Draft General WDRs for Individual Growers

Irrigated Lands Program

Draft WDRs for Individual Growers

- Waste discharge requirements for discharges to surface and groundwater from
  - Individual irrigated lands operations --not members of a coalition

Draft WDRs for Individual Growers

- Receiving water limitations
  - Discharge shall not cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives, unreasonably affect beneficial uses, or result in condition of pollution or nuisance
- Similar to Eastern San Joaquin WDRs
- Time schedule allowed (6-yr, sw; 10-yr, gw)

Draft WDRs for Individual Growers

- Farm management performance standards
  - Minimize waste discharge offsite in surface water
  - Minimize percolation of waste to groundwater
  - Prevent pollution and nuisance
  - Achieve and maintain water quality objectives and beneficial uses
  - Protect wellheads from surface water intrusion

Draft WDRs for Individual Growers

- Farm management performance standards
  - Minimize waste discharge offsite in surface water
  - Minimize percolation of waste to groundwater
  - ~~Prevent pollution and nuisance~~
  - ~~Achieve and maintain water quality objectives and beneficial uses~~
  - Protect wellheads from surface water intrusion
- In next version will be consistent w/Eastern San Joaquin WDRs

Required Reports

- Notice of intent
- Farm water quality plan (within 1-year)
  - Includes certified nutrient management plan
- Annual monitoring report
- Surface/groundwater exceedance plans
  - Where needed based on monitoring

Exceedance Plans

- Surface water
  - Necessary where more than one exceedance of trigger limit -same constituent/location (discharge monitoring)
  - Option to provide receiving water study to show that discharge is not causing/contributing to exceedance of water quality objective
- Groundwater
  - Necessary where groundwater monitoring shows the discharge may be causing or contributing to a water quality problem

Surface Water Monitoring

- General tailwater
  - 1st and final irrigation discharge of season (est. flow, duration; turbidity; pH; EC; nitrate+nitrite; fecal coliform)
- General stormwater
  - 1st storm event discharge of the storm season (same constituents as above)

Surface Water Monitoring

- Specific tailwater/stormwater
  - 1st irrigation or storm discharge that occurs within 60-days of application of a high risk pesticide (high risk pesticides applied)
  - Irrigation discharge during employment of fertigation operations (nitrates/ammonia)

Groundwater Monitoring

- Group monitoring option
- General domestic, ag supply well, tile drainage system monitoring
  - EC, nitrate+nitrite (annual)
  - General minerals, ammonium (every 5-years)
  - 6800(a) pesticides used within previous 5-years (every 5-years)

Groundwater Monitoring

- Install monitoring wells, or alternate technology, if within a high vulnerability area or required by the Executive Officer
  - Nitrate, EC (semiannually)
- Considering modification of groundwater monitoring
  - Supply well monitoring will not provide adequate information to evaluate effect of waste discharge on groundwater quality

Next Steps

- Written comments due January 10
- Tentative WDRs, late February
- Board consideration 30/31 May 2013