

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

February 2015

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) report covers up through the month of February 2015 and will provide an update on the activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) ILRP as provided by the Regional Water Board February 5 – 6, 2015 Executive Officer report. Future monthly reports will alternate between the status of the ILRP from the Central Valley Regional Water Board for one month, and the status of other Regional Water Board ILRPs for the alternate month. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the [State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) website.

STATE WATER BOARD

On February 3, 2015, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) staff participated in meeting with the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS) to discuss ongoing efforts to develop a more formal partnership between our agencies to provide technical services and resources to assist growers comply with regulatory requirements and to develop water quality improvement demonstration projects.

On February 10, 2015, ILRP staff participated in a joint meeting with CDFA staff. The meeting is part of ongoing efforts to advance partnership between our agencies as required by the State Water Board/CDFA MOU. Topics of discussion included: Introduction Updates; FREP's research priority topics for 2015; Current and future demonstration projects.

On February 11, 2015, ILRP staff presented an update to the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance on the State Water Board ILRP.

On February 13, 2015, ILRP staff participated in a State Water Board Fee Schedule public meeting.

On February 24-25, 2015, ILRP staff attended a nutrient management plan certification workshop presented by the Certified Crop Advisors, CDFA, and University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Nitrogen Management Plan Template:

On December 23, 2014, the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) Executive Officer issued the final Nitrogen Management Plan Template (including instructions) to the Agricultural Water Quality Coalitions. The third-party representatives will distribute the template to coalition members. Members will use the

template to fulfill the applicable requirements of the General Order governing discharge from irrigated lands. The [template and instructions](#) are available online.

Compliance & Outreach:

East San Joaquin Agricultural Parcel Inspections

In December 2014, Regional Water Board ILRP staff inspected about 200 parcels in the East San Joaquin River Watershed. The purpose of these inspections is to determine if the parcels are commercial irrigated lands that require coverage under an Irrigated Lands General Order. Data gathered during these inspections will be used to focus and prioritize the issuance of 13260 directives to commercial irrigated lands that are not covered by the applicable Irrigated Lands General Order.

Tulare Lake Basin Agricultural Parcel Inspections

In November and December 2014, Regional Water Board ILRP staff inspected 130 parcels in the Kings River Water Quality Coalition area, 86 parcels in the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association area, and 50 parcels in the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition. Information gathered during the inspections was used to determine which parcels require coverage under the applicable Tulare Lake Basin General Order.

Tulare Lake Basin Water Code section 13260 Directives

In November and December 2014, Regional Water Board ILRP staff issued 82 Directives to growers in the Kings River Water Quality Coalition area, 47 Directives to growers in the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association area, and 19 Directives to growers in the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition area. These directives were sent based on Regional Water Board staff inspections which confirmed the presence of irrigated agricultural operations. The recipients are required to obtain regulatory coverage for the identified parcels within 15 days of receipt of the Directive.

East San Joaquin Notices of Violation for Failure to respond to a Water Code section 13260 Directive

In January 2015, Regional Water Board ILRP staff mailed 63 Notices of Violation (NOVs) to landowners who failed to respond to a 13260 Directive. These owners of commercial irrigated lands (as determined by Regional Water Board staff inspection) were previously mailed directives that required the recipients to submit proof of coalition membership or a Notice of Intent to get regulatory coverage. The NOVs give the recipients 15 days to respond or face administrative civil liability.

Coalitions:

California Rice Commission

On November 19, 2014, Regional Water Board staff received the rice-specific draft Nitrogen Management Plan template for Executive Officer (EO) review and approval. On November 24, 2014, Regional Water Board staff received the draft Farm Evaluation Template for EO review and approval. Both templates are required by General Order R5-2014-0032 and are being reviewed by Regional Water Board staff. On January 9,

2015, Regional Water Board staff posted the California Rice Commission's (CRC) proposed Farm Evaluation template online for public review and comment. The proposed template is web-based and specific to rice operations. Comments are due by January 23, 2015, to be considered prior to the Executive Officer decision on the proposed template.

On December 22, 2014, the California Rice Commission submitted its 2014 Annual Monitoring Report for rice growers in the Sacramento Valley. Regional Water Board staff review of the report will be posted when completed.

