to drop inlet, drainage ditch, or other surface water and provide written confirmation within seven days of cessation; submit and implement corrective action workplan;	11/13/2014
5	Clearlake Oaks County Water District / Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System	Prepare and submit inflow and infiltration assessment workplan; prepare and submit groundwater monitoring well disinfection and development workplan; prepare and submit groundwater monitoring well disinfection and development completion report; prepare and submit wastewater system improvement workplan; prepare and submit reports for inflow and infiltration assessment, groundwater monitoring well evaluation, inflow and infiltration project completion, and wastewater system project completion	11/3/2014

APPENDIX A

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 2014

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD:

On November 4, 2014 the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) staff participated in a conference call with the California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement, United States Department of Agriculture regarding proposed revisions to the Food Safety Modernization Act.

On November 5, 2014, ILRP and Nonpoint Source (NPS) staff met with Environmental Defense Fund staff regarding agricultural and greenhouse gas markets. Meeting included discussion on the American Carbon Registry Protocol for N₂O emissions reductions.

On November 6, 2014, ILRP staff participated in a Natural Resource Conservation Service State Technical Guide Committee meeting to discuss project selection for potential Farm Bill funding.

On November 17 – 21, 2014, ILRP staff participated in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Nonpoint Source (NPS) Annual Conference. Conference attendee's included Regional EPA, NPS, Water Quality Agencies from each state in the country, as well as representatives from Guam and American Samoa. Other issues discussed were importance of developing formal inter-agency partnerships to address NPS pollution and the status of the National Water Quality Initiative projects in each state.

On November 21, 2014, ILRP staff participated in a California Certified Crop Advisor Board of Director's meeting.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD:

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) report covers through the month of November 2014 and will provide an update on the activities of the North Coast, San Francisco, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Colorado River Basin, Santa Ana, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board ILRPs.

Future monthly reports will alternate between the status of the ILRP from the Central Valley Regional Water Board for one month, and the status of other Regional Water Board ILRPs for the alternate month.

Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/

For additional information on the statewide ILRP, please contact State Water Resources Control Board staff:

Johnny Gonzales (916) 341-5510

Johnny.Gonzales@waterboards.ca.gov

Ashley Zellmer (916) 341-5911

Ashley.Zellmer@waterboards.ca.gov

ILRP contact information for each Regional Water Board is found at the end of each report below.

NORTH COAST REGION AGRICULTURAL LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM Update – November 2014

Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Agricultural Lands

Update on Permit Development:

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff continue to develop the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program, focusing on a series of targeted permits specific to agricultural commodities or geographic areas. In the near term, Regional Water Board staff are developing permits for discharges from vineyards and orchards, agriculture in the Tule Lake watershed, and lily bulb cultivation. An update these efforts follows:

- **Agriculture Discharges in the Tule Lake Basin** – An informational letter was sent to landowners in the Tule Lake Basin as requested by the Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) and the Lava Beds-Butte Valley RCD explaining the approach to developing the permitting program and the organization of a third party program to facilitate compliance. TID and the RCD held a series of workshops this winter to outreach to their community, explain the process, and encourage participation in the third party program. Concurrently, Regional Water Board staff are writing the draft permit to share with the Advisory Group in Spring 2015. Regional Water Board staff are also working with the Klamath Water Users Association and TID on developing a draft water quality management plan that can be used to fulfill the planning requirements of the upcoming permit.
- **Lily Bulb Cultivation** – The growers submitted a draft plan and Regional Water Board staff are in the process of commenting and refining that draft. Concurrently, Regional Water Board staff are writing the draft permit to share with the Lily Bulb Production Advisory Group in 2015 following work on the Tule Lake permit. Sampling will continue through next year in order to conduct at least two more wet weather sampling events.
- **Vineyards & Orchards** – Regional Water Board staff are coordinating with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Region 2) development of a discharge permit for vineyards in the Sonoma Creek and Napa River watersheds, with the intent of being as consistent as possible between the regions. Regional Water Board staff will begin drafting WDRs for discharges from vineyards and orchards after the adoption of the other two Agricultural Lands Discharge Program permits.
- **Scott River & Shasta River Watershed** - Regional Water Board staff continue to implement the TMDL Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Scott and Shasta River watersheds.

In addition, Regional Water Board staff are currently drafting WDRs for discharges from cannabis cultivation.

