

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE
CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD
May 2012

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) monthly report will provide an update on activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) ILRP, as reported in the Central Valley Water Board's June 7-8, 2012 Executive Officer's report. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) website.

General

Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program:

On 23 March 2012, staff met with the State Water Board information technology group to discuss development of an electronic data management system for the ILRP. This system is intended to be deployed for use by all Regional Water Boards with irrigated lands program data management needs. At the meeting, organizational topics were discussed, and a project management team was established.

On 18 April 2012 staff met with representatives from the Almond Board and the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to discuss the Almond Board's sustainability program module. The program module is a web-based tool allowing almond growers to log in and provide information regarding sustainability practices in place. The tool also includes a nutrient budgeting module. During the meeting, there was discussion regarding the potential to coordinate the Almond Board's web-based tool with irrigated lands program informational requirements for farm evaluations and nutrient management plans.

On 2 May 2012 staff and the Executive Officer met with coalitions and other agriculture representatives to discuss the Draft WDRs for the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed.

Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed WDRs:

On 13 April 2012 staff released Draft WDRs for the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed for an interested party review and comment period. The anticipated schedule for bringing the Draft WDRs to the board for consideration is as follows:

- April 13 – May 21: interested party review and comment;
- May 22 – June 26: staff revision of draft WDRs based on interested party review;
- June 27 – July 31: public review of draft WDRs;
- August 1 – August 31: staff revision of draft WDRs and response to comments;
and

- October 4 or 5 – Board hearing to consider adoptions of WDRs

Sacramento River Watershed Rice WDRs:

On 16 March 2012, staff met with the California Rice Commission (CRC) and CV-SALTS representatives to discuss the coordination of CRC groundwater monitoring requirements with CV-SALTS informational needs. On 10 April 2012, staff met with the CRC to discuss groundwater management plan requirements and the status of the CRC's Groundwater Assessment Report and Surface Water Assessment Report. On 30 April 2012 the CRC provided staff with the Groundwater Assessment Report. Staff is currently reviewing the report. Next steps include updating Draft WDRs and monitoring requirements based on review of the Groundwater Assessment Report. Staff will also be reviewing the CRC's Surface Water Assessment Report upon receipt. Staff is planning to release the Draft WDRs for interested party review in July of this year.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJWQC):

On 5 March, 3 April, 17 April, and 1 May 2012 staff met with the SSJWQC to discuss development of the long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Topics of discussion included possible requirements of the upcoming waste discharge requirements and monitoring reporting program. Additional meetings are scheduled for the 24th and 29th of May 2012. The release of the interested party review draft is scheduled for the end of June.

Westlands Coalition:

On 15 March, staff met with Westlands Coalition to discuss reporting requirements of the upcoming ILRP Waste Discharge Requirements General Order.

Grasslands Bypass Project:

Staff are scheduled to meet with representatives of the US Bureau of Reclamation and San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority on 11 June 2012 to discuss the GBP WDRs and MRP. Prior to the meeting, staff will provide the GBP representatives with a working draft set of requirements for discussion purposes.

Sacramento River Watershed WDRs (excluding rice):

On 24 April 2012 staff met with the Sacramento Valley Coalition to discuss the process for developing WDRs for the Sacramento River Watershed (excluding rice). A follow-up discussion to this initial planning meeting was scheduled for 31 May 2012. Staff will begin drafting the WDRs in May 2012. Interested party review of the Draft WDRs is scheduled to begin in November of this year.

Enforcement

California Water Code section 13260 & 13267 Orders, & Notices of Violation:

In April 2012, ILRP staff mailed 19 and 62 CWC §13267 Orders to landowners in

San Joaquin County and Lake County, respectively. These Orders were issued to landowners who first received an outreach postcard and subsequently did not respond.

Exemption Claim Inspections:

In March and April 2012, ILRP staff completed 14 and 7 inspections, respectively, to verify landowner exemption claims to the ILRP. Landowners can respond to ILRP staff's postcards or 13267 Orders by claiming their land is not used for agriculture, not irrigated, or that it has no irrigation tail water or storm water runoff (no waste discharges to surface waters). These claims create a need for verification inspections. Staff verified that the lands associated with 20 of these inspections were exempt from regulatory coverage under the ILRP. Staff determined that one landowner needs to apply for coalition coverage for his property.

