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# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Arnold  
Schwarzenegger  
Governor

**TO:** Charlie Hoppin, Chair  
State Water Resources Control  
Board

**FROM:** Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

**DATE:** 8 February 2010

**SIGNATURE:** Original signed by Ken Landau

## REPORT FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) PILOT PROGRAM

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board), the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Agricultural Commissioners of Glenn County and Butte County requires the staff liaisons from the Regional Water Board and the Agricultural Commissioners of Glenn County and Butte County submit Quarterly Reports of the activities performed under the MOU Pilot Program.

The attached reports are summaries of the MOU Pilot Program activities performed from October to December 2009. The tasks were performed in accordance with a Work Plan for fiscal year 2009- 2010. The Agricultural Commissioners and their staff continue to support the Irrigated lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) in outreach, communications and compliance.

If you have questions regarding this Report, please contact me at (916) 464-4638, or Joe Karkoski at (916) 464-4668.

cc with Attachments A-C:

Ms. Dorothy Rice, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board  
Mr. Tom Howard, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board  
Ms. Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Mr. John Sanders, Chief, Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Mr. Mark Black, Agricultural Commissioner, Glenn County  
Mr. Richard Price, Agricultural Commissioner, Butte County  
Mr. Johnny Gonzales, Program Manager, State Water Resources Control Board

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**MOU PILOT PROGRAM**  
**CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER BOARD**  
**QUARTERLY SUMMARY**  
**OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009**

This document summarizes the fourth quarter 2009 activities performed under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Pilot Program initiated in December 2005 to support the Irrigated lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The MOU Pilot Program has evolved with the ILRP, providing support and information that will be needed to implement a long-term program for the ILRP.

A work plan for the MOU Pilot Program was presented in the last quarter report. Work performed to comply with the work plan is reported in the attachments from the Butte County and Glenn County Agricultural Commissioners.

### **Background**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 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 (DPR), and the Agricultural Commissioners of Glenn County and Butte County has been in effect since 29 June 2005. The MOU specified that contracts to support activities related to the Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) were to be written and the Agricultural Commissioners and the Central Valley Water Board appoint a staff liaison for this Pilot Program. Quarterly reports from the liaisons are required to update the status of the MOU Pilot Program.

The current contracts with the Agricultural Commissioners end 30 June 2010. Contract requests for amendment and extension to fund an additional year to 30 June 2011 have been submitted. The extension will allow the MOU Pilot Program to be segued to the long-term ILRP program alternative.

### **Program Support from Agricultural Commissioners and Their Staff**

The Work Plan for FY 2009-2010 contains the following work for the Butte and Glenn County Agricultural Commissioners and staff:

- **Providing field support to the ILRP by inspecting growers' irrigated ag lands to confirm non-discharge.** By performing this work, the Agricultural Commissioners will free ILRP staff for other duties and verify if owners need not be in the ILRP.
- **Providing technical support for ILRP prior to mailings.** Central Valley Water Board staff is currently sending out postcards and 13267 letters to owners that coalition groups or staff believe should be in the ILRP. The Agricultural Commissioners' staff has access to information about land use, pesticide use and if a property is commercial. Reviewing the mailing list prior to mail-out and removing land owners that

do not meet the criteria for ILRP coverage will improve the efficiency of ILRP staff and lessen the amount of documentation and paperwork.

- **Providing outreach and information.** The Agricultural Commissioners are to work with subwatershed coordinators on Management Plans that may require outreach to growers and access to information such as pesticide use and crop data. Information on the MOU Pilot Program and the ILRP status is to be relayed to other county agricultural commissioners and staff, particularly the alternatives being discussed for the long-term ILRP.
- **GIS database.** The Agricultural Commissioners' staff will exchange methodology and techniques to convert the Butte County surveys of management practices for Pine Creek and are to work with the subwatershed and other agencies, including the Central Valley Water Board, to integrate GIS databases. This task will open lines of communication between the various parties that may be involved in the long-term ILRP program and the steps necessary to share and relay information from one agency to another.

