

**22 AUGUST 2025 BOARD MEETING
CONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 10

SUBJECT:

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, Pit River Exemption – Consideration of Resolution Revising ILRP General Order No. R5-2014-0030-11

BOARD ACTION:

Consider adoption of a resolution revising General Order R5-2014-0030-11 to exempt irrigated agricultural operations within the Pit River subwatershed from ILRP regulatory coverage.

BACKGROUND:

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is considering an Order revision to exempt commercial irrigated agricultural operations in the Pit River Subwatershed from requirements to obtain regulatory coverage in the ILRP through the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order (General Order) covering this area. The affected ILRP General Order is the Sacramento River Watershed Area (R5-2014-0030-11).

Central Valley Water Board Staff brought an Informational Item before the Board at the 21 February 2025 Board Meeting. The Informational Item detailed the characteristics of the Pit River Subwatershed, including that irrigated agriculture has a small footprint within the subwatershed (75,000 acres enrolled in the ILRP, accounting for less than 2% of the total subwatershed acreage) and consists largely of pasture (79%) and forage crops such as grain, hay, and grass hay (10%). The Informational Item also discussed available monitoring and management practices data, which indicate that Pit River irrigated agriculture is at low risk of generating ILRP high priority pollutant issues such as pesticides, toxicity, and groundwater nitrate, as the use of pesticides and fertilizers is low. The Board expressed general support for pursuing complete exemption of commercial irrigated agricultural operations within the subwatershed from required enrollment in the ILRP.

This item will summarize the general characteristics of the subwatershed, and data reviewed by Central Valley Water Board Staff, detail the public outreach performed and comments received leading up to this public hearing, and conclude with the recommendation to adopt the exemption resolution and Order revision.

Eight (8) comment letters were received during the public comment period leading up to the public hearing, all in support of exemption. Comments were received from: California Cattlemen's Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, Lassen County Board of Supervisors, McArthur Ranch Inc., Modoc County Board of Supervisors, a

Modoc County Rancher, Northeastern California Water Association, and Northern California Water Association.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution revising General Order R5-2014-0030-11 to exempt irrigated agricultural operations within the Pit River subwatershed from ILRP regulatory coverage.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	AL as per 7/28/2025 email
Legal Review:	JMJ 7/29/2025

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento CA 95814

AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE