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**TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 13, 2014

To: Darrin Polhemus, State Water Resources Control Board

From: Dr. Stuart W. Styles, ITRC Director  
Sarah Crable, ITRC Engineer

**Subject: Expert Panel Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2014**

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**State Water Resources Control Board Nitrate Expert Panel**

Expert Panel Chair, Dr. Charles Burt called the meeting of the Expert Panel to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 9, 2014 in Sacramento.

1. **Agenda ..... Dr. Charles Burt, Panel Chair**
2. **Introduction – Expert Panel Members**  
 Dr. Lowell Zelinski  
 Daniel Munk  
 Dr. Charles Burt  
 James duBois  
 Mark McKean  
 Robert Hutmacher  
 Bill Brush  
 Till Angermann
3. **Expert Panel Charge..... Dr. Charles Burt, Panel Chair**
4. **Invited Speaker #1 ..... Dr. Thomas Harter, UC Davis**
  - Explained sections of the UC Davis Report findings “Addressing Nitrate in California’s Drinking Water with a Focus on Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley Groundwater”
  - Answered questions from Expert Panel members

**5. Expert Panel Discussion**

- Comments on nitrogen balance

**6. Invited Speaker #2 .....Brock Taylor, Certified Crop Advisor**

- Commented on past and current grower water and nutrient management practices
- Answered questions from Expert Panel members

**7. Invited Speaker #3 ..... Dr. Toby O’Geen, UC Davis**

- Commented on Nitrogen Leaching Hazard Index (NHI) benefits and shortcomings
- Commented on improvement to the NHI
- Answered questions from Expert Panel members

**8. Public Comment #1 ..... John Dickey, PlaneTierra LLC**

- Commented on existing Waste Discharge Requirements
- Commented on Nitrogen Hazard Index as a tool for preliminary assessment of risk
- Commented on assessing risk with Groundwater Quality Assessment Reports
- Commented on nitrogen consumption ratios versus mass balance approaches in nitrogen management planning
- Answered questions from Expert Panel members

**9. Public Comment #2 .....Bob Blakely, California Citrus Mutual**

- Commented on variability being addressed in context of overall management system considering both surface water and groundwater
- Commented on addressing nitrate problems on a local and regional level
- Discussed retiring acreage as a solution
- Commented on tweaking Nitrogen Hazard Index and mass balance
- Commented on data collection and how the Regional Board will use the information reported by growers

**10. Public Comment #3..... Bud Hoekstra, Berry Blest Organic Farm**

- Commented on nitrate regulations in the Chesapeake area on the East Coast of the United States
- Commented on interaction of fertilizers and pesticides

**11. Public Comment #4 .....Patrick Brown, UC Davis**

- Commented on perennial tree crop nitrate consumption
- Commented on education of nutrient uptake by plants requirement of CCAs, growers, or other advisors
- Commented on nitrate monitoring in soils
- Commented on Expert Panel acknowledging recommendations’ applicability to certain crop types
- Answered questions from Expert Panel members

- 12. Public Comment #5 ..... Bill McKinney, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition**
- Commented on groundwater sampling
  - Commented on best management practices
  - Answered questions from Expert Panel members
- 13. Public Comment #6 ..... Jim Parsons, Farmer**
- Commented on data to be collected from growers
  - Commented on record keeping of data on his own property
- 14. Public Comment #7 ..... Dr. Karl Longley,  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**
- Thanked the Expert Panel members
  - Commented on management of groundwater recharge
- 15. Public Comment #8 ..... Tim Johnson, California Rice Commission**
- Commented on California Rice Commission’s surface water quality program
  - Commented on reporting of nitrogen mass balance
  - Answered questions from the Expert Panel members
- 16. Public Comment #9 ..... Steve Shimek, The Otter Project**
- Commented on Dr. Harter’s “Three Track Monitoring Approach”
  - Commented on discharge monitoring from higher risk farms
  - Commented on public reporting of monitoring results
  - Answered questions from the Expert Panel members
- 17. Public Comment #10 ..... Jennifer Clary, Clean Water Action**
- Commented on Clean Water Action’s goals with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
- 18. Public Comment #11 ..... J.P. Cativiela, Dairy CARES**
- Commented on the Expert Panel questions #5, #6, #9 and #10, and how dairies in the Central Valley are dealing with those same questions in relation to their Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)
  - Commented on cost to dairies to comply with the WDR for dairies in the Central Valley
  - Commented on Dairy’s version of the Management Practice Evaluation Program
  - Commented on the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program in relation to Expert Panel question #8c
  - Answered questions from Expert Panel members

**19. Clarification Item #1..... Clay Rodgers,  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

- Encouraged Expert Panel to be aware of the Central Valley dairies' waste Discharge Requirements and the work that has been completed by dairies so far
- Commented on Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff's mission

**20. Clarification Item #2 ..... Darrin Polhemus, State Water Resources Control Board**

- Clarified Expert Panel's role and directed the Expert Panel to focus on the thirteen questions posed to them

**21. Expert Panel Discussion**

- Set up schedule for next meetings

Dr. Charles Burt adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:45 p.m. on May 9, 2014. The next scheduled Expert Panel meeting will be held on June 9, 2014 in San Luis Obispo.