

ITEM:

SUBJECT: Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands

BOARD ACTION *Information Report – No Board Action*

BACKGROUND This Information Report provides an overview of program elements and their current status, including the staff reviews of the Coalition Group AMRs. Of the nine Coalition Groups and seven individuals that are enrolled in the program, seven Coalition Groups and five individuals submitted AMRs, which contain a significant volume of material. Thus, it will take some time for staff to conduct a complete review of the AMRs.

Besides the AMR reviews, this Report discusses the following issues:

- *Environmental Impact Report for a long-term Irrigated Lands Water Quality Regulatory Program.* A contractor has been selected and a contract is being process by the State Board and work is expected to start by 1 July 2005.
- *Conditional Waiver Extensions.* Both Waivers expire on 31 December 2005, and Regional Board staff propose extending the expirations dates to 1 July 2007. Staff will be meeting with various stakeholders in June and plan to circulate a proposed waiver extension for public comment in early summer.
- *“Low Threat” Conditional Waiver.* This would address impacts from small or rural growers. Staff plan to meet with various stakeholders during Summer 2005, with the goal of circulating a draft proposal for public comment in the Fall.
- *Monitoring and Reporting Program Revisions.* Regional Board staff circulated for public comment draft revisions, which include changes to management practice language, clarification of communication reports, a toxicity level to trigger a toxicity identification evaluation, and others. Comments are due by 17 June.
- *Public Outreach.* Regional Board staff are continuing the extensive education and outreach effort to get program information to growers and to increase member participation in coalition groups.
- *Compliance.* Regional Board staff will follow up on the 88 Section 13267 letters sent in early March 2005. Some growers responded that they do not discharge, and staff will conduct field inspections. In addition, staff plan to identify non-participating growers in other parts of the Region.

Mgmt. Review

Legal Review

23-24 June 2005

State Water Resources Control board / Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Joint Board Meeting

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814