Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands

Item 11
May 5, 2011
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Ben Zabinsky
Presentation Overview

- Program purpose
- Scope of program
- Regionwide regulatory strategy to address discharges from agriculture
- Initial stakeholder strategy
- Key tasks and timeline
Program Purpose

- Need for program to address discharges from irrigated lands
  - Fulfill Water Code and NPS Policy requirements
  - General agricultural waiver expired in 2003
  - Address 303(d) listings
  - Vehicle for TMDL compliance
Proposed Revisions to Scope

- Previous scope – June 2010
  - Discharges from irrigated lands and grazing activities in the Klamath Basin

- Revised scope – March 2011
  - Discharges from irrigated lands regionwide
  - Row crops, irrigated pasture, vineyards, orchards
  - Dryland grazing removed
Reasons for Change in Scope

- Addresses discharges from all irrigated lands at the same time
- Better use of staff resources
- Discharges associated with irrigated agriculture a greater threat to water quality than dryland grazing
- Existing programs already address dryland grazing in about half of North Coast Region
- Statewide approach to grazing is underway
Regionwide Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural Land Use</th>
<th>Regulatory Program Under Development to Address Discharges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irrigated Lands (pasture, vineyards, and row crops)</td>
<td>Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairies and irrigated pasture associated with a dairy</td>
<td>Water Quality Compliance Program for Dairies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryland Grazing (not irrigated)</td>
<td>• Scott and Shasta conditional waivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• USFS conditional waiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Statewide grazing process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statewide Approach to Grazing

- Collaborative effort of Regional Boards and State Board
- Project Scoping just starting
- Lahontan Region (RB6) is leading the effort
- State Board goal is a 2-year time frame
Program Development

- Will provide multiple opportunities for stakeholder involvement
- Third party contract with Sacramento State Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)
  - Develop outreach plan
  - Stakeholder meeting facilitation
  - Assisted Central Valley Board staff with Irrigated Lands Program
Initial Stakeholder Strategy

- Continue discussions with key stakeholders and Regional Board members
- Survey stakeholders to gauge interest in participation
- Develop mailing list and distribute outreach materials
- Create representative stakeholder advisory group(s)
- Initiate workgroup process
Coordination with other Regions

- Irrigated Lands Programs in other Regions
- San Francisco Bay Regional Board’s Napa & Sonoma vineyards program
- Participation in State Irrigated Lands Roundtable meetings
Key Tasks

1. Stakeholder Strategy - completed
2. Initiate Outreach/Stakeholder Survey - ongoing
3. Formation of advisory group(s)
4. Work with advisory group(s) while developing program
5. Periodic public workshops and updates to Regional Board
6. Public review and Board workshops
7. Revisions and response to comments
8. Board hearing
## Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and Stakeholder Surveys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapt Stakeholder Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation of Advisory Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workgroup Meetings and Draft</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adoption</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Review Draft and Comment Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to Comments/Revisions And Public Workshops</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Adoption Hearing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water Boards
Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Contact Information

Ben Zabinsky – Program Development Lead
Address – RWQCB, 5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Email – bzabinsky@waterboards.ca.gov
Phone – 707-576-6750

Website – http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/agriculture_and_irrigated_lands/
Mailing List – Link to subscribe at bottom of website page