



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Water Quality Compliance Program for Discharges from Irrigated Lands

Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting

December 14, 2011
Redding, CA

Program Purpose and Regulatory Overview

1. Program Purpose
2. TMDLs and Nonpoint Source Policy
3. Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authorities

Program Purpose

- Regulatory program to meet and maintain water quality standards
- Protect beneficial uses of waters of the state
- Regulate discharges of waste associated with irrigated lands
- Comply with Federal and State law
 - Implement TMDLs and address impaired waters listings
 - Meet State Nonpoint Source Policy
 - Protect high quality waters

Mission Statement

“Mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources.”

Total Maximum Daily Loads

- Regional Board implements Clean Water Act in California
- Clean Water Act requires TMDLs for impaired waters – in most cases
- State of California requires TMDL implementation plans
- Klamath TMDL directs Regional Board to develop permits for irrigated agriculture and grazing by 2012 in the Klamath Basin

State Nonpoint Source Policy

- State Nonpoint Source Policy (2004)
- Directs Regional Boards to adopt a combination of the following for all nonpoint source pollution
 - Waste Discharge Requirement (WDRs)
 - Conditional Waivers
 - Prohibitions
- Examples of nonpoint pollution sources
 - Roads
 - Agriculture
 - Timber Harvest
- Applies to surface waters and groundwaters

Meeting Federal and State Law

- Requirements are similar
 1. Actions(management practices) to achieve water quality goals
 2. Time Schedule
 3. Monitoring and Reporting
 4. Compliance
- Same management practices used for TMDL implementation and NPS Program
- Regional Board has incorporated TMDL requirements into regionwide NPS programs
- More efficient and avoids overlapping programs

Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969

- California Water Code sections 13000 - 14958
- Establishes State Water Resources Control Board and 9 'Regional' Water Quality Boards
- Authority to establish regional 'Basin Plans' that designate beneficial uses of the state's waters and water quality objectives
- Irrigated Lands Discharge Program intended to implement the Basin Plan

Water Quality Objectives and Beneficial Uses

- Sensitive Beneficial Uses
 - Uses related to cold water aquatic species
 - Drinking water
 - Recreation
- Relevant Water Quality Objectives
 - Temperature
 - Sediment
 - Bacteria/Pathogens
 - Biostimulatory Substances (Nutrients)
 - Toxics

13263 Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)

- Any person discharging waste to surface or ground waters must file a Report of Waste Discharge unless waived (Section 13260)
- WDRs prescribe requirements regarding the nature of the discharge taking into consideration
 1. the protection of beneficial uses
 2. any relevant water quality objectives
 3. the conditions of the receiving water
- The Board can also adopt General WDRs for similar types of discharges

13269 - Conditional Waivers

- Waives requirement to submit a report of waste discharge if conditions are met
- Board can also adopt general waivers

13243- Prohibitions

- Adopted into the Basin Plan or put into a permit
- Prohibit certain types of discharges
- Can be conditional and operate as a nonpoint source program

Enforcement

- Porter-Cologne Act provides enforcement tools
- State Enforcement Policy directs Regional Boards' approach
 - Fair, firm, consistent
 - Progressive enforcement

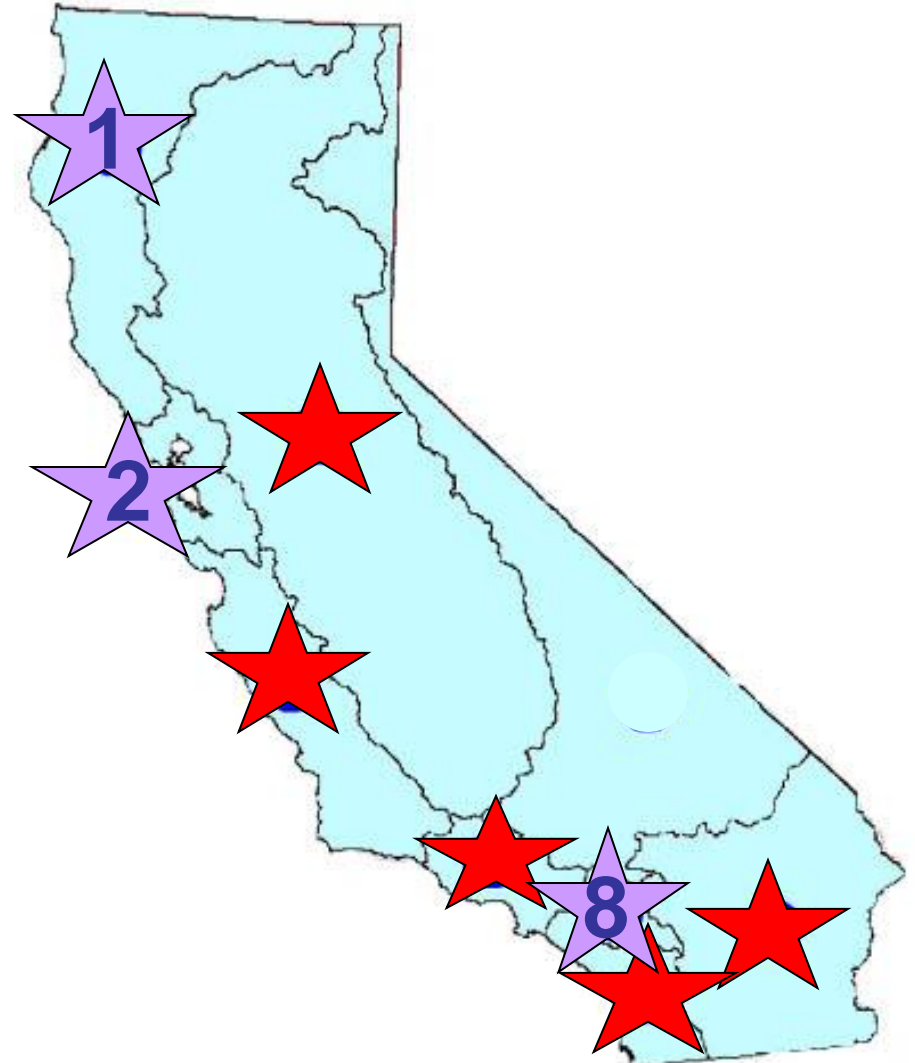
North Coast Region Nonpoint Source Programs

Nonpoint Source Land Use Category	Date regulatory program adopted
Timber Harvest	2004
Timber Harvest USFS lands	2004
All activities on USFS lands	2010
Stormwater from urban areas and construction sites (NPDES)	Phase I – 1990 Phase II - 2003
Dairies	In Progress (2012)
County Roads	In Progress (2012)
Septic Systems	1996
Grazing	In Progress Statewide
Irrigated Lands	In Progress (2013)

Agriculture Programs in other Regions

 **Regional Boards with irrigated lands programs**

 **3 Regional Boards are in process**



North Coast Region

Irrigated Lands Discharge Program

- Advisory Group formed to assist staff develop program
- Framework for program presented later this afternoon