For additional information on the North Coast Regional Water Board's Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Agricultural Lands, please see the following Web site or you may also click on the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/agricultural_lands/

For additional details or information on the items listed above, please contact Ben Zabinsky at (707) 576-6750 or Ben.Zabinsky@waterboards.ca.gov

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM
November 2014**

Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Agricultural Lands

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff continues to develop its Agricultural Lands Discharge Program (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/agriculture/index.shtml).

Regulation of discharges from vineyard properties located in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds through the development of general waste discharge requirements (WDRs) is a significant Program focus.

To this end, Regional Water Board staff continued to:

Prepare a draft environmental impact report that will evaluate potential environmental impacts from implementing the Vineyard WDRs.

Interface with third-party technical assistance groups, through a combination of telephone meetings and 319 (h) grant-specific actions, aimed at developing and expanding local technical expertise, tools, and templates to assist growers with Vineyard WDRs compliance (in anticipation of permit adoption). We anticipate that third-parties will provide services ranging from site assessment and farm planning, assistance with best management practice selection, annual reporting, and possibly, fee collection.

Coordinate permitting strategy and general timeline with the North Coast Regional Water Board.

Additional elements of the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program include the administration of:

A pair of conditional waivers of WDRs for rangeland grazing operations located in the Tomales Bay, Sonoma Creek, and Napa River watersheds; and,

The confined animal facility (CAF) Program which currently includes dairies located in Marin and Sonoma counties.

The Grazing Program element work focused on strategizing on, and preparing for, rainy season inspections and annual compliance report reviews. Regional Water Board staff also continued to participate in the Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Program (GRAP) and contributed to the focused listening session efforts, that are underway and being led by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

CAF Program work consisted of:

Revising two permits, a conditional waiver of WDRs and general WDRs, following internal review and readying them for review by a small technical advisory group (TAG) familiar with animal management to review key elements of the two permits before public notice.

Working and coordinating the North Coast Water Board and with the State Board's fee unit on proposed fee changes on waivers of WDRs for CAF operations.

Providing CAF-related complaint response assistance to the Enforcement Unit.

For additional details or information on the items listed above, please contact Jim Ponton at (510) 622-2492 or jim.ponton@waterboards.ca.gov

**CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM
November 2014**

ILRP Activities at a Glance

- Growers were required to update their annual compliance form and eNOI by October 1, 2014. Other reporting requirements were also due, including total nitrogen applied forms and groundwater data reporting for some growers. At the time of this report development, Regional Water Board staff had not yet assessed the compliance rate with these requirements. However, Regional Water Board staff received about 500 total nitrogen applied reports; more are still coming in. Several hundred were received in hard-copy, many emailed, and others sent using a PDF format that can be uploaded to a spreadsheet. Regional Water Board staff is currently checking each form for completeness and developing summary statistics on the data submitted thus far
- Good news for growers: Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (aka Preservation Inc., the cooperative surface water monitoring program) is implementing a fee reduction in 2015 for growers participating in the Cooperative Monitoring Program; 2015 fees will be approximately 33% less than 2014 fees. Preservation Inc. will begin mailing invoices for the 2015 billing cycle in December 2014.
- Regional Water Board staff sent tier update letters to about 400 ranch operators; most of the updates were from tier 1 to tier 2. Regional Water Board staff reversed about 60 tier updates after receiving more refined information from growers and their consultants. Regional Water Board staff is allowing time before reporting requirements, for those affected by these new tier assignments, need to be submitted.

Items for Discretionary Review by the Regional Board

- The Ag Order identifies discretionary actions by the Executive Officer that are subject to review by the Regional Board. Staff has posted items subject to discretionary review at the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) section of the Region Water Board internet site and updates it quarterly for review. Regional Water Board staff notify interested parties of the updates through subscription to a lyrics list.

Discretionary Review items include the following:

- Provision 11 - Approval or denial of a third-party project or program.
- No new project or program to report.
 - Part 2 of the MRP – Approval or denial of a cooperative groundwater monitoring programs.
- No new groundwater monitoring programs to report.
 - Provision 18 – Approval of a farm to transfer to a lower tier, or requirement of a farm to transfer to a higher tier.

Drinking Water Notifications

- Based on results of individual groundwater monitoring, Regional Water Board staff continues to issue “Drinking Water Notification” letters to those growers and landowners whose domestic water supply wells exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate or nitrogen.
- As of October 10, 2014, the Water Board has issued approximately 117 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard – some farms/ranches have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances.

Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring - Central Coast Groundwater Coalition

- Regional Water Board staff continues to coordinate closely with the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) to implement cooperative groundwater monitoring program requirements. Regional Water Board staff met with CCGC staff on September 30, 2014, and again on October 1, 2014, to discuss alternatives for verifying drinking water notifications, in follow up to the July and September 2014 board meetings. Regional Water Board staff also met with CCGC for the regular cooperative groundwater monitoring program coordination meeting on October 14, 2014, in Salinas.
- The CCGC issues drinking water notification letters for growers and landowners who are CCGC members. As of October 10, 2014, the CCGC issued approximately 194 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard – some farms/ranches have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances.

- Regional Water Board staff reviewed CCGC's method of disclosing drinking water notification letters and the required follow-up action at the November 13-14, 2014 hearing. Regional Water Board staff concluded, and the Central Coast Water Board agreed, that CCGC's method of disclosure is functionally equivalent to the notification process for individual growers (non-CCGS members).

For additional information on the Central Coast Region's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, please contact Chris Rose at (805) 542- 4770 or chris.rose@waterboards.ca.gov
Or click on the following link:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONDITIONAL WAIVER FOR IRRIGATED LANDS November 2014

Compliance with the Renewed Conditional Waiver

The Nursery Growers Association Los Angeles County Irrigated Lands Group (NGA-ILG) and the Ventura County Agriculture Irrigated Lands Group (VCAILG) are the two discharger groups in the Los Angeles Region that have formed to comply with the Conditional Waiver. To comply with the Conditional Waiver, the growers must enroll in these groups or individually enroll in the program.

Enrollment

On October 21, 2014 Regional Water Board staff participated in a conference call with the general manager of NGA-ILG to discuss enrollment in the Conditional Waiver for irrigated agricultural lands in Los Angeles County. In Ventura County, four out of ten growers re-enrolled in VCAILG in response to Notices of Violation the Regional Water Board staff sent out on August 15, 2014. Regional Water Board staff will continue with enforcement efforts as necessary. Regional Water Board staff also continues to work with individual enrollees to help them in the process of complying with the Conditional Waiver.

Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)

Regional Water Board staff reviewed and approved the 2013 WQMP prepared for Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group.

Irrigated Lands Program Region 4 GIS Database

Regional Water Board staff has been continuously managing the Irrigated Lands Program geodatabase. Regional Board staff is working on creating maps to display data for enrollment and best management practice implementation, including irrigation system upgrades provided by the Mobile Irrigation Lab grant.

Education Workshops and Outreach

Regional Water Board staff approved two educational credit requests. The first course held on October 16, 2014 provided updated information on irrigation and management practices. The second course, attended by Regional Water Board staff, was the 2014 California Nursery Conference held on November 13, 2014. This conference provided information about irrigation management practices in nurseries and outdoor demonstrations for determining distribution uniformity in drip systems.

Los Angeles Regional Water Board staff participated in the National Nonpoint Source Training Workshop in Dallas, Texas on November 17 through November 20, 2014. Los Angeles Regional Water Board staff presented “California’s Agriculture: Its Diversity, Water Quality Challenges, and NPS Solutions”.

Interagency Coordination

Regional Water Board staff continues to work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), EPA, and State Water Board staff on the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) in the Calleguas Creek watershed. The NWQI program provides financial assistance to help farmers and ranchers implement conservation systems to reduce nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment and pathogen contributions from agricultural land. Regional Water Board staff also continues to work with local NRCS staff in Ventura County to reach out to growers about the NWQI.

Grant Management

Regional Water Board staff continues to manage a Clean Water Act section 319(h) grant which was executed for the purpose of identifying the contribution of and reducing metal loadings from nurseries and other irrigated agricultural lands in the San Gabriel River Watershed (Grant Agreement No. 11-098-554). The grantee is the Council for Watershed Health (CWH). CWH has reported the pre-BMP monitoring results and updates on surveys and outreach.

For additional information on the Los Angeles Region Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands, please contact Jenny Newman at (213) 576-6691 jenny.newman@waterboards.ca.gov

LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM REPORT November 2014

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff spent much of its efforts during the October/November 2014 reporting period on administrative tasks supporting the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

- Regional Water Board staff attended the State Water Board’s de-briefing on the Agricultural Expert Panel Draft Report.
- Regional Water Board staff provided additional information to help State Water Board staff complete its Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Workload Matrix.
- Regional Water Board staff surveyed permitting programs from Regions 3 and 8 to begin evaluating recommendations for a Lahontan Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Regional Water Board staff also spent significant time working on contaminated groundwater issues in the community of Hinkley as they relate to agricultural impacts.

