

Amendments to Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Waste Discharge Requirements

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Outline

- Background
- East San Joaquin Petition Order
- Update General WDRs
- Outreach, comments and responses

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

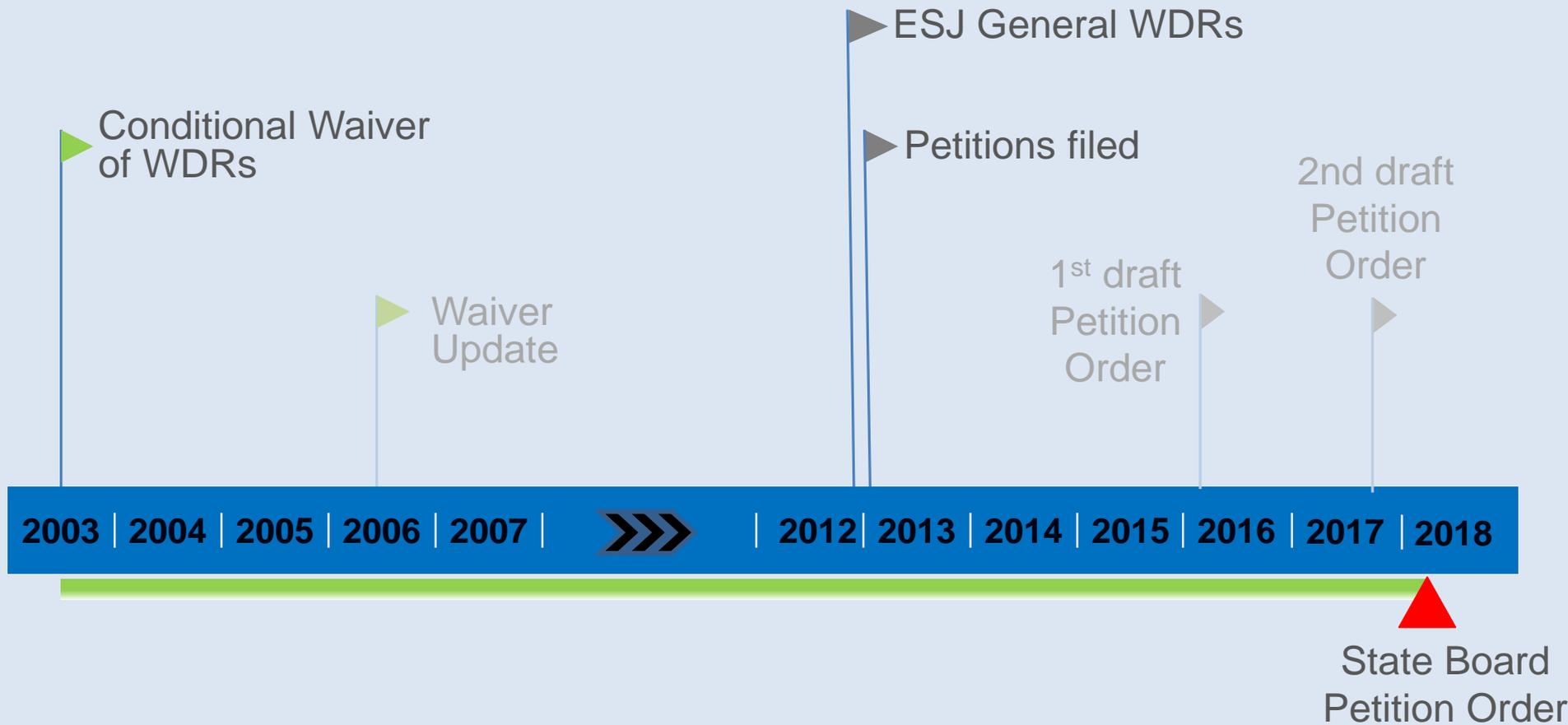
9 General WDRs

- 7 Geographic
- 1 Commodity
- 1 Individual

14 Coalitions



State Water Board Petition

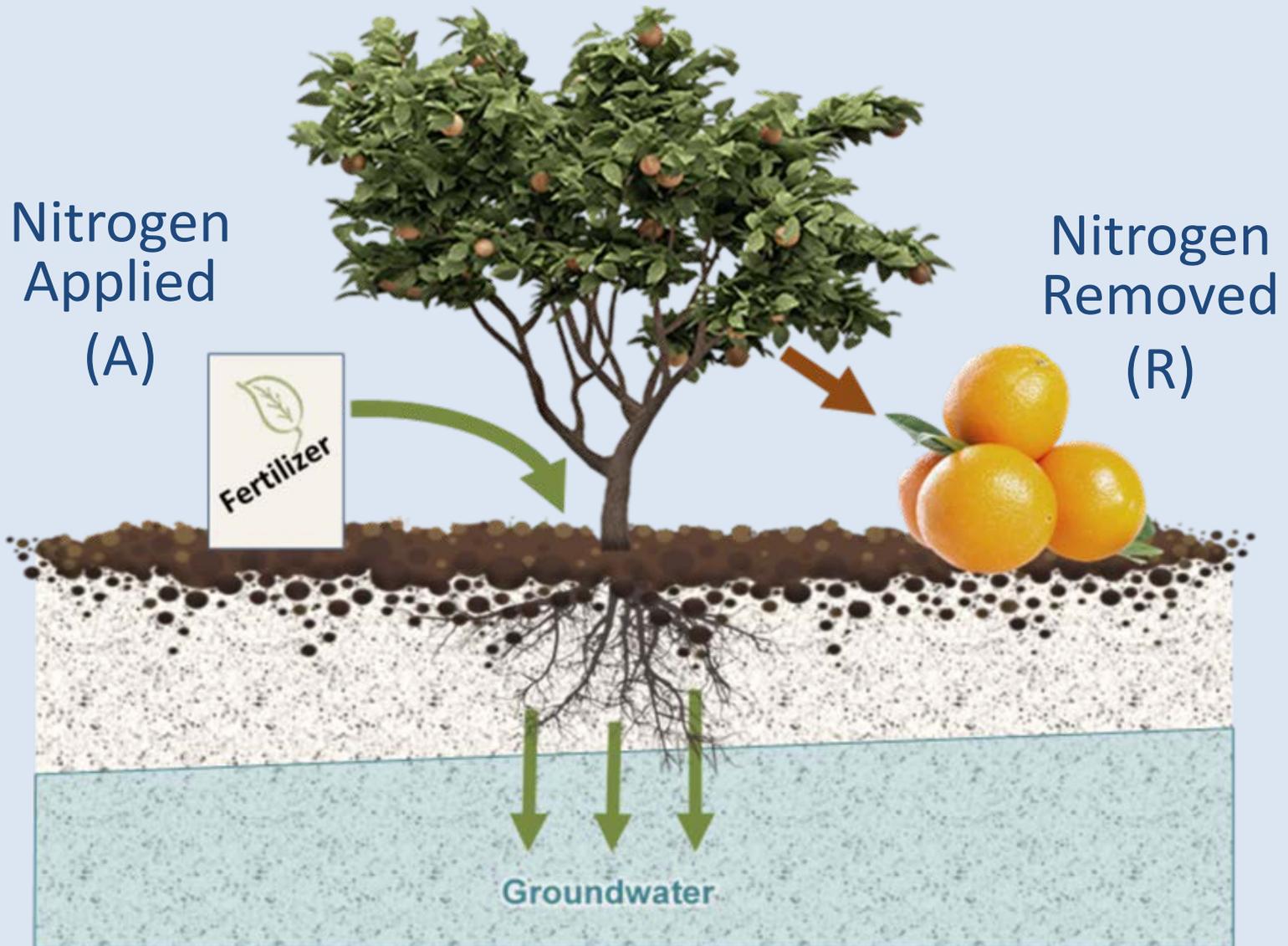


Excess Nitrates in Groundwater

- Key issue for Petition Order
- Potential impacts
 - Human health
 - Blue baby syndrome (Methemoglobinemia)



