

ITEM: 7b.

SUBJECT: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands – *Issues related to Coalition Group Membership Lists*

BOARD ACTION *Information Report – No Board Action*

BACKGROUND On 11 July 2003, the 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), which provides an option for owners and/or operators of irrigated lands that discharge tailwater, stormwater runoff, or other waste to surface water, to comply with the California Water Code.

In August 2003, agricultural and environmental organizations submitted petitions to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regarding the Conditional Waivers and Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Orders. On 22 January 2004, the State Water Board adopted Order WQO 2004-0003, which upheld the Conditional Waivers and MRP Orders with minor revisions that resulted in a revised condition in Attachment B (Item B.1.c).

Item B.1.c. of Attachment B states that a Coalition Group shall maintain a Membership Document with information concerning each participant who has knowingly elected to be a member of the Coalition Group. Item B.1.c also states that the Membership Document must include information for contacting each participant and information sufficient to locate the fields or parcels of each participant within the Coalition Group, and upon the Executive Officers' request, a Coalition Group must submit the Membership Document to the Central Valley Water Board within 30 days.

On 26 August 2005 the Executive Officer sent a letter to nine Coalition Groups requesting their Membership Documents to address low participation and to help to identify non-participants. The EO sent a second letter on 16 September 2005, extending the submittal deadline to 1 November 2005. Staff has scheduled meetings with the Coalition Groups to discuss alternatives. The Executive Officer's 16 September 2005 letter also states that this matter will be presented to the Central Valley Water Board at the October 2005 Board meeting for the Board's direction on how staff should proceed.

Mgmt. Review

Legal Review

20/21 October 2005
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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