

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

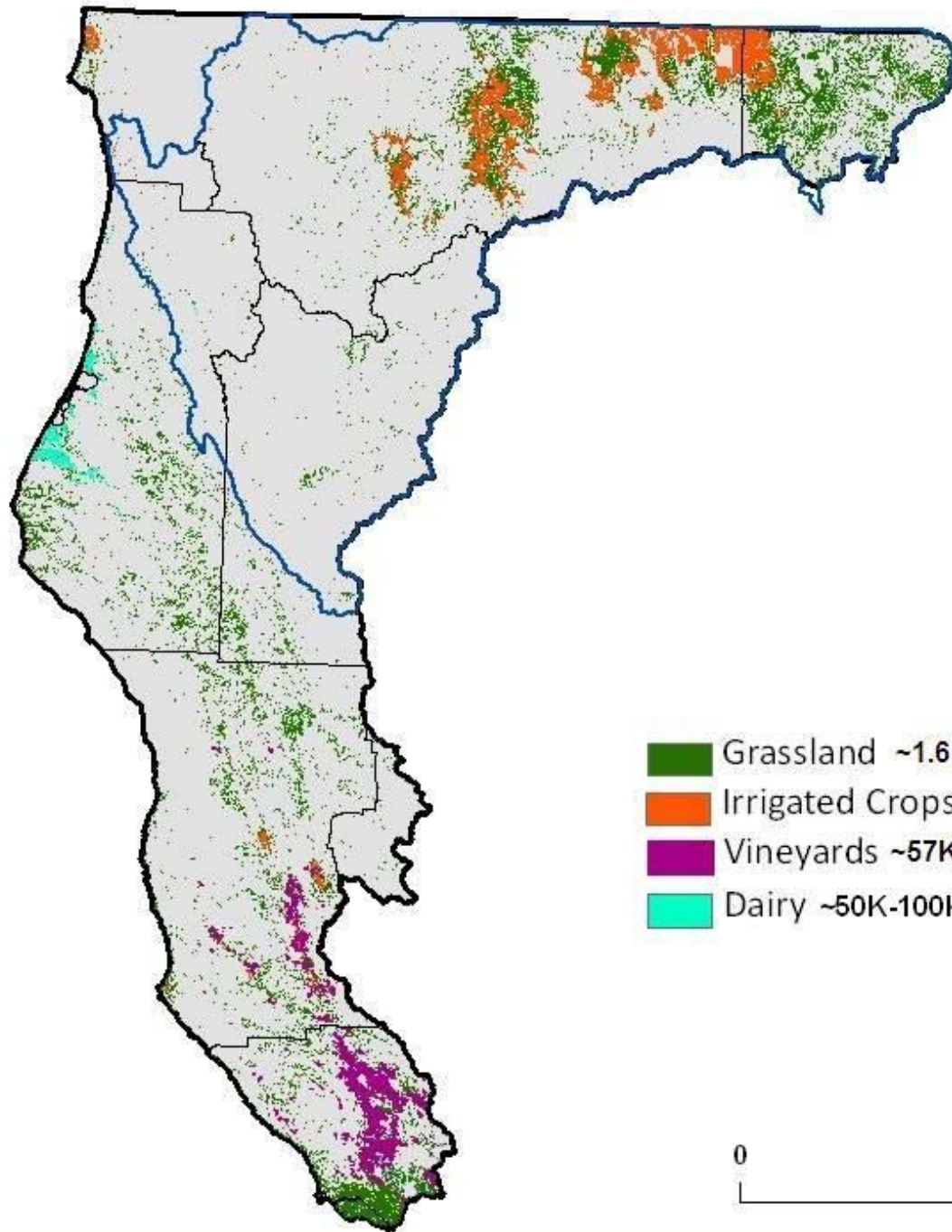
- Previous scope – June 2010
 - Discharges from irrigated lands and grazing activities in the Klamath Basin
- Revised scope – March 2011
 - Discharges from irrigated lands regionwide
 - Row crops, irrigated pasture, vineyards, orchards
 - Dryland grazing removed





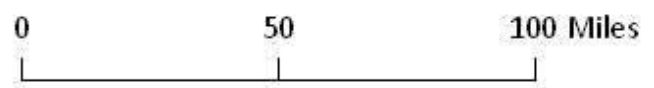
Reasons for Change in Scope

- 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





-  Grassland ~1.6 million acres
-  Irrigated Crops and Pasture ~325K acres
-  Vineyards ~57K acres
-  Dairy ~50K-100K acres



Regionwide Approach

Agricultural Land Use	Regulatory Program Under Development to Address Discharges
Irrigated Lands (pasture, vineyards, and row crops)	Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands
Dairies and irrigated pasture associated with a dairy	Water Quality Compliance Program for Dairies
Dryland Grazing (not irrigated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scott and Shasta conditional waivers• USFS conditional waiver• Statewide grazing process



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

	2011													
Outreach	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec						
Outreach and Stakeholder Surveys	█													
Adapt Stakeholder Plan	█		█											
Formation of Advisory Groups			█											
	2011						2012							
Development	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Workgroup Meetings and Draft Development					█									



Timeline

	2012							
Adoption	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Public Review Draft and Comment Period								
Response to Comments/Revisions And Public Workshops								
Board Adoption Hearing								

Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Contact Information

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Mailing List – Link to subscribe at bottom of website page