Nitrogen Accounting



Petition Order

Includes requirements for

- Coalition members
- Coalitions
- Central Valley Water Board



Exceptions for Rice

Irrigation and nitrogen
management
requirements not
precedential for California
Rice Commission

Petition Order

- Revised requirements
- New requirements
- Increased reporting and monitoring



Revised Requirements

Existing

Nitrogen Management Plans

NMP Summary Reports
(high vulnerability areas)

Farm Evaluation (annual)

Outlier identification
(undefined)

Petition Order

Irrigation NMPs

INMP SRs (all members,
additional information)

FE (every 5 years)

Outlier (coalitions propose,
public comment, EO approve)

Revised Requirements

Existing

Nitrogen Removed
Coefficients (R)

Data reporting
(unable to correlate AR and
management practice data)

Member outreach
(high vulnerability areas)

Petition Order

R - % crop acreage deadlines,
EO approval after comment

Data reporting associated
with anonymous identifiers –
enables correlation

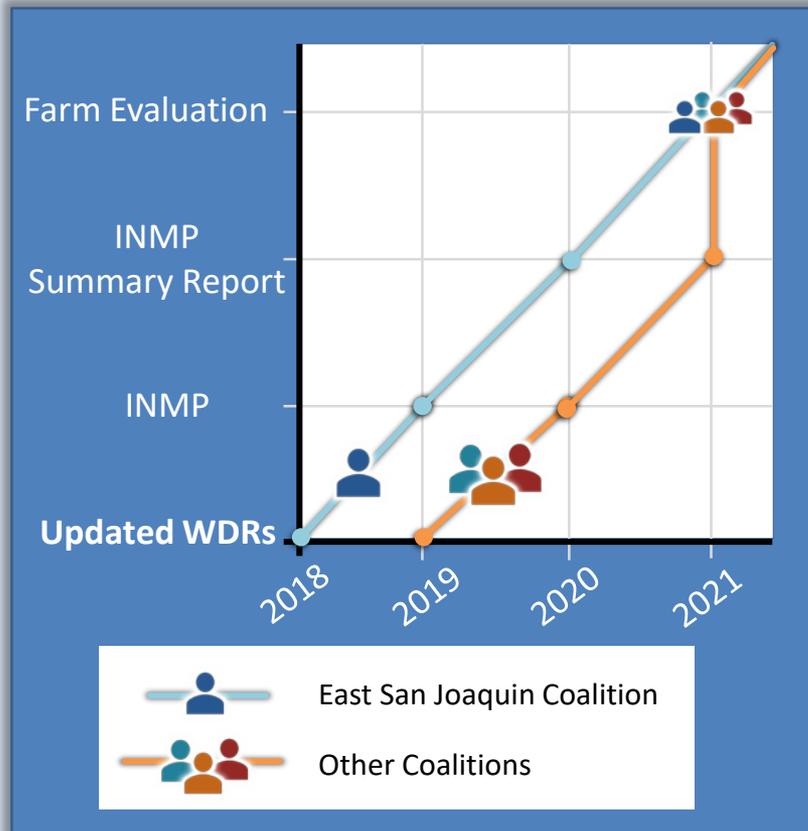
Outreach (all + more details
on outreach requirements)

New Requirements

- Groundwater protection formula, values, and targets (township-specific)
- On-farm drinking water monitoring
 - Members/landowners
 - Geotracker
- Management Practice Implementation Report
- Data storage



Different Timelines

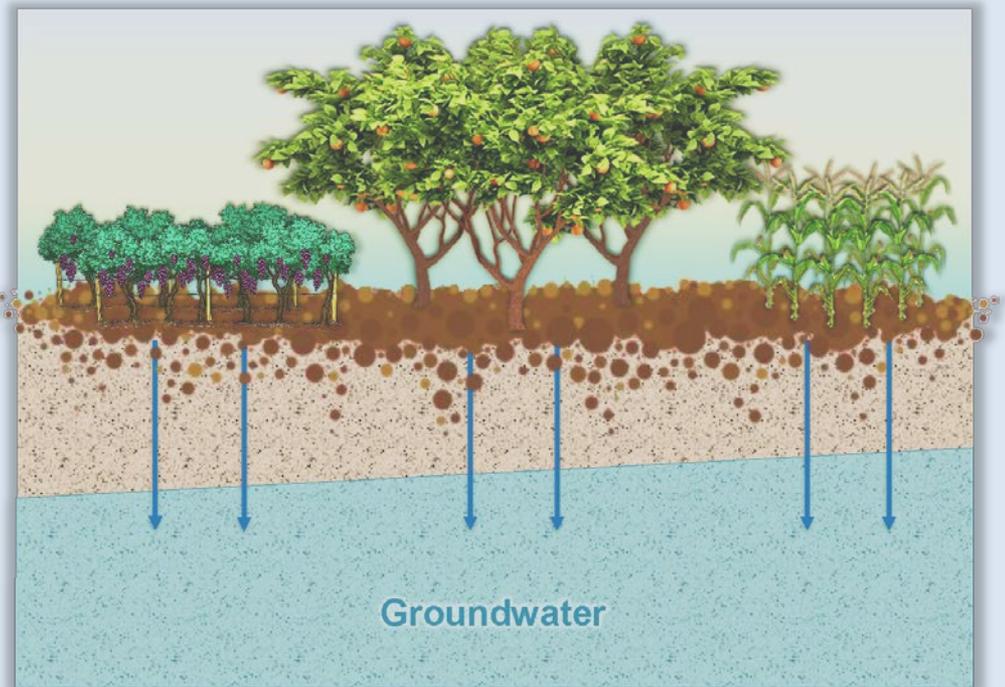


- East San Joaquin Coalition first
- Other coalitions – one year later
 - INMP and INMP Summary Reports
- Some elements are coordinated
 - Groundwater Protection Formula (2020)
 - Farm Evaluation (2021)
- Some elements > one year lag
 - Drinking Water Well Monitoring (2019-2022)

Groundwater Protection

Existing timelines not altered for following:

- Management Practice Evaluation Program
- Groundwater Trend Monitoring Plan
- Groundwater Quality Management Plan



Outreach

- ILRP stakeholder meetings
- Coalition administrative review and meetings
- 45-day public review
- Discussions with commenters



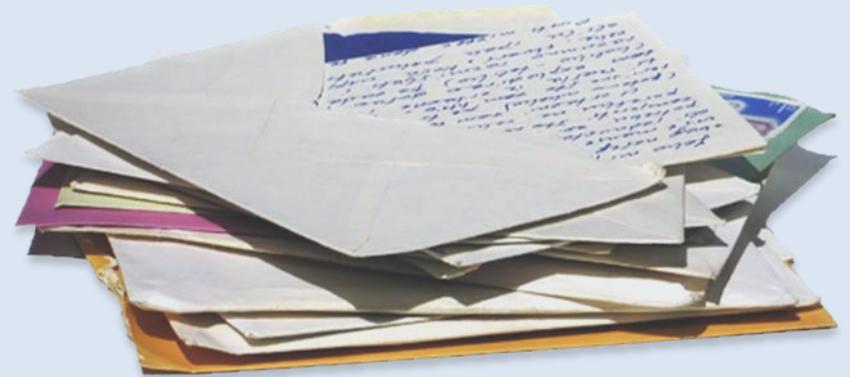


Proposed Revisions

- ESJ Petition Order elements
- Reopener language for CV-SALTS
- Removal of Notice of Intent requirement for new coalition members

