

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2011**

Prepared on January 10, 2011

**ITEM NUMBER: 19**

**SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Technical Services Available to the  
Agriculture Industry and Potential Solutions to Water Quality  
Problems**

**DISCUSSION**

This item is a placeholder for a discussion regarding technical services available to the agriculture industry and potential solutions to water quality and habitat issues associated with irrigated agriculture.

There are many consulting companies and hundreds of individual experts who work in the field of environmental sciences, investigations, corrective actions, treatment system design, sampling, and reporting on the Central Coast. These companies and individuals provide technical services for thousands of cases regulated by the Water Board and other agencies, and are available to assist the agriculture industry in complying with Water Board requirements. Water Board staff will be compiling a list of such companies over the next several months (not as an endorsement, but as information).

In addition, the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRDC), County Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), and UC Extension offices provide technical services to help the agriculture industry change its farming practices and achieve compliance.

There are also many non-profit agriculture organizations and initiatives that promote and demonstrate sustainable agriculture, and provide education and support.

Also, as reported in item No. 18, the Water Boards have provided hundreds of millions of dollars in public funds to assist the agriculture industry statewide, with tens of millions provided on the Central Coast.

Solving the severe groundwater and surface water pollution problems on the Central Coast is our top priority, and will require a comprehensive regulatory program designed to require significant reductions in pollution discharges on a defined schedule, compliance monitoring, and enforcement for non-compliance. As with all other Water Board programs, this approach will provide incentive to change, innovate, and implement treatment systems on individual, group, and regional scales.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This session is for discussion only.