

**State Water Resources Control Board
June 17, 2008 Board Meeting
Item 9 - Executive Director's Report**

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT

The following is a brief summary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Enforcement Initiatives and the names of the Water Board staff members who are participating on the respective implementation teams.

Summary of Current Cal/EPA Enforcement Initiatives and Identification of Participating Water Board Staff

I. Enforcement Steering Committee

The Enforcement Steering Committee is made up of the Cal/EPA Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and Counsel, Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement, and the Enforcement Chiefs of each of the Boards, Departments and Office (BDOs) within Cal/EPA. The committee is responsible for oversight of the planning and management and continued improvement and coordination of California's state, regional and local environmental enforcement programs. This committee guides the achievement of the goals identified in the new enforcement policies that have been approved by the Secretary (i.e. Cal/EPA's Enforcement Initiative).

***Status:** Reed Sato, Director, State Water Board Office of Enforcement, participates in this committee to provide input into Cal/EPA's implementation of the Cal/EPA Enforcement Initiative and general coordination of the Water Boards' participation in the Enforcement Initiative.*

II. Cal/EPA Single Complaint Tracking System

The Cal/EPA Single Complaint Tracking System is a uniform and coordinated environmental complaint intake, referral, and tracking system that interfaces with the BDOs existing environmental complaint procedures and systems in order to improve responses to complaints.

The tracking system is an excellent resource for the public as well as the Water Boards. The system provides the public with a single Web portal for registering all environmental complaints, which eliminates the need for the public to determine which BDO should be contacted to report a complaint. Additionally, the system facilitates internal tracking of Water Board accountability in terms of complaint response, and will be useful for future development of performance measures.

Status: *Office of Public Participation (OPP) will eventually act as the lead for the Water Boards on the implementation of this element of the Initiative. While OPP is addressing staffing needs, Karol Enferadi from the Office of Enforcement and Gita Kapahi, Office of Public Participation will be the Water Board representatives; Sue Laney, Department of Toxic Substances Control is the team leader.*

III. Cal/EPA Enforcement Training Program

The Cal/EPA Enforcement Training Program created a Training Policy to help Cal/EPA meet its goals in controlling pollution by assisting enforcement professionals with the development of their knowledge, skills, and abilities with regard to enforcement. The training policy calls for expansion of the content and frequency of cross-media enforcement training courses through development of a “core curriculum” for all enforcement staff. This “core curriculum” includes topics such as inspection/investigation skills, overview of environmental law, report writing, sampling and evidence collection, the science of environmental pollution, and case development.

The training policy states that a Steering Committee, comprised of the Cal/EPA Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement, the Chief of the Training and Compliance Assistance Branch at the Air Resources Board, and assigned staff from each BDO will oversee implementation of the policy and development of the program.

Status: *John Steude from Region 6 is the Water Board representative on the Steering Committee. In addition, the Office of Enforcement provides some additional support for certain program areas addressed by the Training initiative through Julie Berrey (Special Investigations Unit) and Amantha Henkel (Underground Storage Tank Enforcement Unit). Mary Boyer, Air Resources Board, is the team leader.*

IV. Enforcement Performance Measures Steering Committee

The Enforcement Performance Measures Steering Committee is developing uniform enforcement program performance measures that relate program activities of Cal/EPA, BDOs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and local programs to assess progress in the achievement of program goals. This committee was created in response to legislative interest in moving beyond activity measures to meaningful measures of program performance.

This committee is also now working on a format for a single Cal/EPA-wide enforcement report to provide information on enforcement activities during calendar year 2007.

Status: *The State Water Board Office of Research Planning and Performance, working with the Regional Water Boards and the CIWQS Reports Team, has the primary responsibility for addressing the performance measures and the annual Cal/EPA enforcement report for calendar year 2007. Rafael Maestu is the Water Board representative; Larry Matz, Cal/EPA, is the team leader.*

V. Enforceable Permits Steering Committee

The Enforceable Permits Steering Committee was set up to assure that permits are clear, coordinated, consistent, and enforceable.

