

ITEM: 18

SUBJECT: Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers in the Grassland Drainage Area

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Adoption of the Waste Discharge Requirements.*

BACKGROUND: The proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) General Order for the Growers in the Grassland Drainage Area (GDA) follows already adopted orders that implement the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The proposed Order regulates discharges to groundwater only. Discharges to surface waters via the Grassland Bypass Project (GBP) are addressed by a separate Order to be concurrently considered by the Board at the July meeting.

In February 2015, a Board workshop was held at Rancho Cordova to receive input from the public and direction from the Board. In May 2015, staff circulated the tentative GBP and GDA Orders for review and comment by the public. For the tentative GDA Order, three comment letters were received at the end of the 45-day comment period; letters and the staff response to comments are included in the agenda package. The tentative Order, which is included in this agenda package, has been revised in response to comments received. A summary of revisions from the February 2015 and May 2015 drafts is below.

General Summary of Revisions

- *A combined Information Sheet addresses both the GBP and GDA WDRs.* The Information Sheet was combined to show how the two Orders are integrated to provide coverage for surface water and groundwater discharges.
- *Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plan.* The date for submission was changed to 60 days after the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report approval, consistent with the requirements in other ILRP orders.
- *Trend monitoring.* Groundwater with the potential to be used as wetland supply water requires monitoring for selenium.
- *Farm Evaluation.* A requirement to submit a summary of management practice information collected as part of Farm Evaluations was added.
- *Additional time to inform members of Order requirements.* Membership lists do not exist for Grassland Drainage Area growers, and 90 instead of 30 days following the Order adoption is allowed for notifying growers of the requirements.
- *Grassland Drainage Area boundary.* The Order boundary was modified to include agricultural lands that drain to the Grassland Bypass channel and the San Luis Drain, and exclude agricultural lands that drain to an area outside of the Grassland Drainage Area. A concurrent revision of the Western San Joaquin WDR boundary ensures that all lands have regulatory coverage.

Remaining Issues

The remaining issues and proposed resolution thereof are described in the comment letters and staff response to comments.

RECOMMENDATION Adopt the proposed waste discharge requirements.

Mgmt. Review SYM
Legal Review PEP

30/31/ July 2015

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting

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