

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER BOARD
LONG-TERM IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

DRAFT PROJECT AND STAKEHOLDER PLAN (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

The following draft project and stakeholder plan describes the main steps that the Regional Water Board will take in the development of a long-term irrigated lands regulatory program.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide proposed long-term program alternatives, program alternative evaluation measures, and comment on all aspects of the long-term program within the framework of this plan. The evaluation measures will be used by Regional Water Board staff to develop the staff recommendations and alternative(s) that will be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

All stakeholder advisory workgroup meeting locations and dates will be announced on the Regional Water Board's website at least two weeks prior to the meeting (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/index.shtml).

Meeting information and program updates will also be circulated via email on the Regional Water Board's email list serve. To subscribe to the email list serve, go to the Regional Water Board's website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml, enter your email, name, and check the irrigated lands regulatory program box.

Date	Program Element	Deliverable (Responsible Party)
October 2008	Advisory workgroup kickoff meeting. Call for workgroup volunteers. Regional Water Board staff (RB staff) will circulate a document describing proposed workgroup structure, goals, selection process, member responsibilities, and operating rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed advisory workgroup goals, rules, and structure (RB staff) • Long-term program advisory workgroup (RB staff and stakeholders)
December 2008	Final existing conditions report (ECR) due.	Final ECR (RB staff) ^a
January 2009	Preliminary long-term program alternatives and evaluation measures due from Regional Board staff and stakeholders.	Preliminary long-term program alternatives (RB staff and stakeholders) ^b

Date	Program Element	Deliverable (Responsible Party)
February 2009	1 st alternatives advisory workgroup meetings to discuss preliminary alternatives and draft evaluation measures.	
March 2009	Regional Water Board staff executive summary report due (ECR and other ground and surface water data summary). The executive summary report will be circulated to stakeholders for peer review. The final report will be integrated with the long-term program staff report.	Staff water quality summary (RB staff) ^c
April 2009	Draft long-term program alternatives due.	Draft long-term program alternatives with supporting information (RB staff and stakeholders) ^d
June 2009	2 nd alternatives advisory workgroup meetings to select draft program alternatives and evaluation measures.	Selected long-term program alternatives and evaluation measures (RB staff and stakeholders) ^e
June-August 2009	Regional Water Board staff evaluation of alternatives.	
July 2009	Begin drafting EIR	
September 2009	Draft long-term program staff report due, circulate to stakeholders for peer review.	Draft long-term program staff report (RB staff) ^f
October 2009	Stakeholder meetings: draft long-term program staff report.	
November 2009	Comments due: draft long-term program staff report.	
March-May 2010	Public notice draft EIR and long-term program.	Draft EIR and long-term program staff report (RB staff)
June 2010	Regional Water Board Workshop/comments due draft EIR and long-term program.	
June-October 2010	Respond to comments and revise the draft long-term program and EIR.	Comments response; revised draft long-term program and EIR (RB staff)
December 2010	Regional Water Board hearing: draft EIR and long-term program.	

- a. The ECR is a summary of current ground and surface water quality data and agricultural water quality management practices in place for the Central Valley. The draft ECR was released for public comment in 2006. The final ECR has been updated based on public comments received and also to provide the information necessary to conduct a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
- b. Preliminary long-term program alternatives are rough ideas for alternatives. Preliminary evaluation measures are rough ideas of measures that will be used to evaluate proposed program alternatives (e.g., program effectiveness, cost, efficiency). The preliminary alternatives and evaluation measures must be in writing so that the advisory workgroup can discuss the ideas. By December 2008, RB staff will circulate a proposed form for describing preliminary long-term program alternatives and evaluation measures.
- c. The staff water quality summary will include an executive summary of the ECR and other information that RB staff and the advisory workgroup gather as part of the long-term program/EIR process. The water quality summary will help guide the advisory workgroup and the Regional Water Board in development of the best possible long-term program. The draft staff report will be circulated for peer review. The final report will be included with the long-term program staff report (see item f).
- d. Draft long-term program alternatives should include all the information necessary to understand and evaluate the alternative (e.g., possible economic and environmental impacts, estimated effectiveness, compliance with the California Water Code). Draft long-term program evaluation measures should include all the information necessary to employ the measure. By February 2009, RB staff will circulate a proposed form for describing long-term program alternatives and evaluation measures.
- e. The advisory workgroup will provide recommendations on which evaluation measures should be used to evaluate long-term program alternatives and which alternatives that RB staff should evaluate in the long-term program staff report (see item f).
- f. The draft long-term program staff report will summarize long-term program alternatives and provide an evaluation of the alternatives. In this report RB staff will propose a recommended long-term program alternative. The potential environmental impacts of the recommended alternative will be evaluated in the EIR.

For more information regarding the Regional Water Board's long-term irrigated lands regulatory program you may contact Adam Laputz at (916) 464-4848 or by email at awlaputz@waterboards.ca.gov.