

ITEM:

14

SUBJECT:

Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands Within the Central Valley Region: Agricultural Commissioners Pilot Program

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Executive Officer to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding Among the State Water Resources Control Board, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte and Glenn Counties, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation

BACKGROUND:

On 29 June 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board), the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Agricultural Commissioners of Glenn County and Butte County for activities undertaken by the County Agricultural Commissioners in support of the Regional Water Board's Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program (ILP). All parties agreed to review the MOU after 24 months for the purpose of assessing its effectiveness in addressing water quality impacts from waste discharges from irrigated lands. The current MOU is set to expire June 30, 2007. The MOU parties are seeking to revise and extend the MOU for four additional years. The revised MOU is included in this agenda package.

During the MOU Pilot Program, the Agricultural Commissioners' staff has provided outreach to applicators, irrigators and growers about the ILP, supplied up-to-date information on pesticide use and agricultural operations, acted as a direct contact for information about the ILP with growers and other agencies, and supported Central Valley Water Board staff by inspecting and providing information on areas with water quality exceedances. By revising and extending this MOU, the Central Valley Water Board and the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte and Glenn Counties will be able to further their work, and take advantage of efficiencies through this unique partnership.

The Agricultural Commissioners' staff is currently documenting and surveying management practices (MPs) at Pine Creek in Butte County and Walker Creek in Glenn County. The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) sampling of these two drainages will determine the effectiveness of the current MPs. The Coalition, the respective subwatershed coordinators, the Agricultural Commissioners, and Central Valley Water Board have agreed on this collaborative effort to document the effectiveness of MPs to protect water quality.

Through the current MOU, the two County Agricultural Commissioners entered into contracts with the Central Valley Water Board to implement and coordinate the use of their programs designed to control nonpoint sources of pollution from irrigated agriculture. Under the revised MOU, the State Water Board will authorize the revenue to fund 1 PY per year for the first two years of the MOU, divided equally between Butte and Glenn counties, and paid to the two counties for activities actually performed and invoiced as provided in the MOU. The total cost for the first two years is \$271,440. The revenue may be extended for additional

years if agreed to by all parties. Impact to the Central Valley Water Board would be the staff resources required for contract development, execution and management (estimated to be 0.1 PY).

ISSUES: Should the Central Valley Water Board authorize the Executive Officer to sign the revised MOU enabling the Central Valley Water Board to enter into contracts with the Butte and Glenn County Agricultural Commissioners to help implement and coordinate the use of their programs designed to control nonpoint sources of pollution from irrigated agriculture?

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Resolution to authorize the Executive Officer to sign a revised MOU that promotes interagency coordination and cooperation at the state and local levels in efforts to address water quality impacts from irrigated lands waste discharges.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

21 /22 June 2007
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670