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*Secretary for  
Environmental Protection*

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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23 January 2009

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## **MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL –SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AND DELTA WATER QUALITY COALITION**

Thank you for the submittal of revisions to the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) Management Plan. These revisions had been requested by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) staff, and include a description of activities to address Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, revised performance goals and a schedule to prioritize actions. The Coalition also submitted a Focused Site Subwatershed Management Plan (Focused Plan) describing intensified efforts at high-priority watersheds represented by monitoring sites on Duck Creek, Lone Tree Creek, and on an unnamed drain to Lone Tree Creek at Jack Tone Road.

The Management Plan demonstrates the Coalition's commitment to work with the Regional Water Board on the Central Valley's salinity problems through participation in the CV-SALTS program. With this Management Plan, the Coalition is addressing their members' responsibilities to also implement the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan TMDLs for salt and boron, diazinon and chlorpyrifos, and dissolved oxygen. The Coalition's Management Plan also identifies actions to reduce pesticide discharges to tributaries to the San Joaquin River and Delta. When implemented, those actions should adequately address the Coalition members' diazinon and chlorpyrifos discharges to the San Joaquin River and Delta.

We have reviewed the revisions and the other components of the Management Plan and find that they fulfill the requirements of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Starting in the Duck Creek high priority watershed, the Coalition will intensify efforts to obtain management practice information and evaluate management practice effectiveness. Contact with individual growers will be actively pursued if they have the potential to impact water quality in the high priority watersheds.

The Regional Water Board recognizes that the Coalition faces many challenges to comply with the Management Plan requirement of source identification for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Although the Coalition is not responsible for implementation of the Management Plan for other sources of waste discharges -- which may include non-members, dairies, water districts, or cities -- coordination with these entities is encouraged.

I want to make it clear that all growers in the Coalition are obligated to meet the conditions of the Coalition Group waiver. Since the Coalition will be focusing its intensified efforts in three watersheds, all Coalition Group members in those watersheds must actively participate in addressing the identified water quality problems. Failure of individual participants to respond to requests by the Coalition will put their status under the Coalition Group waiver in jeopardy. The Coalition's members that refuse to cooperate, after a concerted effort on the part of the Coalition, should have their membership canceled and their failure to maintain membership communicated to the Regional Water Board.

In summary, the basic approach for source identification, outreach, mitigation actions, and evaluation described in the Coalition's Management Plan is appropriate, and I am granting approval of the Management Plan. With this approval, the Coalition meets the Management Plan development requirements of the Coalition Group waiver<sup>1</sup> for those parameters and water bodies identified in Table 6 of the Coalition's Management Plan (Page 18).

It is fully anticipated that the Coalition will need to modify the Management Plan over time, as new monitoring data and performance measures inform us about the effectiveness of the actions, and as activities for Focused Plans in other water bodies need to be described. These modifications will need to be discussed and evaluated with Regional Water Board staff during quarterly meetings and documented in Management Plan updates. The next progress report for the Coalition's Management Plan is due 1 April 2009. Any updates or revisions will need to receive my approval as Executive Officer.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Chris Jimmerson at (916) 464-4859 or by email [cjimmerson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cjimmerson@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original signed by*

PAMELA C. CREEDON  
Executive Office

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<sup>1</sup> B.6. of Amended Attachment B, Order No. R5-2006-0053.