

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: Workshop on the Draft Tulare Lake Basin Area WDRs

BOARD ACTION: *No board action. Workshop Item.*

BACKGROUND: On 10 July 2012, staff circulated draft waste discharge requirements for discharges from irrigated lands within the Tulare Lake Basin excluding the area included in the Westlands Stormwater Coalition, hereafter the Tulare Lake Basin Area (TLBA). The draft general order is anticipated to be the second geographically based order that will implement the long-term irrigated lands regulatory program (long-term ILRP). Interested-person comments were due on 10 August 2012. If time allows, staff will provide copies of the letters prior to the workshop. Next steps include staff revision of the draft general order based on interested person comments, to begin in late August of this year. A tentative general order is scheduled to be circulated for public comment in October 2012, and staff may amend the tentative general order based on comments received. Staff intends to bring the general order before the board for consideration at the February 2013 hearing. The draft general order and attachments are included in this agenda package.

The draft general order draws from the alternatives analyzed in the program Environmental Impact Report for the long-term ILRP program certified by the board in April 2011. Since that time staff has developed the draft general order, using portions of the existing surface water Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, input from the current third-party representing growers in the TLBA (Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition), and input from the Groundwater Monitoring Advisory Group to form the basis of the ILRP groundwater monitoring program.

The general order addresses discharge to both surface water and groundwater. Other significant features include: maintaining the use of third-party coalitions to represent growers; requirements for nutrient management budgeting and reporting by individual growers in high vulnerability groundwater areas; farm evaluations by growers, management practice reporting; regional surface water monitoring; regional trend and representative groundwater monitoring; and requirements for the protection of surface and groundwater quality.

There is no staff recommendation for this workshop item. The board may provide direction to staff based on the staff presentation and comments received from the public.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

August 21, 2012

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting

Southern California Edison (SCE) Energy Education Center – Tulare

4175 South Laspina Street

Tulare, CA 93724