Attachments B and C from the Butte County and Glenn County Agricultural Commissioners, respectively, contain further information of work performed in accordance with the Work Plan.

### **Central Valley Water Board Staff Activities under the MOU Pilot Program**

Working with Agricultural Commissioners' staff, the Central Valley Water Board liaison wrote a Work Plan for the fiscal year with performance measures. The Work Plan was developed to provide information for the long-term ILRP alternatives, such as staffing required for the different roles outlined in the alternatives.

The Central Valley liaison has also initiated contact between the Agricultural Commissioners' staff and the members of the ILRP Compliance and Outreach Unit. This unit is responsible for ILRP compliance and enforcement, including identifying owners/operators that are not and should be part of the ILRP. For the first few inspections, the Compliance and Outreach Unit staff will be accompanying the Agricultural Commissioners' staff to ensure compliance criteria are uniform for all parties. This unit will also provide the mailing lists for review and will be working on GIS database integration and sharing.

### **Program Status**

Funding for the current contract is through 30 June 2010. Per State Water Board's request, contract requests to amend and extend the MOU contracts have been written and submitted. The contract request for each Agricultural Commissioner adds \$71,000 (0.5 PY) for one year to 30 June 2011. The contract extension will allow the Agricultural Commissioners to continue support of the current ILRP thru outreach, inspection of non-dischargers, and review of mail lists. These tasks will allow ILRP staff to work on higher priority duties and increase efficiency. The extension will also allow the Agricultural Commissioners to stay actively involved in evaluating the long-term program alternatives and the role the agricultural commissioners may take in each alternative.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the MOU contracts with the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte and Glenn Counties be extended for another year. Continued funding will allow the agricultural commissioners to actively participate in the long-term program alternatives and provide information to evaluate and assess the alternatives. Continuation will also allow the Pilot Program to segue into the implementation of the long-term program when an alternative is adopted by the Board.

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**MOU PILOT PROGRAM**  
**BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**QUARTERLY SUMMARY**  
**OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009**

As required by contract # 07-079-150-2, the Butte County Department of Agriculture (Butte County Ag Department) is to provide the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) with a quarterly report of activities as it relates to the scope of work for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) contract.

**Summary of Activities:**

Activities this quarter have focused on the Work Plan.

**Mapping:**

Conversion of the Pine Creek Management Practice (MP) Survey data into Geographic Information System (GIS) map layers continues. The GIS technician has made significant progress with the Pine Creek data. All farm site inspections and the Honcut Creek MP survey data and the Butte-Yuba-Sutter (BYS) Watershed (TMDL-MP) data for Butte County will be incorporated into the Map. A new county-wide hydrology layer, which includes irrigation, drainage and water district canals and ditches, has also been incorporated.

**Honcut Creek Watershed MP Survey:**

The Honcut Creek watershed survey is on-going and is about 80% complete. Access to the creek to identify discharge points continues to be a challenge. There are very few levee roads along this water course so access is almost exclusively through private properties which are all gated and locked. Many of the intervening properties are not under pesticide permit and therefore not directly available for agricultural department access.

**Outreach and Coordination with other Agencies:**

During this quarter the Butte County Ag Department collaborated with a number of other agencies regarding the ILRP and a number of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) participating agencies requested support activities, information and electronic data pertaining to Butte County watersheds and the ILRP.

**Glenn County Ag Dept GIS Mapping Collaboration:**

The Glenn County Ag Department MP/GIS mapping project and procedures were reviewed in detail by Butte County Ag staff to develop a comparable MP GIS mapping scheme.

**Butte-Yuba-Sutter Watershed (BYS):**

Butte County Ag Department and the BYS Watershed are now interacting regularly and in a general fashion. Several meetings concerning the integration of the BYS MP data from their TMDL project and the Butte County Ag MP Survey/mapping, have been held between the two organizations.

