



Overview

There are an estimated 35,000 irrigated agricultural operations within the Central Valley Region, growing crops on approximately 7 million acres of land. Depending on the irrigation method, geography, geology, climate, and constituents (e.g., nutrients, pesticides) present or used at a site, these operations may cause impacts to groundwater or surface waters. The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) regulates these operations to ensure that beneficial uses of groundwater and surface waters are protected.

Growers that are part of a third-party group (coalitions) are regulated under seven [geographic](#) general orders and one [commodity-specific](#) general order. There are [14 coalitions](#) helping growers comply with the general orders. There is also a general order for growers who choose to be regulated [individually](#).

The ILRP general orders were adopted by the Central Valley Water Board from December 2012 to July 2015, and so the growers are at slightly different stages of implementation. In early 2018, the State Water Board issued a precedential order in response to a petition filed by environmental/environmental justice groups and agricultural representatives. This precedential order revised the Central Valley Water Board's general order issued to the [Eastern San Joaquin Watershed](#), which was the first general order that the Board issued in 2012. In addition to the revisions that the State Water Board's precedential order made to the East San Joaquin General Order, the State Water Board's precedential order requires the Central Valley Water Board to modify all of the other ILRP General Orders to be consistent with certain statewide precedential directives.

The ILRP consists of 0.7 PY (Redding), 6.8 PY (Fresno) and 11.2 PY (Sacramento) for a total of 18.7 PYs for the region. Program implementation activities are shown in the charts below.

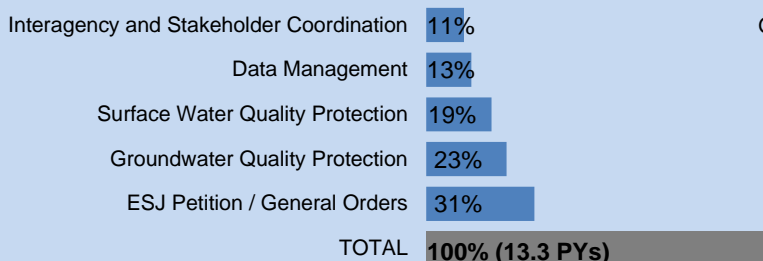
¹PY=person year or resources to fund one Central Valley Water Board staff

Goals

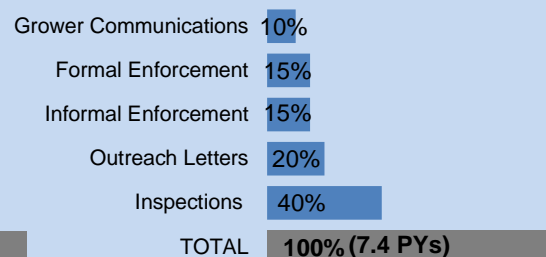
The goal of the ILRP is to prevent discharges from irrigated lands from causing adverse impacts to beneficial uses in surface waters and groundwater through order implementation, appropriate compliance and enforcement, and coordination with all interested parties. This includes working to implement the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water while also acknowledging the value of a healthy and sustainable irrigated agricultural industry in the Central Valley.

Implementation of the general orders includes oversight of coalition and grower activities and management of water quality data. Compliance and enforcement activities include maximizing grower enrollment and order compliance. Coordination is facilitated through regular stakeholder meetings and other venues.

Coalition Oversight and Changes from Petition Order



Compliance/Enforcement



FY17/18 Accomplishments

Groundwater

- Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program – Met regularly with coalitions. Reviewed and conditionally approved regional and individual groundwater trend monitoring workplans for monitoring in Fall 2018.
- Groundwater Quality Management Plans (GQMPs) – GQMPs provide performance goals for coalition outreach and grower implementation of practices protective of groundwater quality. Reviewed and approved 11 GQMPs.

Surface Water

- Management Plan Completions – Management plans are required to address identified water quality problems caused by agricultural pollutants and involve grower implementation of improved practices. Approved 18 management plans completions, most for eliminating pesticides and toxicity problems.
- Delisting of CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters – State Water Board and US EPA approved the delisting of 64 waterbody/pollutants based on completion of ILRP management plans.

Compliance and Enforcement

- Increasing enrollment acreage – Continued compliance and enforcement efforts to address non-filers, which included employing new, plain-English documents resulted in the addition of approximately 29,000 acres and 364 operations to the program.
- Enforcing enrollment requirements – Central Valley Water Board assessed significant monetary penalties against growers who failed to enroll in the ILRP.
- Enforcement coordination with coalitions – ILRP staff continue to use plain-English documents, phone calls and coordination with coalitions to bring growers into compliance (with both enrollment and reporting requirements) before initiation of formal enforcement.

Performance Targets

	17/18 Targets	17/18 Products	18/19 Targets
Regional Groundwater Trend Monitoring Plan Review	1	1	
Annual Report Reviews	14	8	14
Monitoring Plan Update Review	7	7	7
Compost Discretionary Contract	1	1	
Non-enrollment Inspections	1250	3699	1250
Enrollment Directives	800	602	450
On-farm (Order compliance) Inspections	95	114	70
Reminder letters with trifold	2500	3480	2500
Notices of Violations	600	1527	450
Stakeholder Meetings	4	4	4
Updated Waste Discharge Requirements	0	0	9
On-farm Drinking Water Well Monitoring Program	0	0	1

Program Priorities

- Update Orders to implement a Salt and Nitrate Control Program in accordance with CV-SALTS and to comply with the precedential elements of the State Water Board's East San Joaquin Petition Order.
- Ensure transparency and flexibility to evolve with best available science to protect water quality.
- Focused outreach to small farm operations, especially those with non-English speaking operators.