15 Comment Letters

- 14 from agricultural interests
 - 12 from Coalition representatives/members
 - California Farm Bureau Federation
 - California Certified Organic Farmers
- One from Environmental Justice Organizations
 - Clean Water Fund
 - Community Water Center
 - Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability



Summaries of Concerns

Agriculture – increasing program costs and complexity; not tailored for specific groups

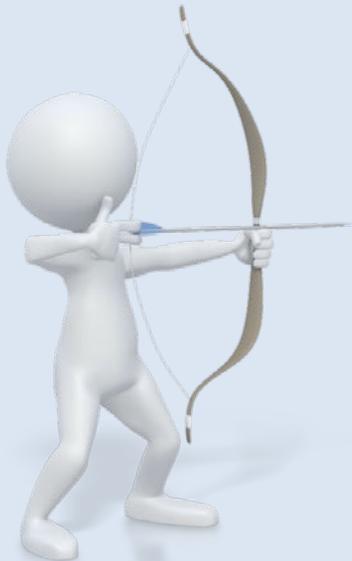
Environmental Justice – drinking water safety and compliance with Antidegradation and Nonpoint Source Policies



Comments



Review of existing Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program



Response

Stepwise Process

- Address Petition Order
- Coordinate coalition timelines
- Address other priorities
- **Current updates appropriate next step**



Comments

Recognize unique characteristics of irrigated pastures

- Low potential water quality threat
- Potential environmental benefits
- Low economic value

Response

Fall 2018 – Listening session in Upper Feather River Watershed

Working with UC researchers and ranchers on conceptual approach to bring to October Board Meeting

Comments

Update ILRP Economic Analysis

- Address new costs to comply with ILRP
- Address costs to drinking water users affected by excess nitrate
- Address costs of SGMA and CV-SALTS



Response

- Prior economic analysis addressed costs of agricultural practices and clean drinking water
- Petition Order considered cost of increased monitoring and reporting
- SGMA not implemented by ILRP General Orders
- CV-SALTS addressed when incorporated in WDRs
- **Updated economic analysis not needed**

Comments

Exemption from groundwater protection formula requirement



Response

- Petition Order requires Groundwater Protection Formula for programs with Groundwater Quality Management Plans
- **Groundwater Protection Formula appropriate for Sac Valley Coalition**



