OVERVIEW AND AUTHORITIES OF THE STATE-WIDE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 2008
CHALLENGE

• Meet our statutory obligations for water quality protection considering:
  – Available human and financial resources
  – Consideration of the diverse interest of all parties
  – Sustain strong and viable agricultural operations
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

**Issue**
- Many surface water bodies in California are listed on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) list as being impaired by agricultural sources.

**Goal**
- Improve WQ by the regulation of discharges from irrigated agricultural lands.

**Objective**
- To monitor, assess, and control the impact to receiving waters caused by discharges from irrigated agricultural lands.
REGULATORY TOOLBOX

• Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
• Conditional Waivers of WDRs
• National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits
• Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
• Management Agency Agreements
• Cooperative Programs
WDRs

• Formal requirements or conditions prescribed to protect the beneficial uses of receiving waters from an existing, proposed, or potential discharge.

• WDRs and Conditional Waivers are the principal regulatory tools used to regulate discharges.
Conditional Waivers

- Process exemptions from formal permitting requirements of WDRs
- **Not exemptions from regulatory compliance.**
- Regional Water Boards adopted waivers for over 40 categories of discharge
- Conditional and enforceable
SB 390 Facts

• Signed into law October 6, 1999.
• Revised Section 13269 of the California Water Code.
• Requires each regional board to:
  – **review** the terms, conditions, and effectiveness of each type of “Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification” included in their waiver policies;
  – **readopt or terminate** waivers by **January 1, 2003**;
  – **issue** waste discharge requirements for on-going discharges whose waivers have been terminated;
  – **enforce** waivers; and,
  – **renew/terminate** waivers every five years.
Regional Water Boards that have adopted Agricultural Conditional Waivers
QUESTIONS

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  – State Water Resources Control Board Agricultural Web Site
    – http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/