

**23 FEBRUARY 2023 BOARD MEETING
DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 8

Order Amending the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0030-10 for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-party Group - *Consideration of an Order to Exempt Upper Feather River Sub watershed.*

BOARD ACTION:

Consider adoption of an Order to exempt the Upper Feather River irrigated agricultural operations from obtaining coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP).

BACKGROUND:

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) will be considering an Amending Order to exempt irrigated agricultural operations in the Upper Feather River Sub Watershed from requirements to obtain regulatory coverage in the ILRP through the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order (General Order) covering this area. The affected ILRP General Order is the Sacramento River Watershed Area (R5-2014-0030-10).

Irrigated agricultural operations in the watershed are irrigated pasture and/or alfalfa. There are approximately 70 operations in the watershed, covering a little over 30,000 acres.

On 9 December 2022, staff released a draft exemption recommendation report and an exemption resolution for a 30-day public comment period. Eight comment letters were received, all in support of the proposed exemption. There were no specific comments on the exemption recommendation other than support for the proposal. Comment letters were received from the CA Cattlemen’s Association, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, El Dorado County Agricultural Water Quality Management Corporation, Northeastern CA Water Association, Upper Feather River Watershed Group, Modoc County and Sierra County Board of Supervisors, and two growers.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Order to exempt the Upper Feather River irrigated agricultural operations from obtaining ILRP coverage.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	SYM 1/26/2023
Legal Review:	JMJ 2/01/2023

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Dr., Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Internet Zoom Meeting