Outreach

In March 2012, ILRP staff mailed 42 postcards to non-participating landowners in the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition area; and in May 2012, staff mailed 34 postcards to non-participating landowners in the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition area. ILRP staff screened these landowners' parcels using aerial photography to target agricultural operations with the potential to discharge waste to surface waters.

Coalition Groups

California Rice Commission (CRC):

On 2 April 2012, the California Rice Commission (CRC) was sent the Water Board staff review of the 2011 AMR. The letter and 2011 AMR have been posted to the ILRP website.

In a letter dated 3 February 2012, the CRC requested termination of the Propanil Management Plan that the CRC voluntarily submitted. The Executive Officer approved the termination on 9 March 2012. The CRC has agreed to continue the grower and applicator outreach implemented as part of the management plan.

Monitoring for the 2012 Rice Pesticides Program (RPP) and ILRP monitoring have been delayed by weather. Monitoring will be delayed by at least 1-2 weeks.

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition:

On 7 February 2012, the Executive Officer approved the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition 28 December 2012 Yori Grove Drain at East Taylor Road site removal request. The Coalition provided enough evidence that the Yori Grove Drain site was affected by urban influence and not representative of agriculture in the area.

On 1 March 2012, staff held the 14th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, and potential monitoring site and schedule revisions.

On 1 March 2012, staff received the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The review of the AMR is underway.

On 27 March 2012, the Executive Officer sent a letter to the East San Joaquin water Quality Coalition and Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition outlining changes in the 2012 TMDL monitoring schedule. The TMDL monitoring at compliance points in the San Joaquin River is required monthly from May to August in 2012.

On 2 April 2012, staff received the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Annual Management Plan Update Report (MPUR). Staff is reviewing the MPUR and preparing comments.

On 12 April 2012, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) requested to revise its monitoring schedule. The Coalition requested to remove Duck Slough at Highway 99 from the Coalition's monitoring program due to construction at the site. The Executive Officer approved the Coalition's request on April 26 2012, and monitoring will continue at a downstream location.

On 16 April 2012, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition requested to reduce monitoring in 2012. The Executive Officer approved the Coalition's request to modify core, assessment and management plan monitoring. The approved revisions require amendments to the Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan in 2012.

On 30 April 2012, staff received the 2012 Annual Monitoring Report for the San Joaquin Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL Compliance Monitoring prepared jointly by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. Staff is reviewing the report and preparing comments.

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC):

On 29 February 2012, the SVWQC submitted a request to modify monitoring requirements for water bodies in the upper watersheds of the Coalition area by reducing overlap of monitoring events with the SWAMP program. These requirements were amended and approved by the Executive Officer on 13 April 2012.

Staff reviews of Source Evaluation Reports for Management Plans on seven waterways in the Sacramento River Watershed were completed. A letter and memorandum went out to the Coalition on 16 April 2012 detailing the next steps for

each of the affected Management Plans.

On 13 April 2012 the SVWQC submitted a request to extend the Pilot Watershed Management Plan projects. These projects, which substitute management practice implementation and verification for most water quality monitoring requirements, have been in place in two subwatersheds for almost two years. With an approval letter from the Executive Officer, these projects have been extended until the new WDR Order for the Sacramento River Watershed is in place.

Staff attended the SVWQC Quarterly meeting on 25 April 2012. Regional Board member Bob Schneider introduced himself and spoke about the work of the Board to Coalition members from all the SVWQC subwatershed groups.

Staff received the 2012 SVWQC Annual Monitoring Report on 12 March 2012. This report is under review.

The SVWQC Management Plan Progress Report was received on 6 April 2012 and is currently under review.

On 19 April 2012, staff received requests from the Coalition to deem three Management Plans complete. These include *Ceriodaphnia* toxicity in Cache Creek, *Ceriodaphnia* and *Hyaella* toxicity in Stony Creek and *Hyaella* toxicity in the Cosumnes River. These requests are under review.

On 26 April 2012, staff received a Pine Creek status update report from the Coalition outlining actions taken since a series of chlorpyrifos exceedances in that water body in the summer of 2011.

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition:

On 1 March 2012, staff held the 14th quarterly meeting with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, TMDL monitoring and potential monitoring site revisions.

On 1 March 2012, staff received the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition Annual Monitoring Report. Staff is reviewing and preparing comments.

On 22 March 2012, the Executive Officer approved the 6 January 2012 San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition request to consider Duck Creek at Highway 4 (pH, diazinon, and Selenastrum toxicity) and French Camp Slough at Airport Way (dieldrin) sites Management Plans complete.

On 1 April 2012, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted their 2012 Management Plan Update Report. The MPUR is under Staff review and will be posted on the Central Valley Water Board website.

On 17 April 2012, the Executive Officer approved the 6 January San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition request to consider Grant Line Canal at Clifton Court Road 4 (copper and lead), Mokelumne River at Bruella Road (dissolved oxygen and copper), and Terminous Tract Drain at Highway 12 (Pimephales promelas and Selenastrum capricornutum) sites Management Plans complete.

On 27 April 2012, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition proposed to update its current monitoring program to include four new chlorpyrifos and diazinon Total Maximum Daily Load compliance monitoring locations. The compliance points must be representative of the Delta Waterways. The request is under review.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJWWQC):

Management Plans for high-priority parameters have been submitted by each of the four sub-watersheds within the SSJWWQC. Some required Management Plans for lower-priority parameters have yet to be submitted. The submitted Management Plans are currently under review.

Westside Coalition:

On 22 March 2012, the Executive Officer approved the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition's 9 March 2012 request to update special project monitoring. Four sites were eliminated from monitoring because of frequent dryness and two sites added metals, toxicity, and pesticide monitoring.

On 23 March 2012, staff completed the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Semi Annual Monitoring Report (SAMR) Review. Staff identified items that will need to be addressed in an addendum to the SAMR.

On 27 March 2012, the Executive Officer sent a letter to the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition outlining changes in the 2012 TMDL monitoring schedule. The TMDL monitoring at compliance points in the San Joaquin River is required monthly from May to August in 2012.

On 30 April 2012, staff received the 2012 Annual Monitoring Report for the San Joaquin Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL Compliance Monitoring prepared jointly by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. Staff is reviewing the report and preparing comments.

On 2 May 2012, staff held a quarterly meeting with the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plans and performance goals.

Data Management

Data reports received through 1 March 2012 are currently being prepared for loading into a California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). At this time, 62 reports have been successfully processed and loaded into the CEDEN comparable database. Thirty-six of those reports have been finalized and transferred to CEDEN for public access. An additional 14 reports have recently undergone a final verification and will be transferred to CEDEN by July 2012. The next round of data reports is due from the Coalitions in June 2012.

At this time, all the Coalitions have received an initial feedback package for their most recent electronic data deliverable (EDD). Feedback packages were developed to serve as real-time communication from Staff to assist the Coalitions with the review and formatting of datasets prior to submission. All new data submissions have been reviewed against the checklist provided to the Coalitions in their initial feedback packages. A follow-up feedback checklist has been provided to the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and Westlands Storm Water Coalition (respectively) identifying areas of progress and areas of persistent or new issues. Future data submittals requiring extensive corrections will be returned to the Coalition for revision. After the data is successfully processed and loaded, the Coalition will be provided with a query of the data as it appears in the database.

In coordination with the CV RDC, ILRP staff is planning to hold a data management workshop on 28 June 2012. The workshop will begin with a brief status update, overview of the ILRP data processing procedures and expectations for Coalitions and laboratories presented by ILRP staff. Following the ILRP staff presentation will be a training module presented by the CV RDC for the web-based data checker. The data checker provides an online real-time tool to review data electronic data submissions for adherence to the formatting and business rules required for CEDEN comparability. The CV RDC will also be introducing their updated webpage which contains various tools and information for further comparability assistance.

Prop 84 Grant Funding

The Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) is providing project management for the Prop 84 grant. Ten projects have now been completed and invoiced under the grant program. Those receiving grant funds are required to provide a 50% match for their project. The Advisory Selection Committee met on 12 March 2012 and approved projects from the second round of applications. Approved applicants are now submitting landowner/grower contracts and other required documents to CURES. A request to extend the grant funding for two years is now being processed. Extension of the grant funding will allow a third round of applications to be processed. The [CURES website](#) has photos of the completed projects.