Status: *Philip Isorena, Division of Water Quality, will participate as a permitting representative. Karol Enferadi, Office of Enforcement, will participate as an enforcement representative. Paula Rasmussen, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, is the team leader.*

VI. Data Standards Steering Committee

This Committee's goal is to reconcile data elements between different BDO programs. The first effort has been to compare data elements used to identify regulatory activities across all BDOs.

Status: *The Office of Information Management and Assessment (OIMA), working with Division of Information Technology (DIT), is addressing data issues. The Water Board representatives are Jarma Bennett (OIMA) and Darryl Young (DIT). Ron Troyer, Department of Toxic Substances Control, is the team leader.*

VII. Environmental Data Exchange Steering Committee

This Committee is developing a database for facilities regulated by the Cal/EPA BDOs to include information regarding permitting status and enforcement status. This committee will develop and implement a plan for improvements to all databases that assist statewide inspection and enforcement of environmental laws.

Status: *Darryl Young, Division of Information Technology, is the Water Board representative. John Yonemura, Cal/EPA, is the team leader.*

VIII. Enforcement Program Operational Plan (EPOP) Steering Committee

The Enforcement Program Operational Plan (EPOP) establishes a common framework for continued development of legal, policy and administrative enforcement program enhancements. The plan proposes setting up a steering committee comprised of the Cal/EPA Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and Counsel, the Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement, the Assistant Secretary for CUPAs and Emergency Response, and the Enforcement Chiefs of each BDO. This Committee will be responsible for implementation of the EPOP as well as the planning and management of the continued improvement of California's state, regional and local environmental enforcement programs.

The EPOP is consistent with the Water Boards' Enforcement Policy and the enforcement elements of the Water Boards' proposed Strategic Plan.

Status: Ann Marie Ore (formerly Ann Crum), Office of Enforcement, is the Water Board representative. Larry Matz, Cal/EPA is the team leader

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Status of Water Quality Objectives for Cadmium: Staff is currently working to propose an amendment to the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (SIP) to establish water quality objectives for cadmium and related implementation methods. Proposed changes include: (1) adoption of U.S. EPA's revised cadmium criteria guidance and may include revised saltwater objectives and hardness-based equations solely for freshwater objectives, (2) implementation procedures related to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process, and (3) a policy on where to measure hardness for hardness dependent objectives. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found that the current freshwater and saltwater cadmium objectives in the California Toxics Rule (CTR) are not protective of threatened and endangered species (T&E). As part of its Endangered Species Act consultation with USFWS on the CTR, U.S. EPA made a commitment to review the effects of cadmium criteria on T&E species and to promulgate revised criteria by March 2008. A scoping meeting for this proposed amendment is tentatively scheduled for July 2008 and staff plans to bring the amendment to the Board for consideration in July 2009.

Once Through Cooling – CWA Section 316(b): Staff conducted scoping meetings on May 3 (San Pedro) and May 13 (Sacramento) to seek input on the development of a Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling. Section 3016(b) of the federal Clean Water Act requires that controls be put in place for power plant intake structures that control the impingement and entrainment of aquatic species for those power plants that utilize once through cooling. In California, this would affect 21 coastal power plants that use once through cooling. More than 20 comment letter were received. The next step is to evaluate comments received and propose changes to the draft policy.

Construction Storm Water Permitting: Staff conducted workshops on the draft General Construction Storm Water Permit on May 7 (Los Angeles) and May 21 (Sacramento). The purpose of the workshops was to discuss the significant changes from the preliminary draft, and for the public to ask questions in order to better focus formal comments that will be submitted. The comment deadline is noon, June 11, 2008. The next step is to evaluate and respond to the comments received, and prepare the permit for Board consideration.

General Permit for Landscape Irrigation Uses of Recycled Water: Assembly Bill 1481 (De La Torre, Chapter 535, Statutes of 2007) requires the State Water Board to adopt a general permit for landscape irrigation uses of recycled water by July 31, 2009. The intent of the new law is to develop a uniform interpretation of state standards to ensure the safe, reliable use of recycled water for landscape irrigation uses, consistent

with state and federal water quality law. The new law is also intended to expedite permitting for use of recycled water for landscape irrigation. Staff has scheduled a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting to seek public input regarding the scope and content of this general permit and an associated environmental document. The meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2008, in the Coastal Hearing Room of the Cal/EPA Building in Sacramento. The comment deadline is noon, June 26, 2008.

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Bay-Delta

Implementation of Term 91 Water Diversion Curtailments in 2008:

On June 2, 2008, the Division of Water Rights sent by certified mail a "Notice of Curtailment of Water Diversion during 2008" (Term 91 Notice) to 80 permit and license holders in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed. The Term 91 Notice requires the permittees and licensees subject to Standard Term 91 to immediately curtail their diversions of water under their permits and licenses, and utilize an alternate source of water until at least August 31, 2008. The actual curtailment end-date could be extended if supplemental project water from the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project must continue to be released to meet water quality standards and other inbasin entitlements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin-Delta Watershed. All permittees and licensees subject to Standard Term 91 are required to have an alternate water supply such as a groundwater well or a water supply contract available whenever this curtailment occurs.

Strategic Workplan for the Bay-Delta: On December 4, 2007, the State Water Board adopted Resolution 2007-0079 outlining regulatory actions the State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board will take, or will consider taking, to address Bay-Delta issues related to water supply, species protection, and water quality improvements. The resolution directs Water Board staff to develop a strategic workplan by June of 2008. Staff anticipates release of the draft workplan for public review by June 13.

Hearings

Evidentiary Hearing to Commence on Proposed Cease and Desist Order issued to California American Water (Cal Am): On Thursday, June 19, 2008, the evidentiary hearing in the matter of the draft Cease and Desist Order issued to California American Water (Cal Am) will begin, with hearing officers Art Baggett and Gary Wolff presiding. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether to adopt, with or without revision, a draft Cease and Desist Order issued against Cal Am on January 15, 2008 for the unauthorized diversion of water from the Carmel River in Monterey County. The hearing, which was requested by Cal Am, has been divided into two phases: a liability

phase and a remedy phase. The liability phase begins on June 19 and will continue if necessary on June 20. The remedy phase will begin on July 23 and continue if necessary on July 24 and 25.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE

Strategic Plan

A final draft Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 was released for public comment on May 30, 2008. The deadline for written public comment is June 20, 2008. Staff will be presenting the draft plan for consideration of approval at the State Water Board's July 1, 2008 meeting. The draft plan and other support documents can be found at the Water Boards' website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/hot_topics/strategic_plan/2007update.shtml

Water Board Training Academy

Numerous courses are being offered in the coming months covering many subjects. A series of classes are being offered covering technical writing and editing; however, due to high demand, these classes are already full through July. Below are a few highlights of Training Academy courses. Visit the Academy's intranet site to learn more about these courses and other offerings.

Recently completed	<p>Stream Channel Naturalization Workshop The Workshop was designed for staff from the Water Boards plus municipalities, city planners, NRCS, Army Corps, CalTrans, local flood control agencies, and watershed groups. Speakers discussed challenges and opportunities in restoring hydrological constricted streams and rivers in urbanized Southern California. The workshop was preceded by a half-day guided tour of restoration sites along the LA River.</p>
	<p>MS4 Program Evaluation The class provided students with information to conduct a comprehensive or targeted MS4 program evaluation and to determine if the permittee is implementing the program in order to reduce pollutants discharged to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP).</p>
Upcoming	<p>Pretreatment Oversight The class focuses on the practical knowledge and information Regional Board personnel need to conduct Pretreatment Program oversight. The topics to be addressed include local program requirements, NPDES permit requirements, and a description of needed Water Board actions. The class will be given in June in both Sacramento and Riverside.</p>

	<p>Communication Skills for Large Internal Group Projects This course will provide State and Regional Water Board staff with strategies and skills for working on CIWQS and other similar internal group projects. The course contains practical, applied guidance for approaches to this type of (mostly internal) collaborative process and includes an extended practice exercise using real CIWQS subject matter.</p>
	<p>SWAMP Advisor U. S. EPA and the State Water Board require that all monitoring projects have a QA/QC plan. The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) developed a computer-based tool that helps users produce Quality Assurance/ Quality Control (QA/QC) documents faster and more accurately for water quality monitoring projects. This class introduces students to the SWAMP QAPP Advisor tool and is full - with a waiting list.</p>

Cal/EPA Enforcement Report

A draft of the Water Boards' chapter of the Cal/EPA Enforcement Report was recently completed. This chapter draws heavily on information from the Baseline Enforcement Report presented to the State Water Board in May 2008. The primary distinction is that the Cal EPA Report covers calendar year 2007 (the Baseline Enforcement Report covers Fiscal Year 2006-2007).