**SVWQC Pine Creek / Chlorpyrifos SER:**

Butte County Ag Department provided Restricted Material Permit Program (RMPP) and MP survey data, crop and pesticide specific data, research, and California Code of Regulations (CCR) regulator review and analysis to Norcal Water and SVWQC in support of the Pine Creek / Chlorpyrifos, Source Evaluation Report (SER)/ 10/12/09

**SVWQC Mapping Project:**

Butte County Ag Department provided RMPP data converted to Arc view layers in dbf format to the Ducks Unlimited Conservation Planner/GIS Programmer in support of the SVWQC mapping project. 12/17/09

**Grower meetings:**

The Butte County Agricultural Commissioner's Office coordinated the annual continuing education meeting, at the Durham Memorial Hall, for private pesticide applicators requiring recertification. A presentation on the Irrigated Lands Program Update & Pesticide Runoff Mitigation Measures was provided to 98 participants from Butte and adjacent counties. The presentation was given by Paul Hann of the Central Valley Water Board. The California Farm Bureau Federation, AgSafe and Farm Employers Labor Service also participated.

**Recommendations:**

None at this time.

Robert C. Hill

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**MOU PILOT PROGRAM**  
**GLENN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**QUARTERLY SUMMARY**  
**OCTOBER -- DECEMBER 2009**

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has adopted a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Resolutions No. R5-2003-015 & R5-2006-0053) herein referred to as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). In an effort to integrate resources, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte and Glenn Counties, the Central Valley Water Board and the State Water Resources Control Board was developed. This MOU applies to a pilot program initiated with Glenn and Butte Counties. These two counties, under the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Water Board, initiated activities throughout the Sacramento River Basin in support of the ILRP.

The initial contract 05-182-150-0 was entered into in July 2005 following development of the initial MOU. A renewed contract 07-078-150-0 was entered into in April 2008. The MOU was renewed in June 2007. The current contract is set to terminate 30 June 2010. The contract is the basis for cooperation between the Central Valley Water Board and the Glenn County Agricultural Commissioner (GCAC) to perform tasks requested by the Central Valley Water Board in support of the ILRP.

**Task 4 - Outreach**

This quarter Glenn County staff has concentrated their efforts with ongoing outreach with the local Colusa-Glenn Subwatershed. From October through December, staff has assisted the Subwatershed by supplying information associated with the required source evaluation relating to the Management Plans currently in place in the Walker Creek and Stony Creek watersheds.

Continuing from the previous quarter, the July exceedance for chlorpyrifos in Walker Creek initiated some additional queries for grower information to assist the Colusa-Glenn Subwatershed in conducting outreach.

**Task 5- Other Work**

Staff continues to participate in coordination with other agencies. In November and December, staff attended meetings held by the Glenn-County Sub-watershed. In October and November, staff participated in Long-Term Irrigated Lands Program planning and meetings, and in December attended the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition meeting.

Staff also completed, in coordination with the Colusa County Department of Agriculture, and delivered the Freshwater Creek Watershed Evaluation to the contract manager.

In October, Glenn County and Butte County staff also met to review GIS and survey data format used for Walker Creek and Logan Creek Management Practice Surveys.

Glenn County staff has met with Butte County staff to convert the Pine Creek management practice survey information into ArcGIS format.

**Anticipated Next Quarter Activities**

Glenn County staff will work with other agencies and groups, including the Central Valley Water Board, to determine if and how diverse databases can be consolidated and integrated, specifically in the area of coordinating with existing and developing agricultural pesticide permitting programs.

Colusa County should have their assessors parcels digitized and will be included into the existing sub-watershed outreach participant map.

Glenn County staff is looking forward to:

- 1) providing field support for the ILRP by inspecting growers for non-discharge,
- 2) providing technical support for ILRP prior to mailings and;
- 3) Performing additional outreach as requested.

**Conclusion/Recommendations**

At this time the GCAC continues to look forward to working with the Water Board on the tasks outlined by the contract manager for the remainder of the contract. As the Long-Term Program alternatives develop we are prepared to participate in any capacity under the terms of the contract and MOU.