

**15/16 OCTOBER 2020 BOARD MEETING  
CONTESTED ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 9**

**SUBJECT:**

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM GROUNDWATER PROTECTION  
FORMULA UPDATE

**BOARD ACTION:**

Information Item Only

**BACKGROUND:**

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff will provide an update to the Board on current progress toward the development of a Groundwater Protection Formula. In its review of the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed General WDRs (WQ 2018-0002) the State Water Resources Control Board directed the development of a Groundwater Protection Formula, which will be used to compute Groundwater Protection Values and Targets for incorporation into existing Groundwater Quality Management Plans. As an initial step in this process third-party groups (Coalitions) within the region have proposed a methodology for developing township-specific root zone percolation and nitrate leaching estimates (Groundwater Protection Values) using the Central Valley Soil and Water Assessment Tool (CV-SWAT) model.

The proposal was made available for public comment. One joint letter submitted by American Rivers and the Environmental Law Foundation supported the use of the CV-SWAT model but expressed concern regarding the completeness of the proposed formula, its approach for accounting for land use changes, and the transparency and public accessibility of the data used within the formula. A second joint comment letter submitted by the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Community Water Center, and Clean Water Action also supported the use of the CV-SWAT model but requested more information on how model calibration will be continuously improved, how the formula will relate to Groundwater Protection Values and Targets, and how local impacts may be identified and mitigated.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Not applicable

**REVIEWS:**

|                    |               |                   |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Management Review: | Sue McConnell | 16 September 2020 |
| Legal Review:      | Jessica Jahr  | 17 September 2020 |

**BOARD MEETING LOCATION:**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

***Internet Zoom Meeting***