

ITEM: 24

SUBJECT: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Focused Update

BOARD ACTION: *Information Item Only*

BACKGROUND: The following two issues will be discussed as a part of the information item.

1. Distance Learning Alternative

Growers regulated by the Board's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) are required to participate in third-party outreach events at least annually if any of the member parcels are in a designated high vulnerability area for surface water or groundwater. The goal of attending third-party outreach events is to become informed of water quality problems and the management practices that are available to address those issues.

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition requested that growers be allowed to comply with their annual outreach requirement in a manner similar to distance learning. Distance learning is a commonly used approach for delivering education and instruction to persons who are not physically in attendance. It is anticipated that other third-party groups will be interested in alternative means for complying with the outreach attendance requirement. Staff will discuss and receive Board direction on distance learning options for disseminating information, and requirements for verifying and documenting growers' fulfillment of the outreach requirement for the ILRP.

2. Disadvantaged Communities and Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

Third-parties may prioritize the areas designated as high vulnerability to comply with the requirements of the ILRP Orders, including conducting monitoring programs and carrying out required studies. When establishing priorities for high vulnerability areas for groundwater, a very important element is identification of Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs). While there is general agreement on the definition of DUCs, different tools are available for delineating DACs. Staff will discuss tools for identification of DACs and the approach currently taken by the ILRP.

RECOMMENDATION This is an information item only.

Mgmt. Review SYM  
Legal Review PEP  
4/5 June 2015  
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