

## **IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE**

### **March 2018**

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program update provides a summary of significant activities of State Water Resources Control Board staff from February 15, 2018 to March 15, 2018 and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board from January 15, 2018 to March 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 time period from February 15, 2018 to April 15, 2018.

#### **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD -**

On February 16, 2018, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff (staff) met with the Certified Crop Advisers Board of Directors to discuss the next nutrient management plan certification training session and exam criteria.

On February 20, 2018, staff participated in the quarterly Certified Crop Advisers Board of Directors meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included: Approve last BOD Meeting Minutes, Administrator's Report, Finance Committee Report, Marketing/PR Committee Reports/Consultant Report, Testing and Credential Committee Update and Angoff Review and Test Prep for August 2018 Exam, Standards and Ethics Committee Report and Credential Review of Exam Candidates.

On February 21, 2018, staff met with California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff to discuss an agricultural economic impact study final report from CalPoly. Before finalizing and publishing the report, CARB wanted to meet to ensure any State Water Board regulations mentioned in the report were accurately described.

On February 21, 2018, staff participated in a California Bioresources Alliance monthly steering committee meeting to discuss the Annual Symposium. Discussions included identifying moderators, speakers for sessions, the title for the symposium, and providing updates on CARB/UC Berkeley workshop on bio-economics. There was also a discussion on a CBA MOU.

On February 28, 2018, staff participated in a discussion hosted by CARB on the carbon-fueled Industrial Revolution. Presenters identified that nitrogen has fueled an Agricultural Revolution. The amount of nitrogen used for agricultural activities have increased significantly over the past century to keep up with the world's growing population. Nitrogen released into the environment can affect local and regional air quality as well as global climate. Similar to assessing impacts from carbon, the discussion focused on the importance of further evaluation and understanding the implications for increased nitrogen use.

On March 1, 2018, staff met separately with California Association of Sanitation Agencies and CalRecycle staff to discuss biosolids language proposed to be included in SB 1383 (Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Strategy).

On March 6-8, 2018, staff participated in the California Association of Sanitation Agencies Annual Meeting. Discussion and presentations included activities related to biosolids; short-lived climate pollutants, biogas/transportation fuel credits, global good agricultural practices, Post-Kern litigation; nutrients, toxicity, and stormwater.

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS:**

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control 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 Central Valley Region. The April 11, 2018 stakeholder meeting will be held at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, with a focused discussion on the recently adopted State Board Order in response to the petition of the Eastern San Joaquin General WDRs.

Staff continue to concentrate compliance, outreach, and enforcement efforts on 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 early January to early March 2018, Central Valley Water Board staff conducted over 300 parcel inspections to determine possible need for irrigated lands enrollment, 15 on-farm inspections to assess General Order compliances, and issued over 300 outreached letters, 71 directives, and over 200 Notices of Violation. During the February 2018 Central Valley Water Board meeting, the Board adopted an Administrative Civil Liability Order with a penalty amount of \$19,773 for a Modoc County grower who failed to enroll in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Additional information can be found at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/index.shtml)