

2nd Draft Long-term ILRP Alternatives

Long-term Irrigated Lands
Regulatory Program

2nd Draft Alternatives

- Updated goals and objectives based on Workgroup comments
- Combined initial draft alternatives into five complete program alternatives that address both surface and groundwater

Proposed Program Goals

- Restore and/or maintain the highest reasonable quality of state waters considering all the demands being placed on the water
- Minimize waste discharge from irrigated agricultural lands that could degrade the quality of state waters
- Maintain the economic viability of agriculture in California's Central Valley
- Ensure that irrigated agricultural waste discharge to water designated as MUN is of sufficient quality to provide Central Valley communities a sustainable source of drinking water

Proposed Program Objectives

- Restore and/or maintain Basin Plan beneficial uses –achieve water quality objectives
- Implement water quality management practices –without jeopardizing viability of agriculture or placing an undue burden on rural communities to provide safe drinking water
- Provide incentives for operations to minimize discharge
- Institute organization/transparency requirements for third party groups
- Coordinate with other programs (Water Board and other agencies)

1 - No Change

- Current program alternative
- Third-party lead entity
- Water quality management plans (WQMP) required where problems identified
- No additional groundwater requirements, “surface water program”
- Ambient water quality monitoring

2 - Third-party Lead Entity

- Combination of third-party lead entity alternatives
- WQMPs required where problems identified
- Groundwater quality management plans required – regional
 - *Option for substitution of local groundwater management plans where minimum standards are met*
- Monitoring:
 - Ambient surface water quality monitoring and tracking of management practice implementation
 - *Option for reduced surface water monitoring under lower threat circumstances*

3 - Individual FWQMP

- Water Board lead entity (option for MOU w/other implementing entity)
- Each grower would develop an individual FWQMP
 - Water Board, or implementing entity, approval and certification
- Monitoring/tracking of FWQMP implementation at the farm level (reporting and inspection)

4 – Direct Oversight with Regional Monitoring

- Water Board lead entity w/option for “legal entity”
- “Tiered” alternative
- Each grower would develop an individual FWQMP
- Mandatory education program
- Monitoring –
 - Individual farm water quality monitoring, and/or third-party run regional monitoring program
 - Tracking management practices and nutrient/pesticide use
 - Inspection

5 – Direct Oversight with Farm Monitoring

- Water Board lead entity
- Each grower would develop an individual FWQMP (includes certified nutrient management plan)
- Monitoring –
 - Farm-based water quality
 - Existing well testing
 - Tracking management practices and nutrient/pesticide use
 - Additional monitoring wells as needed (vulnerability)
 - Inspection