

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
September 14, 2022**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

Update on the Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program and the Third-Party Group's monitoring results.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Information item only; no recommendation.

KEY ISSUE

This item provides the San Diego Water Board and the public with an overview of the Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program and the monitoring results provided by the Third-Party Groups. Representatives from the San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group (SDRILG) and Upper Santa Margarita Irrigated Lands Group (USMILG) will report on the successes and struggles encountered implementing the required monitoring program; the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on group memberships; and the effect on the groups from the dissolution of the De Luz and FROG Environmental Third-Party Groups.

PRACTICAL VISION

The Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program implements the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision¹ entitled *Healthy Waters, People and Communities*. Agriculture is one of the beneficial uses identified in Chapter 1 of the Practical Vision, *Strategize for Healthy Waters*, and the monitoring and reporting by the Third-Party Groups directly implements the goals of Chapter 2 of the Practical Vision, *Monitor and Assess*.

DISCUSSION

The item is an opportunity to provide the Board Members and the public with information about the Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program and the Third-Party Group's implementation of *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers that are Members of a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region* (Order No. R9-2016-0004). The Board adopted Order No. R9-2016-0004 and Order No. R9-2016-0005, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers*

¹ The San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision is available at this website: [Practical Vision | San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board](#).

not Participating in a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region (Order No. R9-2016-0005), on November 9, 2016. The Board's adoption of these Orders established requirements for agriculture and nursery operations within the San Diego Region to implement management measures and/or best management practices to prevent or minimize the discharge of pollutants that may adversely impact the quality of beneficial uses of the waters of the State. The Orders also establish a core and regional monitoring and reporting program (MRP). Core monitoring consists of the basic site-specific monitoring necessary to measure compliance with the requirements of the Orders and impacts to receiving water quality from Commercial Agricultural Operations. Regional monitoring provides information to make assessments over large areas and serves to evaluate cumulative effects of all anthropogenic inputs, including commercial agriculture, on the ecological health of water bodies in the San Diego Region.

Order No. R9-2016-0004 allows the owner(s) and operator(s) of a Commercial Agricultural Operation to enroll by participating as a member of a Third-Party Group. The San Diego Water Board approved Third-Party Groups are responsible for implementing the requirement of the MRP on the owner's/operator's behalf. Currently, approximately 1,400 owner(s) and operator(s) of Commercial Agricultural Operations are enrolled as members of a Third-Party Group in Order No. R9-2016-0004.

Order No. R9-2016-0005 allows the owner(s) and operator(s) of a Commercial Agricultural Operation to enroll as an individual. Individuals are responsible for implementing the requirements of the MRP. Currently, no growers are enrolled in Order No. R9-2016-0005.

San Diego Water Board staff are actively working with the SDRILG and USMILG within the San Diego Region. The De Luz and FROG Environmental Third-Party Groups dissolved in 2019 and 2021, respectively. Owners and operators of Commercial Agricultural Operations who are former members of the De Luz and FROG Environmental Third-Party Groups are required to enroll as an individual in Order No. R9-2016-0005 or enroll in Order No. R9-2016-0004, as a member of an approved Third-Party Group.

LEGAL CONCERNS

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Meeting Notice and Agenda was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to those who subscribed to the email list for Board Meetings.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.