

Petitions on the Eastern San Joaquin Agricultural General Waste Discharge Requirements



State Water Resources Control Board
Workshop

May 4, 2016

Overview

- Procedural Background
- Significant Revisions
- Precedential Nature
- Next Steps

Procedural Background

- December 7, 2012: Central Valley Water Board adopted Eastern San Joaquin Agricultural General WDRs
- January 2013: Three petitions challenging the General WDRs filed with the State Water Board
- August 5, 2014: State Water Board adopted own motion order



Procedural Background

- September 2013: State Water Board adopted precedential Central Coast Agricultural Order
- December 2013: Nitrogen Tracking Task Force issued recommendations
- September 2014: Agricultural Expert Panel issued recommendations

Procedural Background

- February 8, 2016: State Water Board staff issued proposed order
- Public Workshops
 - May 4, 2016 – Sacramento
 - May 17, 2016 – Fresno
- May 18, 2016: deadline for written comments [5:00 pm]

Significant Revisions:

High Vulnerability/Low Vulnerability

- General WDRs: Members in low vulnerability areas have a reduced level and frequency of reporting
- Staff-Proposed Order: All Members submit Farm Evaluations and Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary Reports annually; all Members obtain certification of INMP; all members must participate in annual outreach activity

Significant Revisions: A/R Ratio

- General WDRs: Under current proposal, Members would report a ratio of nitrogen applied divided by crop yield
- Staff-Proposed Order: Members report a ratio of nitrogen applied divided by nitrogen removed

Significant Revisions:

Irrigation Planning

- Staff-Proposed Order: Irrigation management planning component added to Nitrogen Management Plan – now INMP

Significant Revisions: Field-level Reporting

- General WDRs: The coalition aggregates management practice data and nitrogen application data by township and submits aggregated data to Central Valley Water Board
- Staff-Proposed Order: The coalition submits field-level management practice data and nitrogen application data to the Central Valley Water Board beginning in 2019
- Transmittal Letter: Invited comments on alternatives to the staff proposal



Significant Revisions:

Drinking Water Well Testing

- Staff-Proposed Order: Members must test on-farm drinking water wells and notify users if nitrate concentrations exceed the MCL

Precedential Nature

- Any adopted order is expected to guide irrigated lands programs throughout the state, except where a regional board expressly finds that the requirements are inapplicable

Next Steps

- State Water Board will not taking any action on the staff-proposed order today or on May 17
- Following workshops and close of written comment period, State Water Board will consider comments carefully
- State Water Board may issue a revised proposed order for additional comment
- An adoption meeting will be scheduled in the future





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