

**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE  
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD  
November 2010**

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) monthly report will provide an update on activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) ILRP, as reported in the Central Valley Water Board's December 9-10, 2010 Executive Officer's report. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board Agriculture Program](#) website.

**General**

In September, four public workshops were held throughout the Central Valley to discuss the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), Economics Report, and recommended long-term ILRP for regulating waste discharges from irrigated agricultural lands. Workshop dates and locations were as follows: September 8th – Tulare; September 9th – Modesto; September 10th – Rancho Cordova; September 10th – Chico. Written comments on the Draft PEIR were due on 27 September. Comment letters from agencies and water quality coalitions are posted on the [Central Valley Water Board](#)'s website.

On October 26 and November 2 and 8, respectively, staff held preliminary discussions to discuss potential steps in the implementation of the recommended long-term ILRP with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition, and California Rice Commission.

The next major milestones of the project include circulation of a Final EIR and recommended long-term ILRP in early 2011. The Final EIR and recommended ILRP will be considered for certification at the April 6-8 Central Valley Water Board hearing. Orders to implement the long-term ILRP are proposed to be developed for Board consideration during the year following Board certification of the PEIR.

**Outreach**

In September and October 2010, Central Valley Water Board staff completed 59 inspections to verify landowner exemption claims to the ILRP. Landowners can respond to ILRP staff's postcards or 13267 Orders by claiming their land is not used for agriculture, not irrigated, or that it has no irrigation tail water or storm water runoff (no waste discharges to surface waters). These claims create a need for verification inspections, which staff regularly conducts. Staff verified that lands associated with 55 inspections were exempt from regulatory coverage under the ILRP. The outcome of the remaining inspections is pending further investigation.

## **Enforcement**

In September, the Executive Officer issued 18 and 26 Notices of Violation (NOVs) to landowners in Contra Costa and Colusa Counties, respectively. The NOVs were issued to potential owners of irrigated lands who first received a CWC §13267 Order but failed to submit a technical report.

In October, the Executive Officer issued 73 CWC §13267 Orders to potential owners of irrigated lands in Butte County. These Orders were issued to landowners who first received an outreach postcard and subsequently did not respond.

Also, in October, the Executive Officer issued 50 CWC §13260 Orders to irrigated lands dischargers who received Executive Officer approval to join a grower water quality coalition but have not done so to date. These dischargers are in the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition area and the San Joaquin County & Delta Coalition area.

On 29 October, the Executive Officer and staff met with representatives from the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) to discuss concerns regarding the issuance of CWC §13267 Orders to their members. One of the concerns is that the postcards and Orders may not be clear that recipients should respond to the postcard or Order, even if they do not believe they discharge. CCA will provide suggested language to help clarify this issue.

## **Coalition Groups**

### **California Rice Commission (CRC):**

On 26 August, Regional Water Board staff met with the CRC to answer questions regarding a potential CRC Order for the long-term ILRP specific to rice operations. The CRC has brought up questions that will be relevant to whatever form the long-term ILRP will take.

On 1 October, Regional Water Board staff met with the CRC and stakeholders to discuss the 2010 monitoring results for the Rice Pesticides Program. The CRC will be providing more information on the 2010 results in its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) due 31 December.

### **East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (ESJWQC):**

On 20 October, staff received a revised MRP Plan and QAPP. The updated MRP Plan and QAPP consolidate the approved amendments since the September 2008 MRP Plan approval, typographical errors, and updates of some laboratory analytical methods.

On 26 October, staff met with the ESJWQC to answer questions regarding a

potential ESJWQC Order for the long-term ILRP. Some of the items discussed included surface and groundwater requirements under the proposed structure of the long-term program. The Coalition is planning to meet again with staff to discuss in more detail some of the long-term program's proposed groundwater requirements. The next meeting will be scheduled for January 2011.

On 1 November, the Coalition submitted the San Joaquin River Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL Annual Monitoring Report (Annual SJR C-D Report) based on 2010 monitoring conducted by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and the Westside Coalition at the six compliance points. Staff will be reviewing the 2010 Annual SJR C-D Report and submitting comments.

On 2 November, staff held the ninth quarterly meeting with the Coalition to discuss progress in implementing the Coalition's Management Plan.

**Goose Lake Coalition:**

The ILRP's Technical Issues Committee (TIC) decided that *E. coli* management plans are an issue of highest concern for all coalition groups and a Pathogen Focus Group formed to develop a regional *E. coli* Management Plan. As a result, the Goose Lake Coalition's Lassen Creek Management Plan for *E. coli* has been deferred. When the Pathogen Focus Group has developed an acceptable regional approach, the Goose Lake Coalition will review their management plan, make revisions as needed, and resubmit their plan for approval. It is expected that the Goose Lake Coalition will participate in the TIC's development of a regional approach to address *E. coli* Management Plans.

**Pleasant Valley Coalition:**

On 5 October 2010, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between Westlands Coalition and Pleasant Valley Coalition allowing Pleasant Valley irrigating landowners to join Westlands Coalition. Westlands Coalition is scheduled to submit an updated participant list that includes the additional irrigating landowners on 1 January 2011.

**Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):**

On 30 September staff met with representatives of the SVWQC for the quarterly review of the Sacramento Valley Management Plan. Presentations were given by John Currey, Dixon RCD and Yolo-Solano subwatershed representative, and Jim Cornelius, Sutter RCD and Butte-Sutter-Yuba subwatershed. Both representatives reported on outreach efforts in each of their areas that are addressing Coalition Management Plan elements. The remainder of the meeting centered on an examination of monitoring schedules for Sacramento Valley waterways in 2011. In two follow up meetings on 13 and 27 October, Regional Board staff reviewed with Bruce Houdesheldt, NCWA and Claus Suverkropp, Larry Walker Associates, the status of Management Plan tasks to be completed by the end of 2010.

During this reporting period the Regional Water Board approved the completion of two

Sacramento Valley Management Plans: Toxicity to *Ceriodaphnia* in Laguna Creek in the Sacramento-Amador subwatershed, and Chlorpyrifos in Coon Creek in the Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento subwatershed. Toxicity in Laguna Creek had not been identified again since early 2007 (after 19 sampling events) and chlorpyrifos had not been detected in Coon Creek since 2005. Also, the latest QAPP for the SVWQC received final approval in September 2010.

**San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (SJCDWQC):**

On 24 August, staff sent the SJCDWQC staff's review of their April 2010 Management Plan Update Report. The Coalition provided the necessary information for the components of the Management Plan Update Report, Basin Plan – TMDL requirements, with only minor omissions.

On 20 October, staff received a revised MRP Plan and QAPP. The updated MRP Plan and QAPP consolidates the approved amendments since the September 2008 MRP Plan approval, repairs typographical errors, and revises some laboratory analytical methods.

On 2 November, staff held the ninth quarterly meeting with the Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan.

**Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJVWQC):**

On 1 November 2010, staff received an addendum to the SSJVWQC draft Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) intended to address missing elements described in a 13 September 2010 staff email. The draft QAPP and QAPP addendum are currently under staff review.

**Westlands Coalition:**

Staff reviewed the Westlands Coalition Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) and completed the associated QAPP review checklist. On 9 November 2010, staff sent the Westlands Coalition QAPP and review checklist to the Central Valley Water Board Quality Assurance Officer (QA Officer). The QA Officer will review the QAPP, request changes as needed, and grant final approval of the document.

**Westside Coalition:**

On 20 October, Regional Board staff sent the Westside Coalition staff's review of their June 2010 Non-Irrigation Semi-Annual Monitoring and Management Plan Report review. The Coalition provided the necessary information for the components of the SAMR, Management Plan Update Report, and Basin Plan – TMDL requirements, with only minor omissions.

On 28 October, Regional Board staff met with Coalition representatives Joe McGahan and Chris Linneman to discuss quarterly updates to the Coalition Management Plan and Focus Plan's for Hospital Creek, Ingram Creek, Del Puerto Creek, Westley Wasteway, and Orestimba Creek watersheds.

On 2 November, Regional Board staff attended the Coalition's monthly water quality meeting in Los Banos.

### **Individual Dischargers**

#### **Merced Irrigation District:**

Staff completed its review of the annual monitoring report and has submitted comments to the Irrigation District.

#### **Modesto Irrigation District:**

Staff is currently reviewing the annual monitoring report.

### **Data Management**

Data reports received through September 1st, 2010 that arrived in an electronic SWAMP comparable format are currently being prepared for loading into a California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) comparable daughter database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). These reports and future data sets will be sent to the CV RDC to be uploaded into CEDEN for state-wide assessment efforts. Data loading for larger coalitions has begun for sets starting with those received in June 2009.

Datasets submitted prior to June 1st, 2009 are being processed for loading by the CV RDC as a historical data project. These datasets were initially processed by the ILRP and are at various stages of readiness for loading. The CV RDC, funded by a portion of SWAMP funds, have been contracted to complete the processing and begin loading priority sets. Progress will be overseen by ILRP staff.

The consolidated ILRP data warehouse project is complete and was released to staff in August. The data warehouse consolidated and formatted older data to be combined with newer SWAMP formatted data being received. This warehouse allows rapid and large-scale data analysis to be performed for the program on a timeline much shorter than waiting for all the historical data to be SWAMP formatted. The San Joaquin Watershed SWAMP unit aided in this project. An outside contractor was hired to design queries and tools to assist staff with data analysis. The analysis queries and tools were completed in September 2010.

### **MOU Pilot Program**

The Quarterly Report for the third quarter (July-September) of 2010 is being reviewed and should be posted on the ILRP website by the end of November. Staff has sent in requests to extend the MOU Pilot Program contracts, at no added cost, to 31 March

2011. The contract extensions are in the process of being approved by Butte and Glenn Counties.

### **Prop 84 Grant Funding**

This grant was awarded to the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) who will provide program management for the implementation of management practices to address water quality exceedances identified in the Central Valley due to agricultural sources. The draft grant agreement has undergone legal review due to requested changes by CURES, and the Scope of Work is now being reviewed by the Division of Financial Assistance.