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC)

On October 30, 2014, the Final Templates for Farm Evaluation and Wetland Evaluation were issued to the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition). The final templates satisfy the requirements of the General Order and serve to collect information consistently across irrigated agricultural and wetland areas in a cost-effective manner.

On November 13, 2014, Regional Water Board staff held a quarterly meeting with the Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals and status of other activities in progress.

On November 20, 2014, Regional Water Board staff held a conference call with the Coalition and representatives from the Goose Lake Resource Conservation District to discuss the monitoring requirements of Order R5-2014-0030. Surface monitoring options were discussed, including the Reduced Monitoring / Management Practices Verification Option. The Coalition is to prepare a monitoring proposal for Goose Lake which will be evaluated by staff for compliance with the Order.

On December 1, 2014, the Coalition electronically submitted 2nd quarter 2014 field results, wet chemistry, and toxicity data. The Regional Water Board received the remaining required support documents (field logs, lab reports, and chain-of-custodies) on CD-ROM on December 3, 2014. The data report is currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

On December 17, 2014, Regional Water Board staff held a meeting with the Coalition to discuss the Coon Hollow Legacy Organochlorine Pesticides Management Plan Completion Request. Points of discussion included documentation of the high degree of management practices already implemented and the possibility of combining the completion request with that for North Canyon Creek.

On January 12, 2015, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued a conditional approval of the Coalition's 2015 Monitoring Plan Update. The conditions include 1) submission of a proposed monitoring schedule for the Goose Lake Subwatershed by February 27, 2015 and 2) re-evaluation of the potential need for beta-cyfluthrin monitoring at the Pit River monitoring site within 60 days of the issuance of the required pesticide monitoring selection process. All other elements of the plan are consistent with WDR Order requirements.

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (ESJWQC)

On November 5, 2014, the ESJWQC submitted the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) Addendum in response to staff review and comments outlined in the Conditional Approval Letter. After confirming that the GAR and Addendum address all requirements in the conditional approval letter, the EO issued a final approval letter on December 24, 2014. The final date for submittal of the ESJWQC's Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plan is February 23, 2015.

On November 19, 2014, the ESJWQC requested to update the management plan performance goals and measures scheduled for seven priority subwatersheds. Regional Water Board staff reviewed the request and drafted a response letter for EO review and approval. Approval of performance goals and measures will not affect subsequent management plan milestones.

On December 5, 2014, the ESJWQC submitted the revised Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR). Following discussion with staff regarding the methodology that the Coalition will use to designate areas at risk for erosion and sediment discharge, the Coalition revised its SDEAR and submitted the revised report on December 12, 2014. The report is currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

On December 12, 2014, the EO issued a letter to ESJWQC requesting shapefile data used to create figures 1-3 of the GAR Addendum. This data will enable Regional Water Board staff and interested parties to confirm that the coalition is prioritizing areas near the disadvantaged communities (DACs). The relevant shapefiles must be provided to Regional Water Board staff by January 12, 2015.

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (SJCDWQC)

On October 31, 2014, the SJCDWQC submitted a letter concerning the scheduled October 2014 monitoring at Rindge Tract Drain and West Orwood Tract Drain within the Coalition Area. The letter discussed two points of concern: Monitoring site access issues and a more representative site location than the current location to represent the Orwood Tract. The request is under Regional Water Board staff review.

On December 8, 2014, Regional Water Board staff attended the SJCDWQC Steering Committee meeting held in Stockton. Items for discussion included Farm Evaluation status, Ground Water Assessment Report preparation, nitrogen certification program funding, and access to sampling sites. Several other topics were also discussed.

On December 22, 2014, Regional Water Board staff held a meeting with the Coalition to discuss comments on the SJCDWQC Groundwater Assessment Report Outline. Regional Water Board staff also provided clarification of comments, as needed. The Coalition and Regional Water Board staff agreed that early review of the draft GAR would generally be useful.

Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

The Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition submitted the non-irrigation season Semi-Annual Monitoring Report (SAMR) and irrigation season SAMR on June 15, 2014 and November 30, 2014, respectively. These SAMRs are currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

On December 18, 2014, Regional Water Board staff held a quarterly meeting with the Coalition representatives and discussed the Surface Water Quality Management Plan requirements under the General Order R5-2014-0002. The 2015 monitoring plan was also discussed and was due by January 15, 2015. The Coalition updated the outreach activities.

Buena Vista Coalition

On November 26, 2014, a review of the Surface Water Monitoring Plan submitted by the Buena Vista Coalition was provided to the coalition. The review requires changes to the plan before it can be deemed complete. A revised submittal is required by February 6, 2015.

On December 10, 2014, Regional Water Board staff met with the Buena Vista Coalition to discuss the process for determining vulnerability as required by Order R5-2014-0143.

Cawelo Water District Coalition

On December 29, 2014, a review of the Surface Water Monitoring Plan submitted by the Cawelo Water District Coalition was provided to the coalition. The review requires changes to the plan before it can be deemed complete. A revised submittal is required by March 2, 2015.

On December 30, 2014, Regional Water Board staff met with the Cawelo Water District Coalition to discuss the process for determining vulnerability as required by Order R5-2014-0143.

Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association

On December 12, 2014, Regional Water Board staff met with the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association to discuss the process for determining vulnerability as required by Order R5-2014-0143.

On December 29, 2014, a review of the Surface Water Monitoring Plan submitted by the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association was provided to the coalition. The review requires changes to the plan before it can be deemed complete. A revised submittal is required by March 2, 2015.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority

On December 1, 2014, a review of the Surface Water Monitoring Plan submitted by the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority was provided to the coalition. The review requires changes to the plan before it can be deemed complete. A revised

submittal is required by February 2, 2015.

On December 19, 2014, Regional Water Board staff met with the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority to discuss the process for determining vulnerability as required by Order R5-2014-0143.

Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority

On December 15, 2014, Regional Water Board staff met with the Kings River Water Quality Coalition area to discuss the process for determining vulnerability as required by Order R5-2014-0143.

Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition

On December 5, 2014, a review of the Surface Water Monitoring Plan submitted by the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition was provided to the coalition. The review requires changes to the plan before it can be deemed complete. A revised submittal is required by February 9, 2015.

On December 15, 2014, Regional Water Board staff met with the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition to discuss the process for determining vulnerability as required by Order R5-2014-0143.

Westside Water Quality Coalition

On December 19, 2014, Regional Water Board staff met with the Westside Water Quality Coalition to discuss the process for determining vulnerability as required by Order R5-2014-0143.

Data Management:

Regional Water Board staff is currently processing the Westside San Joaquin Watershed Coalition and Buena Vista Coalition data. Delays have been recognized due to Regional Water Board staff transitions. Once complete, these sets will complement the existing data on CEDEN providing all the data submitted by the Coalition since program inception. The current goal is to complete and load to CEDEN by end of January 2015.

Rice Pesticides Program:

On December 19, 2014, the California Rice Commission submitted the draft 2014 Rice Pesticides Program (RPP) report as required by order R5-2010-2001. The report has been sent to RPP stakeholders for comment. The final 2014 RPP report and CRC recommendations for the 2015 season will be posted when received.

Pesticide Evaluation Advisory Workgroup:

The Waste Discharge Requirements for irrigated lands include requirements to monitor pesticides in surface water, which are to be identified as part of a process developed by the Regional Water Board staff with input from qualified scientists and in coordination with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). A Pesticide

Evaluation Advisory Workgroup was formed, and meetings were held on July 9, August 5, September 25, October 16, December 16, 2014 and January 27, 2015. The Workgroup has developed a preliminary pesticides prioritization process. [Additional Workgroup information](#) is available on the Region 5 website.

Prop 84 Grant Funding:

To date, sixty-nine projects of the approved 87 projects have been completed and invoiced. Outstanding projects are to be completed by December 31, 2014 and invoiced in January 2015 for payment.

On December 12, 2014, Regional Water Board staff received the draft report on the sediment erosion model required as part of the tasks for the grant. The report is currently undergoing peer review.

The [CURES website](#) has additional information on the Prop 84 funding and photos of completed projects.