

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
APRIL 5, 2011**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM: REGULATORY PROGRAM FOR DAIRIES IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION TO PROTECT GROUNDWATER QUALITY

DISCUSSION

This is an information item to summarize Central Valley Water Board efforts to regulate dairies. Central Valley Water Board staff will present a brief review of how dairies in the region have been historically regulated, status of the current program, and anticipated future activities. Emphasis will be on permitting activities and efforts to protect water quality.

The Central Valley Region regulates over 1400 dairies. The majority of these dairies are covered under the Order No. R5-2007-0035 (Waste Discharge Requirements for Existing Milk Cow Dairies) that was adopted in May of 2007. Implementation of this general order was phased in over several years due to the magnitude of the requirements. These requirements include preparation of nutrient management plans to direct application of manure to cropland, waste management plans for containment of manure until such time as it can be appropriately applied to crops, and groundwater monitoring to confirm that management practices being implemented are protective of water quality. The Central Valley Water Board also adopted Order No. R5-2010-0118 (General Waste Discharge Requirements and General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Existing Milk Cow Dairy Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) and Order No. R5-2010-0130 (General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dairies with Anaerobic Digester or Co-Digester Facilities) in December of 2010. In addition, Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2007-0035 was revised in February 2011 to allow alternatives to every dairy monitoring first encountered groundwater.

POLICY ISSUE

None. – Informational Item only

FISCAL IMPACT

None. – Informational Item only

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. – Informational Item only