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (DFA)

Meetings

California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) Funding Fairs, April 23, and May 6, 2008: Staff participated in two 2008 CFCC Funding Fairs, which were held in Central and Northern California: (1) Visalia (April 23); and (2) West Sacramento (May 6). Staff provided an overview of the various funding programs available through the State Water Board, and met with interested parties to discuss their projects and related funding needs. The CFCC brings six State and Federal funding agencies together to facilitate and expedite the completion of infrastructure projects by helping interested parties combine resources of different agencies. Additional CFCC funding fairs will be held in 2009.

Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Concept Proposal Workshops: Staff conducted two concept proposal workshops, which were held at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on April 18 and April 23, 2008, respectively. Staff provided an overview of the ASBS funding program including eligibility, program priorities and preferences, geographic scope, application review and timeline, and submittal requirements. Staff

was available to answer Regional Board and applicant's questions regarding the program and application requirements.

Beach Water Quality Work Group Meetings – Southern California on May 14 and Northern California on May 22, 2008: Staff attended these two regularly scheduled quarterly meetings to keep informed on the recent beach water quality research being conducted in the scientific community. Meeting topics included the status of the Avalon Epidemiology study, evaluation of optical brighteners used for source tracking, a report on beach attendance and bathing rates in southern California, and the results of a recent study regarding variability in enterococci concentrations.

Malibu Technical Advisory Committee, May 30, 2008: Staff attended this meeting hosted by the City of Malibu and their consultants. The purpose of the meeting was to share information and report on the status of Legacy Park Project; specifically the stormwater and habitat elements of the future park, which was funded in part by a Proposition 50 grant.

CALFED Water Quality Grant Program, May 9, 2008: State Water Board staff and Sam Harader met with CALFED to finalize the Solicitation Notice for the CALFED Water Quality Grant Program. The solicitation period was opened June 2, 2008 and applications are due by 5:00 pm on July 10, 2008.

Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Concept Proposal Reviewer Training, May 14, and May 15, 2008: Staff conducted two concept proposal reviewer trainings for ASBS Task Force members, which were held online via WebEx on May 14 and May 15, 2008. Staff gave an overview of the ASBS concept proposal review criteria and provided written guidance for reviewing the concept proposals. Additionally, a guided tour of the FFAST system was given for first time users that will be involved in the review process.

Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Task Force Education Workshop, May 29, 2008: Staff conducted an educational workshop for ASBS Task Force members, which was held online via WebEx on May 29, 2008. Staff gave an overview of the ASBS' including known associated water quality issues that had concept proposals submitted for the ASBS grant funding program. The solicitation closed on May 22, 2008 and there are 24 projects that have been deemed eligible and are being reviewed. Concept proposal reviews are due June 23, 2008.

2008 NPS Conference Wrap Up, June 3, 2008: Members of the 2008 NPS Conference Steering committee, including those from DFA, Division of Water Quality, Tetra Tech, and U.S. EPA participated in a teleconference to discuss attendees' evaluations and staff review of conference success. Staff evaluated the various parts of the conference, including opening sessions, presentation loading, registration, materials, organizational structure, facilities, agenda, and websites. Staff discussed final actions that need to be taken.

Regional Water Management Foundation, June 5, 2008: Staff presented a ceremonial check for 12.5 million dollars to the Regional Water Management Foundation (a subsidiary of the Community Foundation of Northern Santa Cruz) on June 5, 2008. The check represented the Proposition 50 grant award amount for implementation of projects within the Northern Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management Plan area. Regional, local, and legislative officials were in attendance at the ceremony, which took place at the Long Marine Lab - Seymour Center in the City of Santa Cruz.