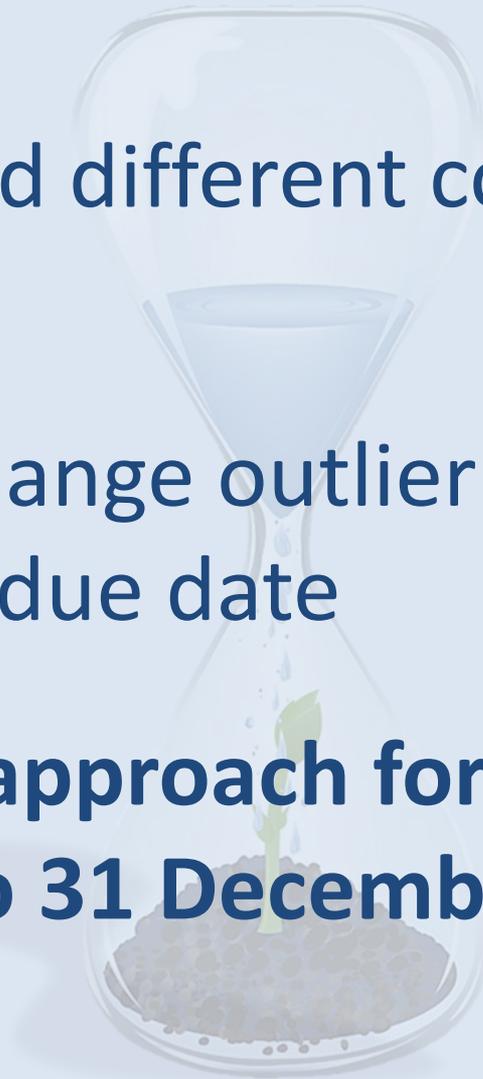
Comments

More time to develop
outlier approach



Response

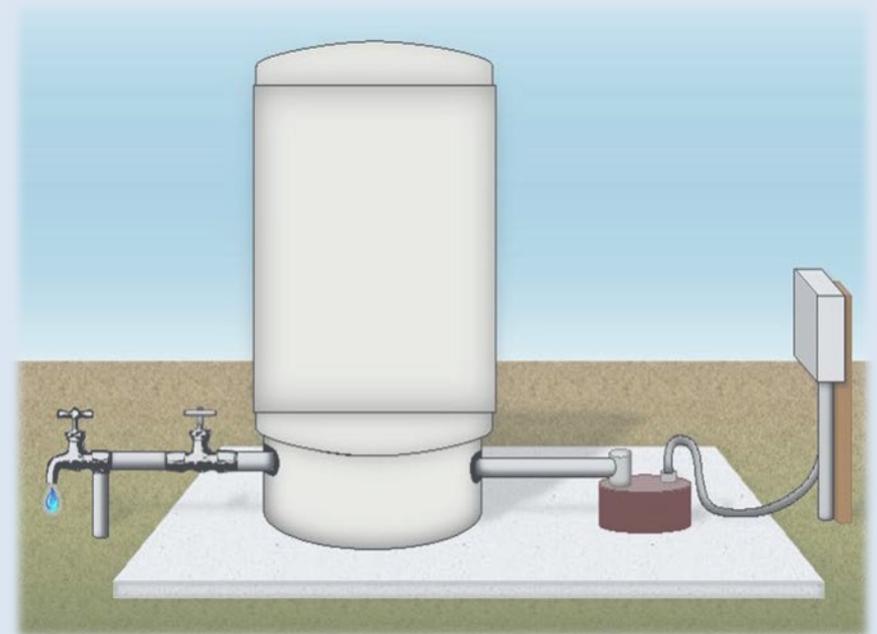
- Recognized different coalition timelines
- Did not change outlier information submittal due date
- **Changed approach for defining outliers to 31 December 2019**



Comments

Accelerate and expand on-farm drinking water well monitoring effort

- All members by 2020
- Additional noticing
- Other constituents



Response

- Monitoring schedule, constituent, and noticing requirements are proposed to satisfy Petition Order and initiate program
- As monitoring program progresses, changes may be made as needed
- **No changes to on-farm drinking water well monitoring program**

