

ITEM: 7a.

SUBJECT: Workshop on Renewal of Conditional Waivers for Discharges from Irrigated Lands

BOARD ACTION *Information Report – No Board Action*

BACKGROUND On 11 July 2003, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Resolution No. R5-2003-0105, *Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands Within the Central Valley Region* (Conditional Waivers) and associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRPs). In August 2003, six agricultural interests and one environmental interest submitted petitions to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regarding the Conditional Waivers and MRPs. On 22 January 2004, the State Water Board adopted Order WQO 2004-0003, which upheld the Conditional Waivers and MRPs with minor revisions. The Conditional Waivers expire on 31 December 2005.

In April 2005, staff began outreach efforts by holding meetings and public workshops and participating in site tours to obtain feedback on how the Program has worked and what modifications should be considered. Staff evaluated this feedback, the analytical results from the Phase I and II UC Davis sampling, and the monitoring conducted by Coalition Groups, Individual Dischargers, and Water Districts, as well as the Irrigated Lands Programs in Regions 3 and 4 in an effort to improve the Conditional Waivers and MRPs.

Major changes to the Conditional Waivers and MRPs include: 1) resolution changed to two orders, one for Coalition Groups and one for Individual Dischargers; 2) members of Coalition Groups enroll directly with the Central Valley Water Board; 3) members of Coalition Groups required to develop and maintain on-site a Farm Water Quality Plan; 4) Coalition Group Order expires in 5 years (31 December 2010); 5) Individual Discharger Order expires in 3 years (31 December 2008); 6) added a table of receiving water limitations to Attachment A of both orders; 7) replaced monitoring phases with the requirement for a Long Term Monitoring Strategy; and 8) expanded minimum analytical monitoring requirements in each of the three MRPs to include fecal coliform, two additional pesticides, and sediment sampling for pyrethroids.

Staff plans to conduct additional outreach on the tentative conditional waiver renewal documents during October and early November. Staff proposes to present the final renewal documents for the Board to consider adopting at the December 2005 Board meeting.

Mgmt. Review

Legal Review

20 October 2005
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, No. 200
Rancho Cordova, CA