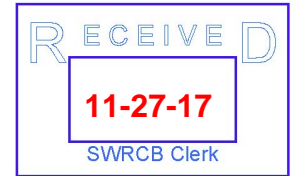


**From:** Enrico Ferro  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Subject:** Comments to A-2239(a)-(c)  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2017 4:10:06 PM

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Dear Clerk to the Board Townsend,

I am very disappointed to learn of this draft order. I am part of an irrigated lands group and have been since 2008. Not only have I complied with the regulations, I have done my best to get others to enroll and get on board. It's hard enough farming in my part of the state to even just pay my water bill. Many in my community have shut off their water due to financial stress and additional regulations. This cannot be the goal of the SWRCB although it seems like it is. I have been following the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Order revising the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's General Waste Discharge Requirements. As a farmer in California, I am concerned that my operation will be negatively burdened by the Draft Order. I am in a completely different part of the state and have very different environmental conditions here. I have done everything humanly possible to be efficient with my irrigation and prevent any pollution or contamination to the environment.

The proposed revisions to the East San Joaquin Waste Discharge Requirements and the impact the changes will have on the currently successful cooperative Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, which has been in place for over a decade, are significant and costly. Given the precedential nature of the Draft Order, it will not only have a severe impact on agricultural operations within the Central Valley, but on all irrigated agricultural operations throughout the state. Again, my part of the state is arid and does not in any way resemble the central valley.

I am particularly concerned about the following:

The Draft Order includes requirements that will disrupt the existing successful irrigated lands regulatory program which has been effective in addressing surface water quality concerns and protecting water quality for years.

The cost of compliance for administration and reporting will significantly increase if the Draft Order is adopted. Under the new Order, reporting requirements will uniformly apply to all growers, whereas currently, reporting requirements vary due to vulnerability designations. In addition to higher costs for individual growers, coalition/third-party costs as well as regional water board costs, will increase due to the new requirements to collect and compile all raw data. As it is now the SDRQCB cannot even process the massive amount of data we have given them. They will probably never do much in the way of enforcement and those of us doing are best to comply and belong to a group will be further punished and put out of business while those that don't will thumb their nose at this new level of regulation. This will just be a huge negative impact on our farming communities and our economy.

Given the vast regional differences in California, one-size-fits-all requirements applicable to all areas of the state are not appropriate. The Draft Order gives direction to the Central Valley Water Board and all other regional water boards to update or develop their irrigated lands regulatory programs to be consistent. Different areas of the state have different issues and not everyone grows the same crop every year, which will make this Order extremely difficult to implement, especially the nitrogen management requirements, the multi-year nitrogen applied over removed ratios, and the ratio comparisons to calculated target values. In other words this will literally kill some farming operations for no good reason.

The Draft Order requires each farm to annually monitor all drinking water supply wells on the property. This is problematic, especially because growers may not have legal authority to access landowner or tenant wells.

I also have concerns with the amount of raw data, including field-specific farm evaluation and management practice data and all nitrogen application data by field, that will be submitted to the regional water boards. Not only is the amount of data reported unnecessary, the data, although tied to anonymous identifiers, will now also become publicly available. Currently, third-parties submit data aggregated at the township level and maintain the raw data which is accessible to the regional water board if needed. This system works and doesn't expose my farming practices to competitors or potentially cause privacy concerns.

The result of these requirements will inevitably lead to increased coalition/third-party costs and state regulatory fees, and the Draft Order does not contain any meaningful cost analysis to justify these new requirements.

Please stop trying to put me out of business. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

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