

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Status of the Activities of the Butte and Glenn County Agricultural Commissioners to Support the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program under the Memorandum of Understanding Pilot Program

BOARD ACTION: None

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte and Glenn Counties, the Central Valley Water Board and the State Water Resources Control Board was developed. Under the MOU (later renewed in 2007), a Pilot Program to support the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) was initiated with the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte and Glenn Counties. These two counties, in cooperation with the Central Valley Water Board, have performed a variety of activities throughout the Sacramento River Basin in support of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP).

During the MOU Pilot Program, the Agricultural Commissioners' staff has provided outreach to pesticide applicators, irrigators and growers about the ILRP, supplied up-to-date information on pesticide use and agricultural operations, acted as a direct contact for information about the ILRP with growers and other agencies, and supported Central Valley Water Board staff by inspecting and providing information on areas with water quality exceedances.

Management practice surveys have been performed at Walker Creek, Logan Creek, Pine Creek, Freshwater Creek, and Honcut Creek. This baseline information is being utilized by the Agricultural Commissioners, the Central Valley Water Board, and the Sacramento Valley Coalition to evaluate what additional practices may be implemented for protection and improvement of water quality. GIS mapping of crops, Coalition members' parcels, pesticide use, and management practices has provided a useful evaluation tool. However, there is not an ongoing source of funding that would allow the agricultural commissioners to continue to perform these tasks.

A final report that summarizes the accomplishments of the Agricultural Commissioners under the MOU is under preparation. The final report will describe the invaluable services that have been provided to the ILRP and discuss how the Agricultural Commissioners could be an integral part of the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Program. Richard Price, the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner, will present an overview of these accomplishments to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION: Not applicable

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

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