Overarching Themes from Meetings & Correspondence:

• If we simplify the process enough, staff can take a targeted approach by focusing on bad actors, encouraging technology and improving the environment;

• Regulations should be outcome-oriented vs. process-based;

• Compliance for this permit is immensely complex across a diverse stakeholder group;

• No call for relaxation of environmental standards – in fact, many commented that this existing compliance structure not only does not improve the environment, but it diverts resources that could be utilized in those efforts.
Top Short Term Recommendations:

- Reevaluate the goals of the permit and its compliance process. Redraft reporting requirements to achieve mutually beneficial goals.

- Eliminate redundancies in monitoring, reporting and studies.

- Grant permits or waivers based on risk level.

- Require management approval of staff data requests in excess of statutory provisions.

- Fees continue to increase, even with a reduced number of businesses operating within the permit and a decrease in water board staff. Reconcile staff levels and budgets so that there is consistent, and decreasing costs to fee-payers.
Top Long Term Recommendations:

• Minimize conflicts between regulatory agencies.

• Create consistent requirements between regional boards.

• Analyze software systems used to report data. There currently is little-to-no assurance of future direction of program or requirements and little technical assistance available.

• Create and establish grant programs to offset capital costs.
Potential Implementation Partners:

- Governor’s Office of Business & Economic Development (GO-Biz)
- Ag Innovations Network
- Sustainable Conservation
- California Council on Environmental and Economic Balance.
Stakeholder Quote:

“There are huge quantities of obscure regulations... after a while, you give up trying to figure them all out and just assume you’re in violation of something at some point.”

- Northern California Sustainable Grower/Packer