

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

May 2018

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) update provides a summary of significant activities of State Water Resources Control Board staff from April 15, 2018 to May 15, 2018 and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board from March 15, 2018 to May 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 April 15, 2018 to June 15, 2018.

STATE WATER BOARD

On April 16, 2018, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff (staff) met with California Association of Sanitation Agencies to discuss biosolids related issues, focusing on potential impacts to Wastewater Treatment Facilities from new CalRecycle regulations.

On April 20, 2018, staff met with California Department of Food and Agriculture to discuss the upcoming 44th Annual California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA) and Agri-Expo joint conference hosted by California Association of Pest Control Advisers CAPCA, Certified Crop Advisers, California Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Water Resources Control Board. This conference is scheduled to be held on October 14-16, 2018 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. The audience will primarily be licensed pest control advisers (PCAs) and Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) from throughout California, with an anticipated attendance of approximately 950 – 1,000 PCAs and CCAs. Members generally obtain one-third of their state continuing education requirements at this meeting which will include presentations on nitrogen management as a key component of the State and Regional Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

On April 25, 2018, staff participated in a conference call with the California Bioresources Alliance to discuss the Annual Symposium scheduled for mid-November 2018.

On May 2, 2018, staff met with the California Certified Crop Adviser Board of Directors to discuss the modifications to the certification exam and budget issues.

On May 7, 2018, staff met with staff from the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 9, and Eastern Municipal Water District to discuss the roles and responsibilities of a Third-Party Coalition. Eastern Municipal Water District requested to act as a Coalition and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Officer approved. The Coalition will represent most growers as part of the Conditional Waiver for Agricultural Dischargers Program.

On May 8-9, 2018, staff participated in the Nonpoint Source Roundtable meeting hosted by the Santa Ana Regional Water Board. As discharges from irrigated agricultural lands is a major component of the Nonpoint Source Policy, topics of discussion included agricultural activities and included an agricultural-related field trip.

On May 11, 2018, staff participated in a field trip hosted by the California Almond Board. Staff toured almond orchards, learned about practices and innovations in harvesting, irrigation and best management practices.

On May 15, 2018, staff participated in the California Certified Crop Advisers (CCA) Board of Directors quarterly meeting. ILRP staff provides input on key water quality protection issues (e.g. nutrient management plan certification) and agricultural related regulatory interpretation and updates to the CCA Board. This meeting included discussion on the Eastern San Joaquin Order, specifically the Water Board's statewide application on the third-party liability component of the Eastern San Joaquin Order.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Central Valley Regional Water Board staff (staff) held a quarterly stakeholder meeting to provide an open forum for communication between staff, agricultural coalitions, environmental justice groups and other interested parties in the Central Valley Region on April 11, 2018. The stakeholder meeting was 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 March to early May 2018, staff conducted 587 parcel inspections to determine the possible need for irrigated lands enrollment, 38 on-farm inspections to assess General Order compliances and issued over 200 directives and over 220 Notices of Violation. During the April Central Valley Regional Water Board meeting, the Board approved an Administrative Civil Liability Order with a penalty amount of \$100,100 for Konark Ranches, LLC, for failure to enroll in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Also, in April, the Executive Officer approved a settlement order assessing a penalty of \$27,720 for Seven Hill, LLC, for failure to enroll in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Additional information can be found on the [Regional Board website](#).