- Regional Water Board staff attended the Hinkley area public Citizens Advisory Committee meeting and described our efforts to collect residential well samples for nitrates and minerals (meeting occurred on September 25, 2014, but after submittal of last bi-monthly report).

- Regional Water Board staff sampled 5 residential wells in the Hinkley area for nitrate and other constituents and provided results to residents.
- Regional Water Board staff conducted field visits and signed up eight additional residential wells to sample.
- Regional Water Board staff met with the B&E Dairy to discuss a public draft Cleanup and Abatement Order, including the dairy's nutrient management plan and wash water application protocol for irrigated land application.

For additional details or information on the items listed above, please contact Eric Taxer at (530) 542-5434 or eric.taxer@waterboards.ca.gov

COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD ILRP MONTHLY REPORT November 2014

As of November 6, 2014 the implementation and management of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program's Conditional Waivers is the responsibility of the Non-Point Source Program staff. Colorado River Basin Water Board (Regional Water Board) staff continues to implement three Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), and plan to bring a fourth before the Regional Water Board in early 2015. Once the fourth Conditional Waiver is adopted, all agricultural areas in the region will be regulated.

On September 20, 2012, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural wastewater discharges within the Palo Verde Valley in Riverside and Imperial Counties (Board Order R7-2012-0047). This Conditional Waiver affects over 130,000 acres in eastern Riverside County and northeastern Imperial County. The responsible parties include individual farmers, and the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID). Implementation has begun with PVID forming the Palo Verde Outfall Coalition (PVOC) group that represents landowners and farmers regulated by the Conditional Waiver. According to the PVOC group, membership is at over 99%. The PVOC group's water quality monitoring program began in November 2013, and they submitted their first Annual Monitoring Report dated March 7, 2014 to the Regional Water Board, stating that the water quality objectives of the Basin Plan are being met. The PVOC group will continue with the Group Compliance Program and submit their second Annual Monitoring Report in March 2015.

On January 17, 2013, the Regional Water Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural wastewater discharges originating within the Bard Unit of Reservation Division (Board Order R7-2013-0002). This Conditional Waiver affects approximately 7,000 acres of farmland along the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The responsible parties include individual farmers, and the Bard Water District. Bard Water District submitted a Notice of Intent to the Regional Water Board in February 2014, stating that it will develop and implement a Coalition Group Compliance Program for eligible members to obtain coverage under the Conditional Waiver. Bard Water District is in the process of forming the Bard Unit Coalition Group (BUCG), a nonprofit organization that will represent landowners and farmers regulated by the Conditional Waiver. In May 2014, the BUCG submitted its draft Compliance Program and Monitoring and Reporting Program plans for review by Regional Water Board staff. Staff is in the process of finalizing the draft Monitoring and Report Program Plan. The next steps will be

for the BUCG to prepare a Quality Assurance Program Plan, begin monitoring, and start the Group Compliance Program.

On June 26, 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural dischargers in the Coachella Valley (Order No. R7-2014-0046). This Conditional Waiver affects about 60,000 acres of farmland in central Riverside County. The responsible parties include individual farmers, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC) group. The CVILC group, a nonprofit organization, submitted a Notice of Intent to the Regional Water Board in September 2014, stating that it will develop and implement a Coalition Group Compliance Program for eligible members to obtain coverage under the Conditional Waiver. The CVILC group will be responsible for fee collection from agricultural landowners and the monitoring program. On October 31, 2014 CVWD, the local water purveyor, submitted a list of their current customers who receive water for irrigated land in the Coachella Valley; and the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) of the irrigated land. A Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan was adopted with the Conditional Waiver in June 2014. The next steps will be for the CVILC group to prepare a Group Compliance Program Plan, Quality Assurance Program Plan, begin monitoring, and start the Group Compliance Program.

The Imperial Valley is the last agricultural area in the region that is not regulated by a Conditional Waiver. Regional Water Board staff is finalizing the environmental documents and are planning to release draft documents in December 2014, and to bring a Conditional Waiver of WDRs for agricultural discharges in Imperial Valley before the Regional Water Board for consideration of adoption in early 2015. This Conditional Waiver will affect over 450,000 acres of irrigated lands in the Imperial Valley near the International Boundary with Mexico. The interested parties include individual farmers, the Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County Farm Bureau. Regional Water Board staff continues coordinating with interested parties in the Imperial Valley to develop this Conditional Waiver.

