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Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment July 2010 Project Status Update

The following provides a status update on Basin Plan Amendments being developed as part of the Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) Project. The Basin Plan Amendment being developed in the short term under Phase I is focused on the organophosphorous insecticides diazinon and chlorpyrifos. The subsequent Basin Plan Amendment scheduled for development under Phase II will focus on select pyrethroid pesticides and potentially other high risk pesticides.

Phase I: Basin Plan Amendment Addressing Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos

Regional Board staff is currently developing a Basin Plan Amendment addressing diazinon and chlorpyrifos. This BPA is scheduled to be brought before the Regional Board for potential adoption in January 2011. This BPA will propose water quality objectives for waterbodies in the Central Valley, as well as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for applicable waterbody segment/pesticide combinations for diazinon and chlorpyrifos. A Draft Staff Report is anticipated to be released for public review in fall 2010.

Since the last Project Status Update in November 2009, two public stakeholder meetings have been held to discuss overall project status and stakeholder comments on several aspects of the project. Recent discussions have been focused on the draft Basin Plan Amendment language. In early January 2010, staff released preliminary Draft BPA language and solicited comments through the end of January. Three comment letters were received from stakeholders. In early May, staff released revised (second) draft language, with a comment period through the end of May. No written comments were received. Staff has prepared preliminary responses to the comments received and has prepared a revised (third) preliminary draft of the Basin Plan Amendment language.

Information on this BPA can be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/central_valley_pesticides/index.shtml

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California Environmental Protection Agency



SUPPORTING COMPONENTS

Pesticide Risk Evaluation Report

A final report was released in March 2009. The report identifies 38 current-use pesticides which, based on their use, chemical properties, and toxicities, have higher potential risk to aquatic life in surface waters.

Selected Water Bodies and Aquatic Life Uses Report

The final report, including the list of approximately 1300 waterbodies recommended for inclusion in the scope of the Amendment, and a Response to Comments, was completed and released in July 2010.

Pesticide Water Quality Criteria

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis) has developed final water quality criteria for the organophosphate pesticides diazinon and chlorpyrifos. Additional criteria documents are discussed below under the Phase II BPA. All final water quality criteria reports were released in April 2010 and are available on the Regional Board's website.

Agricultural Management Practices Report

The Regional Board contracted with UC Davis researchers to prepare a report on available management practices to reduce agricultural pesticide runoff, including an evaluation on their costs and effectiveness. The report was completed in February 2010 and is available on the Regional Board's website.

Basin Plan Amendment Staff Report

Regional Board staff have begun drafting a staff report which will contain the analysis in support of a proposed BPA for chlorpyrifos and diazinon. The report is expected to be similar to previous BPA Staff Reports for these pesticides, and will include proposed changes to the Basin Plan, an analysis of sources, potential water quality objectives, programs of implementation for achieving water quality objectives (including TMDL requirements), and an analysis of costs of the amendment. A Draft Staff Report is anticipated to be released for public review in late summer/early fall 2010 and brought to the Regional Board for potential adoption in January 2011.

Phase II: BPA Addressing Additional Pesticides

The next phase of the Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment will focus on select pyrethroid pesticides and potentially other high risk pesticides outlined in the Pesticide Risk Evaluation Report (see under Phase I above). Regional Board staff anticipates taking this phase of the Central Valley Pesticide TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment Project to the Regional Board for adoption in December 2012.

Pesticide Water Quality Criteria

The UC Davis has developed final water quality criteria for the following pesticides: malathion, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, and diuron. Updates on the development of criteria have been discussed at numerous previous stakeholder meetings. Since the last Project Status Update in November 2009, Regional Board and UC Davis staff discussed and were

available to answer questions on the criteria documents at the January and May 2010 public stakeholder meetings. A response to comments was prepared by UC Davis for each pesticide water quality criteria report and all final water quality criteria reports were released in April 2010, which are currently available on the Regional Board's website.

CEQA Scoping for Phase II Basin Plan Amendment

Staff anticipate holding a CEQA Scoping Meeting for the Phase II BPA in winter 2010/early 2011 (date not yet determined). The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide a forum for public consultation on the development of a proposed amendment and the corresponding environmental documents. This consultation will assist in determining what environmental information responsible and trustee agencies, as well as other interested parties may require to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed amendment. Scoping is helpful to the Regional Water Board in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, means of compliance and their impacts, and significant environmental effects to be analyzed prior to the decision making process.