

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

December 2016

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) update provides a summary of significant activities of State Water Board and North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Colorado River, Santa Ana, and San Diego Water Boards' staff. Next month's report will present activities of the Central Valley Water Board's Program.

STATE WATER BOARD

On December 1, 2016 ILRP staff attended a UCD-CARB Silage VOC-NOx Emission Study workshop. On December 2, 2016 ILRP staff meet with California Department of Food and Agriculture to discuss the Healthy Soils Initiative.

On December 5, 2016 ILRP staff presented an update on the ILRP at the annual statewide UC Veg Crops Farm Advisor's training meeting.

On December 12, 2016 ILRP staff participated in a discussion lead by CalRecycle on AB 901 that requires recyclers, composters, brokers, transporters and exporters of recycling material or organics to report the tons of materials they sell or transfer, as well as changing the reporting requirements for disposal facilities, transfer stations and MRFs.

On December 16, 2016, ILRP staff met with Natural Resources Conservation Services and California Resource Conservation Districts to discuss a Technical Guide to the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Assessment Tool and determine the potential of developing a similar tool for use in California.

NORTH COAST REGION

As of December 1, 2016, the North Coast Water Board had a total of 953 entities enrolled in the conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges from cannabis cultivation and associated activities. Of the total 953 enrollees, 588 have enrolled via a third party, with the remaining 365 enrolled as individuals. There are an additional 367 entities that have submitted a notice of intent but have not completed the enrollment process.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

The public comment period on the San Francisco Bay Water Board's draft general waste discharge requirements (GWDRs) for vineyard properties closes on December 12. The proposed GWDRs implement sediment TMDLs adopted for the Napa River and

Sonoma Creek watersheds. Staff has been meeting with interested stakeholders during the public comment period to address concerns and to answer questions. Project information, including a fact sheet, the draft GWDRs, and the environmental impact report that supports the permit can be found on the Regional Board website.

CENTRAL COAST REGION

In October 2016, Central Coast Water Board staff finished drafting the public comment draft of the next Agricultural Order (Ag Order 3.0). The current Agricultural Order (Ag Order 2.0) is a waiver and expires on March 14, 2017. Staff posted the draft Ag Order 3.0 and associated MRPs for public comment on November 1, 2016. Public comments are due on January 3, 2017. The public comment period is 63 days. The [Notice and draft documents](#) are available on the Regional Board website. Draft Ag Order 3.0 differs from Ag Order 2.0 insofar as the total nitrogen applied (TNA) reporting requirement is expanded to all tier 2 and tier 3 farms growing a crop that has a high potential of loading nitrogen to groundwater. This expansion would result in the number of farms required to report TNA from about 600 to 1,700, or 97,000 acres to 230,000 acres reporting TNA. Like Ag Order 2.0, draft Ag Order 3.0 requires all ranches to conduct groundwater monitoring, with two samples from all domestic wells, and two samples from the primary irrigation well in 2017 required. The MRPs require that another neonicotinoid be sampled in surface receiving waters, bringing the total number of neonicotinoids being monitored to six. Staff engaged in fourteen outreach events over the past two months, with seven conducted prior to the November 1 posting of draft Ag Order 3.0, and seven more following the November 1 posting.

LOS ANGELES REGION

Los Angeles Water Board staff are continuously working with the Discharger Groups regarding enrollment of the growers in the Conditional Waiver, Order No. R4-2016-0143, adopted on April 14, 2016. Regional Board staff are currently working on multiple enforcement cases. Regional Board staff approved farm evaluation plan templates (Management Practices Survey) submitted by the two Discharger Groups within our region. Regional Board staff approved a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by the Nursery Growers Association Los Angeles County Irrigated Lands Group (NGA-ILG) and sent a Notice of Applicability (NOA). Regional Board staff are currently reviewing the NOI, the Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MRP), and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) submitted by the Ventura County Agriculture Irrigated Lands Group (VCAILG).

COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

On October 15, 2016, the Colorado River Basin Water Board staff received an updated list of individuals who have signed up with the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands

Coalition. On October 27, 2016 the staff received water quality monitoring data from Imperial Irrigation District for the Imperial Valley Conditional Waiver. The data reports sample results from July, August, and September. On October 28, 2016, the staff received a list of water account holders in the Imperial Valley that have not enrolled their agricultural land with the Imperial Irrigation District- Imperial County Farm Bureau Coalition. No farmers have requested individual coverage under the Imperial Valley Conditional Waiver. Staff are continuing with the development process of a General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements to replace the Conditional Waiver for the Palo Verde Valley. A draft of the proposed WDRs Order and supporting CEQA documents are being reviewed by the Board's management team.

SANTA ANA REGION

The Santa Ana Water Board's Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Agricultural Operations in the San Jacinto River Watershed ([Order No. R8-2016-0003](#)) (CWAD) was adopted July 29, 2016. The due date to enroll in the CWAD was extended from January 2017 to April 29, 2017 to allow dischargers the opportunity to develop an agricultural coalition in the watershed, which would provide the agricultural operations relief from higher fees and allow for alternative compliance responses. Staff continues to reach out to the agricultural dischargers, who have several questions regarding the new regulation.

SAN DIEGO REGION

On November 9, 2016, the San Diego Water Board adopted the following:

- Tentative Order No. R9-2016-0004, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers that are Members of a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region.
- Tentative Order No. R9-2016-0005, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers Not Participating in a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region.
- Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0136, Adoption of a Negative Declaration and Initial Study for General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Agricultural Operations in the San Diego Region.