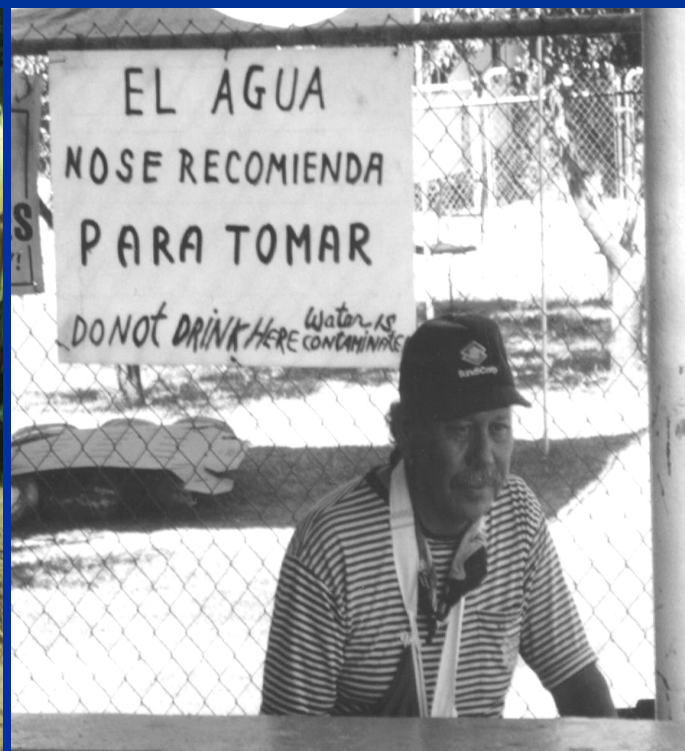




PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER
Central Coast Water Board
May 12, 2010 Workshop







AGRICULTURAL ORDER OBJECTIVES

- Reduce pollutant loading to surface water and groundwater;
- Do not cause or contribute to pollution;



PROPOSED REVISIONS AGRICULTURAL ORDER

- Characterize pollutant sources and loading
- Define time schedules to achieve compliance
- Require on-farm data to verify compliance
- Implement a tiered approach based on risk to water quality
- Protect safe drinking water

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER

Characterize pollutant sources and loading:

Require on-farm data to verify compliance:

- Individual on-farm monitoring and reporting
- Farm inputs, outputs, and management practices

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER

Tiered approach based on risk to water quality:

Surface Water

- Low-risk Discharge
- Focus on most severely impaired areas
 - Proximity
 - Timeframe
- High-risk Discharge

Groundwater

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER

Protect safe drinking water:

- Prohibit excess fertilizer
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Well backflow prevention devices
- Proper well abandonment
- Safe drinking water
- Groundwater well monitoring

PUBLIC OUTREACH

DECEMBER 2008 - PRESENT

- Ag Advisory Panel
- Preliminary Draft Order
- 16+ events/meetings...
 - Growers
 - Commodity Groups
 - Technical assistance providers and researchers
 - Environmental groups
 - Environmental justice organizations
 - Agencies

PUBLIC OUTREACH OUTCOMES

- Diverse representation
- Three alternatives for regulating agricultural discharges
- 1200+ comment letters
- Specific suggestions and feedback
- Staff has identified workable concepts and potential changes to Agricultural Order

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

Three alternatives for regulating agricultural discharges:

- ✓ California Farm Bureau Federation
- ✓ OSR Enterprises, Inc.
- ✓ Environmental Defense Center, Monterey Coastkeeper, Ocean Conservancy, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, & Surfrider Foundation

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Does the alternative...

- ✓ Resolve pollution of surface water and groundwater, and impacts to aquatic habitat?
- ✓ Include time schedule and milestones?
- ✓ Include monitoring and reporting?
- ✓ Meet minimum statutory requirements?

ALTERNATIVES

POTENTIAL AREAS OF AGREEMENT

Workable concepts include...

- ✓ Submittal of an annual report focused on water quality outcomes
- ✓ Tailwater elimination to comply with surface water requirements
- ✓ Include measures to evaluate pollutant load reductions, in addition to concentrations
- ✓ SMART sampling

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1234 comment letters received
- Diverse representation
 - Support process and preliminary draft recommendations
 - Support requirements for individual monitoring
 - Support requirements to control discharge
 - Support for well monitoring and safe drinking water

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diverse representation cont.

- Concerns about economic hardship
- Concerns about process, including CEQA
- Objections to aquatic habitat requirements
- Objections to individual monitoring and reporting

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Specific suggestions and feedback
- Additional public outreach in progress
- Potential changes to Draft Order...
 - Conditions related to containerized plants;
 - Time frames for surface irrigation runoff vs. tiledrains;
 - Removing “tributaries” to prioritize farm operations;
 - Revising the table of high risk pesticides;