

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE **September 2018**

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program update provides a summary of significant activities of State Water Resources Control Board staff from August 15, 2018 to September 15, 2018 and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board from July 15, 2018 to September 15, 2018. Next month's report will present activities of the North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Colorado River Basin, Santa Ana, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's Program and cover the period between from August 15, 2018 to October 15, 2018.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD -

On August 22, 2018 Agricultural Lands Regulatory Program staff (staff) participated in the quarterly Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Board of Directors meeting. Committee Reports were presented by the various Committees (Administrative, Finance, Testing/Exam, Standards and Ethics). The main topic of discussion was the Chairman's Report regarding outreach to insurance brokers regarding policy coverage for Irrigated Lands and Nitrogen Management Plans and guidance to CCAs on coverage needed.

On August 22, 2018, staff participated in a meeting with California Rice Commission to discuss the State Water Board proposed Fee Schedule. The focus of the discussion was on the Rice Commission assertion that the proposed Fee Schedule should take into consideration the work that Rice Commission has been doing to comply with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and provide a lesser fee category.

On August 23, 2018, staff participated in a monthly California Bioresources Alliance steering committee conference call to further develop the agenda for the Annual Symposium scheduled for November 2018. Topics planned for discussion at the symposium include organics recycling and diversion, bioresources research updates, soil health, and biofertilizers

On September 5, 2018, staff participated in a meeting with the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment (CRAE). Topics discussed included; understanding current member priorities, and continue to discuss future potential topics for CRAE; review talking points, theory of change and plan for proposed meeting with several corporate members of the California Water Action Collaborative (CWAC) to explore common ground and recommendations on bringing a wider group together around working lands; and, decide whether or not to hold a meeting with CWAC members in October, 2018

On September 11, 2018, staff participated in the Confined Animal Facilities and Dairy Roundtable Meeting. Items discussed included: program Budget Change Proposal Process; Composting General Order update; State Water Board Fee Schedule update; and effects from the recent California wildfires.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Valley Regional Water Board staff (Staff) holds quarterly stakeholder meetings to provide an open forum for communication between staff, agricultural coalitions, environmental justice groups, and other interested parties in the Central Valley Region. The 10 October 2018 stakeholder meeting will be held at the

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, with a focused discussion on new requirements from the precedential East San Joaquin Petition Order, including use of a new Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan template, development of an on-farm drinking water well monitoring program, updates of the ILRP General Orders, and status of the Drinking Water Notification Template which was released for public review and comment on 24 August 2018.

Staff continues to concentrate on compliance, outreach, and enforcement efforts in the following areas: agricultural parcel inspections; Water Code section 13260 Directives; Notices of Violation for failure to respond to a Water Code section 13260 Directive and failure to comply with Orders; and Administrative Civil Liability Complaints. From July to August 2018, Central Valley Water Board staff conducted 33 parcel inspections to assess the need for ILRP enrollment and 1 on-farm inspection to evaluate General Order compliance, and issued 105 directives and 266 Notices of Violation.

Additional information can be found at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/index.shtml