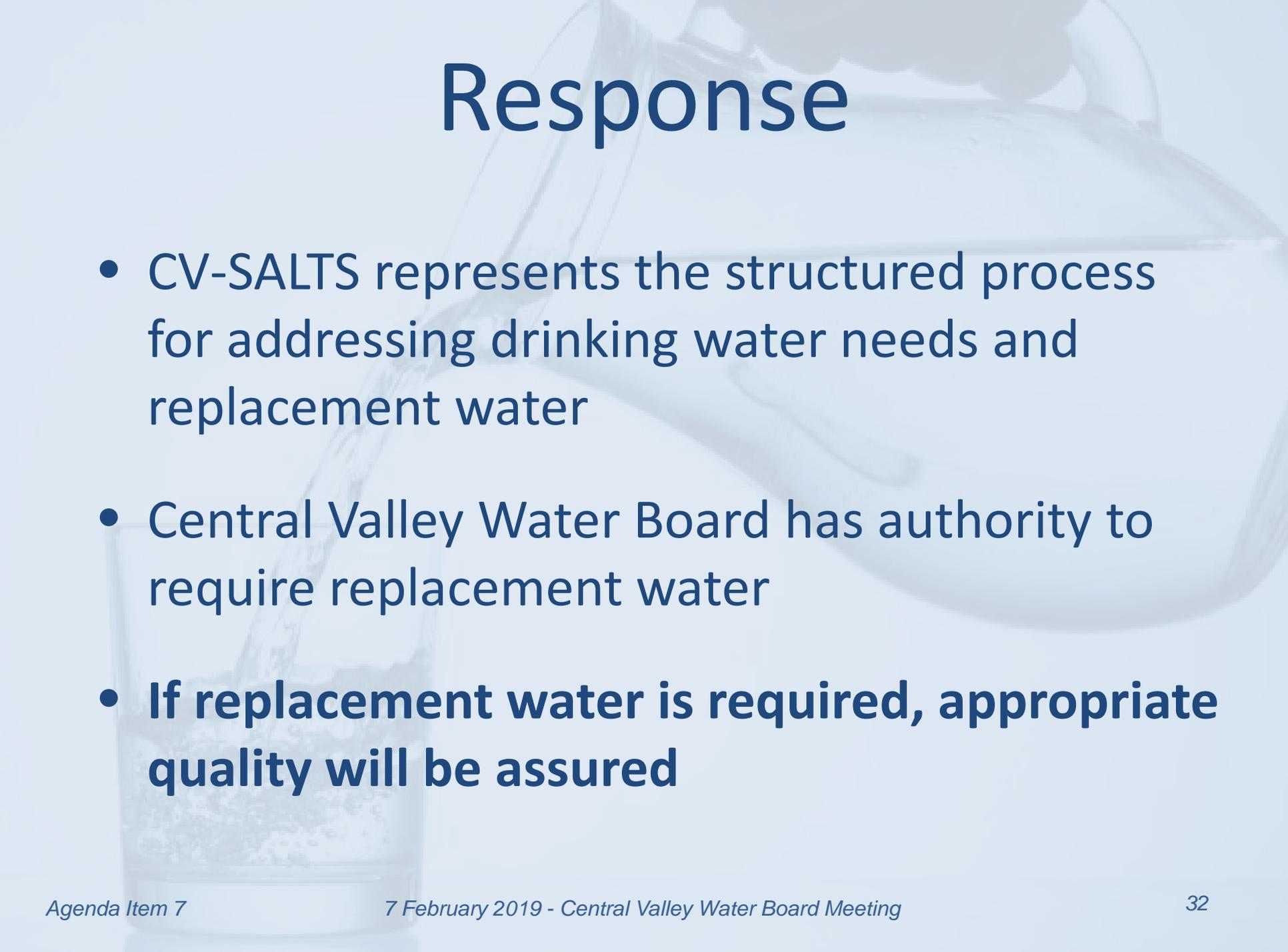
Comments

Drinking water treatment systems as replacement water

- Adequate nitrate treatment
- Properly maintained
- Disclaimer about other constituents



Response



- CV-SALTS represents the structured process for addressing drinking water needs and replacement water
- Central Valley Water Board has authority to require replacement water
- **If replacement water is required, appropriate quality will be assured**

Comments

Compliance with Antidegradation Policy



Response

- Properly assessed baseline water quality
- Requirements of ILRP general orders represent Best Practicable Treatment or Control
- **Comply with Antidegradation Policy**

Comments

Compliance with Nonpoint Source Policy

Response

- Receiving water limits must be met unless there is an approved management plan
- Management plan requirements
 - Specific schedules and milestones of practices, tasks and measurable goals
 - Schedule “short as practicable”
 - 10 year maximum
- **Comply with Nonpoint Source Policy**

Summary

Revised ILRP General Orders

- Implement Petition Order mandates
- Require drinking water well monitoring and noticing
- Include new requirements for groundwater protection

Staff Recommendation

Adopt
Resolution
amending
ILRP General
Orders

