

ITEM: 23

SUBJECT: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Update

BOARD ACTION: *Information Item Only*

BACKGROUND: The following three issues will be discussed as a part of the information item.

**1. Enforcement Update**

The Board started adopting ILRP General Orders in December 2012. Since that time, staff has been pursuing outreach to growers to make them aware of the requirement to obtain regulatory coverage. Unresponsive growers face progressive enforcement, and there is now a substantial backlog of growers in need of formal enforcement. This item will provide a refresher on the grower outreach process and timeline, the current and projected ILRP enforcement backlog, and recommendations for reducing the backlog.

Enforcement related to Order compliance will also be discussed. Board staff plans to conduct on-farm inspections to review farm evaluations and nitrogen management plans and check for adequate wellhead protection, where applicable. These inspections may lead to formal enforcement cases. Additionally, staff will pursue progressive enforcement against growers who have failed to submit farm evaluations to their coalition. This enforcement may result in a substantial number of formal enforcement cases to be processed. Board members will be asked to their opinion of the use of pre-Administrative Civil Liability notification letters and special hearing panels as means of addressing the backlog in a timely manner.

**2. Disadvantaged Communities**

Coalitions may prioritize the areas designated as high vulnerability to comply with the requirements of the ILRP Orders, including conducting monitoring programs and carrying out required studies. When establishing priorities for high vulnerability areas for groundwater, a very important element is identification of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Staff will recommend a preferred method for DAC identification and discuss how DACs information will be used in the ILRP.

**3. High Vulnerability Area Determination**

The ILRP General Orders require development of Groundwater Quality Assessment Reports that consider all available and applicable data in order to determine areas within their boundaries where groundwater is vulnerable to impacts from irrigated agricultural operations and activities. The Orders include requirements regarding delineation of high and low vulnerability as well as additional requirements for growers located within the high vulnerability areas. Staff will discuss common high vulnerability area delineation issues and staff's responses to those issues.

RECOMMENDATION This is an information item only.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_SYM\_\_\_  
Legal Review \_\_\_PEP\_\_\_  
30/31 July 2015  
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