Staff Draft of *Small Community Wastewater Strategy* Released for Public Comment: Staff Draft of the *Small Community Wastewater Strategy* was released for public comment on June 2, 2008. Comments on the staff draft are due by June 11, 2008. The *Small Community Wastewater Strategy* will be referenced in a Resolution Promoting Strategies to Assist Small and/or Disadvantaged Communities with Wastewater Needs, which is scheduled to be presented for State Water Board consideration at the July 1, 2008 Board Meeting.

Storm Water Advisory Task Force (SWATF) Meeting: The second SWATF Meeting was held on June 16, 2008. Details on the meeting will be provided in the July Executive Director's Report.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation Workshops: Staff attended two workshops hosted by the Rural Community Assistance Corporation on June 3-4, 2008. The workshops covered: (1) capital improvement planning and asset management; and (2) budget and rate setting. In addition to representatives from small, rural, and/or disadvantaged communities, staff from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Water Resources was also in attendance.

Division Approvals

The Deputy Director of DFA approved the following Preliminary Loan/Grant Commitments from May 1, 2008 through June 17, 2008.

Clean Beaches Grant

Entity	Preliminary Funding Commitment	Project	Approved
City of Santa Barbara	\$477,280	Source Tracking Protocol Development Project	4/30/08
County of Santa Cruz	\$168,750	Aptos Beach At Valencia Creek Sewer & Lift Station Project	5/29/08
Southern California Coastal Water Resource Project	\$1,000,000	Epidemiology Study To Assess Swimmer Health Risk From Non Point Source (NPS) Bacteria	5/27/08

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2008/2009 BUDGET

Ten of the Water Board's Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) have been approved by budget subcommittees of both houses of the Legislature. Seven BCPs and two Finance Letters remain open and will be discussed in conference committee along with Budget Bill Language, Trailer Bill Language, and other policy issues that were raised in our various budget hearings. The conference issues include:

- Legislative Analyst Office recommendations on Supplementary Environmental Projects, and a new broad based fee for water quality management.
- Assembly recommendations to work with the Department of Public Health on groundwater/drinking water quality.
- Senate language to require separate budget line items for each regional board
- Senate language related to the San Diego Bay sediment clean-up.
- Senate language to report on plans to reduce Ag Water Runoff in the Delta.
- Senate language to improve state and regional water board accountability.

Conference hearings are scheduled to begin on June 12th.

APPENDIX I

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) report provides an update on the activities of the Central Coast, Los Angeles, Colorado River Basin, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board programs. Future monthly reports will alternate between the status of the ILRP at the Central Valley Water Board and at other Regional Water Boards. English and Spanish translations of current and past ILRP monthly reports can be found on the State Water Boards Irrigated Agricultural Waiver 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	jgonzales@waterboards.ca.gov
Gita Kapahi	(916) 341-5501	gkapahi@waterboards.ca.gov

CENTRAL COAST AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM

Irrigated Agriculture Program Update
May 9, 2008 Board Meeting

Presentations and Outreach

Central Coast Water Board staff gave brief overviews of the Irrigated Agriculture Regulatory Program at the March meetings of the Morro Bay City Council and Public Works Advisory Board. Staff was invited to speak about the Morro Bay Nitrate Study. This study identifies agricultural fertilizer as the greatest potential source for nitrate contamination to groundwater at the City well field along Hwy 1. The City Council adopted the nitrate study at their meeting and made recommendations to work with the Central Coast Water Board Irrigated Agriculture Program to address the issue of excessive levels of nitrate in groundwater within the study area. Water Board staff is in the process of developing an approach to address this issue.

Staff made presentations at two grower monitoring workshops and provided an overview of the Irrigated Agricultural Program at a meeting of the general public. Staff approved 17 classes for agricultural water quality credit this year and posted all classes on the Central Coast Water Board website.

Food Safety

Central Coast Water Board staff continues their involvement in food safety issues that have the potential to affect water quality. Staff is providing comments on the food safety component of the proposed 2008 federal farm bill. Staff also continues to work with

various partner agencies and organizations to increase awareness of the detrimental impact of some food safety practices.

Cooperative Monitoring Program

Staff approved Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.'s follow-up monitoring proposals to do continuous flow monitoring and upstream monitoring in several watersheds beginning in 2008. Preservation Inc. is also developing a proposal for education and outreach to address toxicity and irrigation improvement issues in several watersheds. Follow-up projects are funded by regular program fees and by a Proposition 40 grant and are a mandatory component of the Cooperative Monitoring Program established by the Conditional Waiver.

