

Initial Draft Proposals

Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

Proposed Program Goals

- Restore and maintain the highest feasible quality of state waters (surface/groundwater)
- Minimize waste discharge from irrigated agricultural lands to state waters
- Maintain the economic viability of agriculture in California's Central Valley

Proposed Program Objectives

- Maintain Basin Plan beneficial uses
- Increase effectiveness of water quality management measures –achieve water quality objectives
- Implement water quality management practices – without jeopardizing viability of agriculture
- Provide incentives for operations to minimize discharge
- Institute minimum structural and organization requirements for third party groups
- Coordinate with other programs (Water Board and other agencies)

Initial Draft Alternatives

- Worked with participants that developed alternatives
- Includes Central Valley Water Board staff alternatives to further develop the possible range of ideas
- Alternatives labeled “a” and “b” are similar
- Surface water/groundwater alternatives are separate for this draft, but need to be combined in next iteration

“No Change” SW/GW 1

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

Water Quality Management Measures

SW 2

- Developed by El Dorado County
- Third-party lead entity
- Waiver program
- WQMPs required on an area/watershed basis
- Monitoring of management practice implementation

Individual WQMP SW 3

- Developed by Water Board staff
- Water Board lead entity (option for MOU)
- Waiver program
- Each grower would develop an individual WQMP
 - Water Board approval and certification
- Monitoring of WQMP implementation at the farm level (reporting and inspection)

Direct Oversight SW/GW 4(a)

- Developed by Water Board staff
- Water Board lead entity
- Waiver program
- Each grower would develop an individual WQMP to protect surface/groundwater
- Mandatory education program
- Monitoring –
 - Individual farm water quality monitoring, **or**
 - Third-party run ambient monitoring program
- Relies on existing groundwater monitoring programs

Direct Oversight SW/GW 4(b)

- Developed by Water Board staff
- Water Board lead entity
- Waste discharge requirements
- Each grower would develop an individual water quality management plan (includes nutrient plan) SW/GW
- Monitoring –
 - Farm-based water quality
 - Existing well testing
 - Nutrient use
 - Additional monitoring wells as needed (vulnerability)

Local Groundwater Management Plans

GW 2

- Developed by Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition
- Water Board lead entity
- Basin Plan amendment
- Groundwater management plans would be required for a specified area
- Regional water quality monitoring

Management of Potential Impacts to Groundwater

- Developed by Agricultural Water Quality Coalition Groups
- Third-party lead entity
- Coalition groups would develop groundwater management plans for groundwater management areas
- Monitoring of management practice implementation (Ag Commissioner)

Tiered Threat-based Groundwater Protection Program GW 3(a)

- Developed by Water Board staff
- Third-party lead entity
- Waiver/waste discharge requirements
- Tiered system:
 - Tier I – lowest threat, wellhead protection
 - Tier II – low threat, WQMP
 - Tier III – high threat, nutrient management plan, inspection program
- Monitoring – Tiers II, III Regional

Tiered Groundwater Program GW 3(b)

- Developed by Clean Water Action/Community Water Center/California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
- Water Board lead entity
- Waste discharge requirements/waiver
- Tier system:
 - Tier I – low threat, WQMP
 - Tier II – high threat, nutrient management plan, pesticide management (where pesticides detected)

Tiered Groundwater Program GW 3(b)

- Monitoring:
 - Tier II - Individual farm and regional groundwater
 - Ag Commissioner inspection program