



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVWB)

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

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Our Mission...

To preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Who we are

One of nine Regional Water Boards in California, the CVWB is a regulatory Board, comprised of part-time Board members appointed by the Governor - tasked with establishing policies and regulations to protect the quality of surface and ground waters throughout the Central Valley. The CVWB does this

through issuing permits and other regulations to businesses, industries, public agencies, and districts that conduct activities or practices that may impact or harm water quality.



Water in the Central Valley

The Central Valley is the largest and most diverse region in California, stretching from the Oregon border to the tip of Los Angeles County – about 60,000 square miles, nearly 40 percent of the State. It includes all, or part of, 38 of California's 58 counties and about 75 percent of the State's irrigated agricultural land. The CVWB includes the watersheds for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and the Tulare Lake Basin. Nearly all of the legal Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta is within the CVWB jurisdiction.

In total, water from the Central Valley provides more than 50 percent of the State's total water supply, providing drinking water for 2/3 of the State, and irrigation for millions of acres of agricultural lands in and out of the valley. Many of the waterways within the Central Valley, especially those on the valley floor, are impacted or polluted by an assortment of pollutants that pose a risk to agricultural irrigation water, drinking water, fish and wildlife. These pollutants include pesticides, metals, salts, pathogens, fertilizers, and industrial chemicals.

Protecting Water Quality

To protect water quality, the CVWB regulates those whose practices or activities could impact or harm the quality of surface¹ and groundwaters. These practices or activities include treating sewage, treating water to provide drinking water, industrial processes, mining, dredging, wash waters, cooling water, construction, irrigation of crops, dairy operations, timber harvest, etc.

The CVWB has various programs that focus on specific types of practices or activities, such as, cannabis, dairies, forest activities, landfills, mining, wastewater, underground storage tanks and storm water discharges to name a few.

In 2003, the CVWB created a specific program designed to address activities associated with agricultural irrigated lands. This program is referred to as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP).



¹ Surface water includes natural waterways like lakes, rivers and streams, and man-made water collection and delivery systems like canals and drains.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)



For questions or more information, ILRP staff can be reached at:

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What is the ILRP?

The ILRP is a Central Valley Water Board (CVWB) agricultural program that develops regulations (Orders) to protect surface and groundwater. The program conducts compliance and enforcement activities to ensure growers comply with the regulations.

Who needs regulatory coverage under the ILRP?

Anyone who irrigates land to produce crops or pasture commercially must seek ILRP coverage to abide by California State regulations.

Who does not need to be in the ILRP?

ILRP regulations do not impact parcels that are not used commercially, are never irrigated, are a dairy, or the agricultural land is covered under other regulations (i.e., dairy, poultry, bovine).

Background

1999 The ILRP was created by the CVWB in response to Senate Bill 390.

2003 The first ILRP Order impacted those commercial growers that discharged their irrigation or storm water runoff to surface waters from their fields. The Order allowed growers to form third-party coalitions (coalitions) to assist them in complying with the ILRP regulations.

2012 The ILRP was revised to include the protection of groundwater which expanded the regulation to all commercial irrigated lands.

More ILRP background & history can be found on our website.



How do I seek regulatory coverage under the ILRP?

There are two options to obtain coverage:

1. **Coalition Option:** A grower may enroll in a coalition to assist them with fulfilling ILRP requirements. The grower remains fully responsible for complying with all regulations, BUT they share the cost of compliance, monitoring and reporting with other members of the coalition. This option also reduces grower interactions with the CVWB.

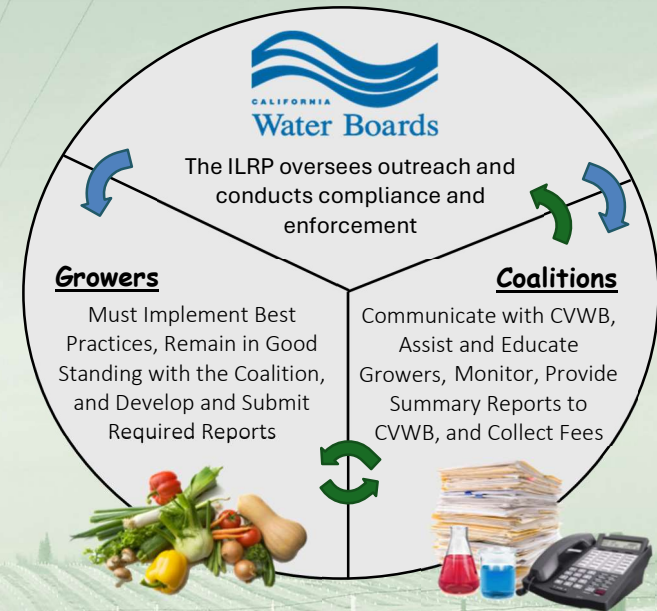
A grower must file an application and pay a fee to join a coalition. The **grower** must remain in good standing with their coalition to maintain coalition coverage.
2. **Individual Option:** A grower may acquire individual coverage by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) and fee directly to the CVWB. The grower would communicate directly with the CVWB and retain the full cost and responsibility for compliance, monitoring and reporting.

How do growers in coalitions comply with the ILRP?

Growers must implement ILRP requirements and maintain good standing with their coalitions. They must work to prevent sediment, fertilizer, pesticides, manure and other materials used in farming, from entering surface water in irrigation or storm water runoff. Growers must also implement Best Management Practices to reduce leaching of excess nitrogen and other pollutants below the root zone to

groundwater. They are also required to develop and implement on-farm plans and submit annual reports to their coalitions; these reports are then summarized and reported to the ILRP.

What is the relationship between growers, coalitions and CVWB?



How can growers seek help with ILRP compliance?

If enrolled in a coalition, the coalitions are required to provide outreach, education and assistance to their members. They are the primary resource for those growers.

Otherwise, growers may seek outside assistance from local or state groups, agencies, or educational institutions. They may also contact ILRP staff.

For more Frequently Asked Questions and/or information about the Central Valley Water Board's ILRP, please visit us online.



www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands