



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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21 November 2008

To: Interested Parties – Central Valley Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FORMATION OF AN ADVISORY WORKGROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG-TERM IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

On behalf of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board), I am pleased to announce the start of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup (Workgroup). The purpose of the Workgroup is to provide Regional Water Board staff with valuable input on the development of the long-term ILRP. Workgroup meetings will be open to the public and will provide extensive opportunities for public input to the Board and Workgroup participants. Meetings will occur approximately monthly from now through June 2009 with some additional meetings thereafter until December 2010. Meetings will take place in locations throughout the Central Valley and are expected to last 3-5 hours.

On 9 October 2008, the Regional Water Board hosted the first meeting for the Workgroup process. Information on the first Workgroup meeting can be found on the Regional Water Board's internet site:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/long_term_program_development/

The meeting was voluntarily attended by a diverse group of stakeholders representing various agriculture and irrigation organizations, State and Federal agencies, environmental justice organizations, Tribes, environmental/conservation organizations, and lands managers. Enclosed is a list of organizations that have indicated an interest and willingness to commit resources to participate on the Workgroup.

As requested by me, these participants are providing the Regional Water Board with letters from the highest level of authority possible within their respective organization indicating their interest and commitment to participate on the Workgroup. Given the importance of this topic, these expressions of commitment are necessary to ensure that the Regional Water Board will receive equitable advice from stakeholders, and that Workgroup participants can expect a shared responsibility among all their colleagues on the Workgroup.

I am exceptionally pleased with the balanced representation on the Workgroup thus far. The Workgroup represents a cross-section of Central Valley interests in a group size that is manageable and therefore capable of completing the requested work in the required timeframe. However, we understand that other groups may also want to participate in this process.

California Environmental Protection Agency

To ensure consistency and efficiency from here on, I encourage you to review the enclosed Workgroup representation list and decide if your interests are already effectively represented. If not and you feel it is important to participate, I ask the following of you:

1. By 12 December 2008, contact the Regional Water Board Project Manager, Adam Laputz, (916) 464-4848, awlaputz@waterboards.ca.gov, and identify your interest to become a Workgroup participant.
2. Attend the 17 December 2008 Workgroup meeting and publicly describe your desire to become a participant. Information regarding the 17 December Workgroup meeting can be found at the Regional Water Board's website referenced above. Your statements should include a description of the following:
 - a. Rationale describing why your stakeholder niche is not currently filled by an existing participant.
 - b. Description of how you are reasonably and directly affected by the ILRP.
 - c. Your willingness to commit the resources and time necessary to be an active participant on the Workgroup, and
 - d. Your willingness to accept all Workgroup recommendations to-date and an understanding that previously agreed on items will not be revisited based on your interests.

The Workgroup and Regional Water Board staff will discuss your request. I will make a final determination of inclusion as advised by the neutral third party facilitator from California State University Sacramento, Center for Collaborative Policy.

In closing, thank you for your consideration of this process. If you have any questions about this Workgroup or the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, please call Adam Laputz at (916) 464-4848 or Joe Karkoski at (916) 464-4668.



PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

ENCLOSURE – LONG-TERM ILRP ADVISORY WORKGROUP REPRESENTATION

Big Valley Rancheria	El Dorado Agricultural Water Quality Corp.
CA Association of Winegrape Growers	Irrigation Districts
CA Cattlemens Association	Kern County Water Agency
CA Grape and Tree Fruit League	Northeastern CA Water Association
CA Rice Commission	Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Commissioners
CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation	Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
CA Citrus Mutual	San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition
CA Farm Bureau Federation	Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition
CA Urban Water Agencies	Upper Feather River Watershed Group
CA Waterfowl Association	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Clean Water Action	Western Plant Health Association
Community Water Center, Visalia	Western United Dairymen
Department of Pesticide Regulation	Westlands Water District
Department of Fish and Game	Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition	Wildlands Inc.