Inspections

Central Coast Water Board staff is continuing to conduct inspections throughout the region to assess and improve compliance with agricultural program requirements. Staff has responded to several complaints by conducting inspections and making grower referrals to technical assistance. Staff then schedules follow-up inspections to ascertain whether practices have been implemented. If necessary, staff will issue Notice of Violation letters to non-responsive growers.

Enforcement Actions

Central Coast Water Board is continuing enforcement actions against farming operations that have not enrolled in the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands. Staff issued five administrative liability complaints in December. So far, four of the farming operations have enrolled and paid all past due monitoring costs and fees. Many new enrollments have come in during the first three months of this year, possibly as a result of increased awareness due to enforcement actions.

For additional information on the Central Coast Water Board Agricultural Regulatory Program, please contact Alison Jones at (805) 542-4646 or e-mail to ajones@waterboards.ca.gov

LOS ANGELES REGION CONDITIONAL WAIVER FOR IRRIGATED LANDS

Water Quality Monitoring

Discharger groups in both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties submitted Annual Water Quality Monitoring Reports to the Regional Board. The reports were reviewed by staff and comments were provided to each Discharger group. In addition, staff met with representatives of each group to discuss the results of the first year of water quality monitoring and potential program improvement strategies. The results of water quality monitoring in both counties demonstrated exceedances of water quality benchmarks established in the Los Angeles Region Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands (Order No. R4-2005-0080). Therefore, each group will be developing Agriculture Water Quality Management Plans, which will include the implementation of BMPs to mitigate the exceedances.

Enforcement

On March 13, 2008, the Regional Board sent notices of violation to approximately 700 growers who had not yet enrolled in the Conditional Waiver program. The NOV letters generated significant feedback from the grower community and numerous growers have requested enrollment forms as a result of receiving the NOV.

Presentations and Workshop

Regional Board staff continues to participate in meetings and workshops to update the agriculture community on the progress and requirements of the Conditional Waiver program. Staff recently spoke at a row crop workshop in Ventura County organized by the Ventura County UC Cooperative Extension and at the Nursery Growers Association general membership meeting. Staff presented a poster on the Los Angeles Region Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands at the California Nonpoint Source Conference May 5-7, 2008. The Ventura County Agriculture Irrigated Lands Group held 6 education workshops in April and May to ensure that grower group members meet the requirement for eight hours of continuing education.

For additional information on the Los Angeles Region Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands, please contact Rebecca Veiga Nascimento at (213) 576-6784 or rveiga@waterboards.ca.gov

COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION CONDITIONAL WAIVER FOR IRRIGATED LANDS

Introduction

The Imperial Valley portion of the Salton Sea Transboundary Watershed has been targeted for watershed management, including the development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and implementation of the state nonpoint source management program plan. Priority water quality issues in the region include management of sedimentation of the New and Alamo Rivers and the Imperial Valley Drains.

To address these water quality issues, the state of California has awarded grant funds to the Imperial Irrigation District and the Imperial County Farm Bureau to implement monitoring and public outreach programs. The progress of these two projects is reported to the Colorado River Basin Regional Board quarterly.

Background

The Imperial Valley receives more than 2.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water every year to irrigate approximately 478,000 acres of farmland. The runoff that leaves these fields is collected in an agricultural drainage system consisting of 1,450 miles of surface drains, the Alamo River, the New River, and the Salton Sea. This drainage system is responsible for collecting the surface runoff and subsurface drain flows from agricultural operations, storm water flows, municipal wastewater treatment plant effluent, industrial discharges, and the highly contaminated water that comes from the Mexican portion of the New River.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act identifies the water quality of the Alamo River, New River, Imperial Valley agricultural drains, and Salton Sea as being impaired. These impairments are due to elevated levels of one or more constituents that do not support the designated beneficial uses that the Regional Board has identified for these water bodies. Alamo River impairments include suspended silt, pesticides, and selenium. New River impairments include suspended silt, pesticides, nutrients, and several other impairments that are discharged from a combination of industrial point sources, wastewater, and out-of-state sources. Imperial Valley agricultural drain impairments include suspended silt, pesticides, and selenium. Salton Sea impairments include nutrients and salinity.

Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, the Regional Board approved a Siltation/Sedimentation TMDL for the Alamo River in 2001. The TMDL was developed because sediment concentrations in the river violate the water quality standards established by the Regional Board to protect the beneficial uses of the river. The Implementation Plan of the TMDL identifies the monitoring and tracking of the pollutants of concern to determine compliance with the TMDL.

Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB)

ICFB's TMDL Voluntary Compliance Program (Program) is currently funded primarily by Clean Water Act 319(h) monies with local matching funds.

The primary goal of the Program is continued reduction of silt, and other TMDL constituents, being transported from agricultural fields into the Imperial Valley drainage system. Using previously awarded 205(j) and 319(h) grants, the ICFB has been facilitating this Program by enlisting the practical knowledge of its growers to develop realistic water quality goals and devise workable Farm Water Quality Management Plans. The very large (478,000 farmable acres) drainage system has been divided into ten sub-regions (drainsheds) that are of a workable size and can be hydrologically isolated. The drainshed working groups meet periodically to combine individual efforts and to share experiences with Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other aspects of good water quality stewardship.

The Program focuses on the implementation of on-farm BMPs within each drainshed through technical assistance to growers and participation within the drainshed working groups, as guided by the TMDL process. In order to achieve and maintain widespread cooperation of individual growers, it is imperative to actively encourage the use of BMPs through the Voluntary TMDL Compliance Program's outreach efforts. The Program also seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of recommended practices, and to facilitate the implementation of BMPs by providing training and on-farm consultation services.

Between October 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007, the ICFB met several quarterly objectives of the Voluntary TMDL Compliance Program:

- Promoted the program using various media sources
- Compiled a list of farmers/growers who failed to update their required Farm

- Water Quality Plans. ICFB contacted each one and all updates were completed
- The On-Farm Consultant visited twelve farmers/growers to assess field conditions and offered suggestions on how to improve problem erosion areas on their fields. In addition, the consultant monitored drain maintenance activities
 - A series of telephone consultations for local farmers/growers were conducted by the On-Farm Consultant
 - ICFB met with the Imperial Irrigation District and Regional Board staff to continue discussing drain maintenance issues affecting the TMDL program
 - One report was added to the ICFB's TMDL website, providing Program participants with information on upcoming events and new regulations
 - The ICFB also maintains a database of farmers/growers participating in the TMDL Program. Parameters include participant names, addresses, field location, crop type, and BMP activity (in-use and planned).

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

As part of the Drain Water Quality Improvement Plan, IID monitors the Imperial Valley Drains monthly at various sites for a variety of constituents, including flow in acre-feet. Water samples were analyzed by an outside laboratory and analytical results were input into an Excel spreadsheet.

The overall objective of this project is to obtain valid data of known and documented quality, which can be utilized in determining compliance with the water quality objectives in the Alamo River Sediment TMDLs.

The project consists of monthly and quarterly sampling events, in which water samples will be collected and field measurements taken at 14 sampling stations.

For additional information on the Colorado River Basin Region Agricultural Conditional Prohibition, please contact Theresa Kimsey at (760) 776- 8960 or tkimsey@waterboards.ca.gov

SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

The San Diego County Farm Bureau's (SDCFB) Board of Directors recently adopted a workplan developing a region-wide agricultural monitoring group in time to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the San Diego Water Board by the deadline of December 31, 2010. Submittal of an NOI, either as part of a monitoring group or as an individual grower, is required of growers by a condition of the new waiver for irrigated agricultural discharges. All growers who elect to join the monitoring group would be covered by the SDCFB's NOI. The SDCFB has also communicated with the Riverside and Orange County Farm Bureaus to inform them that there will be growers in those counties who may wish to be included in the SDCFB NOI. Mr. Larson stated that, to date, the Riverside and Orange County Farm Bureaus are supporting the SDCFB's work on this issue. In brief, the 2008 workplan tasks are:

- Study existing monitoring group structures in California

- Choose best case models
- Select legal and professional consultants for recommendations on group structure
- Submit organizational alternatives to SDCFB board for consideration
- Select organizational structure.