Irrigated Lands Update

EXPANDING REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWERS

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What’s Required of Irrigated Agriculture

- Demonstrate farming operations are protective of surface quality.

- Monitor and report exceedances of water quality objectives.

- Implement Management Plan when two exceedances in a 3 year period occur of any water quality parameter.

- Comply with Basin Plan Amendments and TMDLs where irrigated agriculture “causes or contributes” to water quality exceedances.
Surface Water Quality Monitored under the Conditional Waiver

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

- 1.2 million acres enrolled under the Conditional Waiver
- Monitoring Results 2004-2012:

- Results below WQTL, 96%
  - n > 35,000

- Exceedances
  - Toxics 10.0%
  - Metals 9.5%
  - Pesticides 11.9%
  - Salts, pathogens, physical 68.5%
Management Plans in the Sacramento River Watershed

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

- Pathogen Indicators: 32
- Registered Pesticides: 11
- Legacy Pesticides: 7
- Toxicity: 10
- Trace Metals: 3
- Salinity: 20
- DO and pH: 34
Expanded Focus/New Requirements

- New Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) and Monitoring Reporting Program (MRP) have groundwater quality component

- New grower and Coalition reporting requirements

- Identify areas where groundwater quality is impacted by developing a Groundwater Quality Assessment Report

- Trend Monitoring - baseline

- Monitoring/Management Practices Effectiveness Program
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

- Conditional Waiver
- Conditional Waiver Update and Renewal
- Program EIR for the Long-Term Program Certified

- Surface water only
- Coalition groups
- 25,000 growers enrolled / 5 million acres

Today
Three Orders Already Adopted

- 2012: Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed
- 2013: Tulare Lake Basin Area
- 2013: Individual Growers (not members of third-parties)

Five Orders by mid-2014 including the Sacramento River Watershed & Sacramento Valley Rice
Hearing expected in March 2014
New Reporting Requirements of Growers

- Three Types of Reports
  - Farm Evaluation
  - Nitrogen Management
    - Nitrogen Management Summary Report
  - Sediment and Erosion Control
New Reporting Requirements for Coalitions

- Growers summarizes and submit to Farm Evaluation, Nitrogen Management and Sediment and Erosion Control reports to the Coalition.

- Coalition summarizes reports on Township level submits to Regional Board.

- Format of Nitrogen Management Plan reporting still being worked out.

GAR Objectives

- Collect groundwater quality and farm management practice data.
- Designate areas that are vulnerable to groundwater quality impacts.
- Identify data gaps that prevent determination of vulnerability designations.
- Develop recommendations for groundwater quality monitoring (well locations, parameters).
- Develop recommendations and priorities for implementation of Management Practice Evaluation Plans (MPEPs).
What's at Stake for Irrigated Lands

- Irrigated Lands must comply with Basin Plan Amendments and TMDLs
- New Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and Monitoring Reporting Program (MRP) Order include groundwater quality monitoring and protection
- SB X 2
  - UC Davis Nitrate Report
- CDFA Task Force on reporting and tracking
- State Board Expert Panel and Advisory Group

Timeline for Third-party Requirements

- **Group MPEP Workplan**
  - Management Practices Evaluation Program (Group)
- **Groundwater Quality Management Plan**
- **Groundwater Assessment Report**
- **Trend Monitoring Workplan**
- **Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report**

- **2014**: Member enrollment / outreach
- **2015**: Outline
- **2016**: Trend Monitoring Workplan
- **2017**: Group MPEP Workplan
The Sacramento River Watershed

Nitrate Results in the GAMA database 2000-2012

Explanation
Max. nitrate result per section, mg/l
- < 1/2 the MCL (22.5)
- between 22.5 - 45
- > the MCL (45)
Nitrogen Management Plan Requirements

- Two levels of reporting based on vulnerability
  - Certification varies with vulnerability

- Management Plan Summary of High Vulnerability Areas
Timeline for Member Requirements

Nitrogen Management Plan

Extended timelines:
- Small Operations (<60 acres)
- Low Vulnerability

Large farms in high vulnerability

Small in high vulnerability

Low vulnerability

2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018
Why the Focus on Groundwater Quality
Focus of Nitrate Discussions

- CV SALTS Basin Plan Amendment Process
- SB X 2 1 UC Davis Study of Tulare Lake and Salinas Valley
- State Water Resources Control Board Recommendations to the Legislature
  - CDFA Task Force
  - State Water Board Expert Panel
- State Water Board’s *Groundwater Workplan Concept Paper*
- Legislature – Funding source to provide Drinking Water to Disadvantaged Communities
IAZ Prioritization for NO3-N (10 mg/L)

Three IAZs exceed ranking criteria for NO₃-N
Three Dimensional View of an IAZ
Questions and More Information


- For information on the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition [http://www.svwqc.org/](http://www.svwqc.org/)