For additional information on the Colorado River Basin Conditional Waivers for agricultural discharges, please contact Logan Raub at (760) 776-8966, or at logan.raub@waterboards.ca.gov

**SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL
DISCHARGES (CWAD PROGRAM)
November 2014**

Latest drafts of CWAD documents have been revised to call for mitigation and offset measures for TDS and N impacts to groundwater, and to address concerns regarding land application of mulch or untreated green waste on dry, non-irrigated farmland as "soil amendment". Draft Staff Report has been revised to include recommendations from the CWAD Advisory Group. Draft Order has also been made available to the CWAD Advisory Group for comments.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff are continuing to work towards adoption, and initial implementation, of a conditional waiver of WDR (Ag Waiver) targeting the agricultural operations in the San Jacinto River Watershed of the Region. Initial implementation will be characterized by enrolling at least >50% of known agricultural operations in the conditional waiver who meet enrollment criteria. The objective for FY 2014-15 is to adopt

and begin implementing the CWAD Program by focusing on agricultural operations in the target San Jacinto River watershed.

Desired outcome of the Ag Waiver is to measurably reduce NPS pollution, principally N and TDS loadings from agricultural operations in San Jacinto River Watershed to surface and ground waters.

From an estimated 200 potentially eligible Ag Waiver enrollees, the CWAD Program will seek to attain at least 10% enrollment during initial phase-in, with the remaining eligible growers enrolled over time.

CWAD Program advisory group of major stakeholders and agricultural operators meets on a regular basis to coordinate the development of waiver requirements and developing a group monitoring program for the San Jacinto River Watershed CWAD.

On November 19, 2014, Regional Water Board staff conducted a quarterly meeting of the CWAD advisory group. Discussions focused on:

- Updating the CWAD Advisory Group on the status of the Ag. Waiver program and distributing a draft of the Order for commenting.
- Brainstorming incentives within the CWAD program that could be made available for low risk dischargers.

The next CWAD program advisory group meeting is scheduled to take place on January 27, 2014.

For more information, please contact: Imtiaz-Ali Kalyan, at (951) 782-3219 or Imtiaz-Ali.kalyan@waterboards.ca.gov.

**SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM REPORT
November 2014**

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has made significant progress in developing its tentative General Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) for Agricultural Dischargers.

The Regional Water Board ILRP is developing Waste Discharge Requirements and a Monitoring and Reporting Plan (collectively referred to as the Ag Order) and associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for consideration for adoption by the Regional Water Board at its June 10, 2015 Board meeting. The Ag Order is a logical extension of the Ag Waiver, which expired in February 2014, and will be a more effective regulatory tool to reduce the impact to water quality from agricultural activities within the San Diego Region.

San Diego Water Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Team: A multi-branch team has been assembled to benefit from the collective knowledge, skills, and experience needed to draft the Ag Order. Weekly meetings are conducted to discuss the various issues and to ensure that the schedule for Ag Order development is met.

Status of Ag Order Development: The next major milestone will be in February 2015, when the tentative Ag Order will be available for public distribution.

Stakeholder/Public Outreach: The ILRP continues to engage stakeholders and the public through stakeholder meetings, public workshops, individual meetings, and the San Diego Water Board ILRP [webpage](#). This robust outreach not only furthers the Proactive Public Outreach and Communication element of the Regional Water Board's Practical Vision strategy, it also provides the opportunity for stakeholders and the public to meet with Regional Water Board staff to provide their input. The Public Outreach also provides Regional Water Board staff the opportunity to discuss why the Ag Order is needed and to engage the Agricultural Community to enroll in and comply with the Ag Order once it is adopted.

Stakeholder meetings were conducted in January and February 2014. Another stakeholder meeting is scheduled for February 2015, and a Public Workshop is scheduled for April 2015.

To date, staff has met with representatives of the San Diego Irrigated Lands Group, the San Diego Farm Bureau, and the San Mateo Irrigated Lands Group. Invitations for additional meetings have been or will be extended to the following stakeholders:

- San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner;
- Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner;
- Riverside Farm Bureau;
- Orange County Farm Bureau;
- University of California Cooperative Extension;
- Mission Resource District;
- Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource District;
- Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association;
- Ramona Valley Vineyard Association;
- San Diego County Flower and Plant Association;
- Selected Grove Managers;
- Indian Environmental Agencies;
- Surfrider Foundation;
- Coast Keeper; and,
- Sierra Club.

Outreach will also include contacting statewide organizations such as the California Avocado Society, the California Sustainable Wine Growing Alliance, and California Certified Organic Farmers.

For additional information on the San Diego Regional Water Boards Irrigated Lands Program, please contact Mr. Dat Quach at (619) 521-5899 (dat.quach@waterboards.ca.gov).