

Long-term Program Alternative Development Template	
Author(s)	Westlands Water District
Supporting Interest Group(s)	Westlands Water District landowners
Executive Summary	<p>The Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) preferred alternative will achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards and objectives in a flexible, efficient, and cost-effective manner by tailoring program requirements to specific conditions in each covered area, utilizing a combination of standard-based and plan-based programs implemented through third-party entities representing coalitions of individual dischargers, and a combination of conditional waivers, waste discharge requirements, and conditional prohibitions.</p>
Statement of Purpose/ Objectives	<p>Statement of Purpose: The ILRP will protect water quality by reducing discharges of waste and by providing an efficient, flexible, cost-effective program to regulate discharges of waste from irrigated lands that cause or contribute to exceedances of applicable water quality standards or conditions of pollution or nuisance (as defined in Water Code Section 13050).</p> <p>Goals and Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards. 2. Achieve and maintain water quality objectives and beneficial uses for individual receiving waters. 3. Prevent nuisance. 4. Allow for flexible and efficient implementation of waste discharge requirements and/or conditional waivers as determined by the particular conditions specific to receiving waters within regions, watersheds, or on individual agricultural operations.
Program Type	Surface and Groundwater.

Application of Alternative	The ILRP would regulate discharges to waters of the state from “irrigated lands,” as defined in Regional Board Order No. R5-2006-0053, Attachment A.
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Program Organization (select one element and provide details)

Element	Description
Tailored	<p>The ILRP will maximize flexibility and efficiency by tailoring the program requirements to specific conditions in each covered region. Program requirements will be tailored in order to achieve compliance with water quality standards and objectives for particular receiving waters, the actual beneficial uses of the receiving waters, geographic conditions, and other regional conditions.</p> <p>A tailored approach is the only way to achieve the goals of the ILRP without creating potentially insurmountable administrative burdens on Regional Board staff, the implementing coalitions, and individual operators.</p>

Core Requirements (select one element and provide details)

Element	Description
Standard+Plan-based	<p>The ILRP will utilize a combination of standard-based and plan-based programs in order to achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards and objectives. Where appropriate, the Regional Board may establish specific enforceable standards to protect beneficial uses in receiving waters, and establish monitoring protocols.</p> <p>More often, however, individual operators and lead entities will develop and implement water quality management plans to meet the program goals. These plans will be developed on a by the lead entities, based on the specific conditions within each watershed or region.</p>

Lead Entity (select one element and provide details)	
Element	Description
3 rd Party	The ILRP will be implemented by third-party entities representing individual dischargers. Third-party entities may be coalitions, commodity groups, special districts, etc. Although the third-party entities do not qualify as “persons discharging waste” under Water Code Section 13260 (unless those entities actually discharge waste to waters of the state), they will act as the “Discharger” under the WDR and/or Conditional Waiver.
Monitoring (select one element and provide details)	
Element	Description
Watershed-based/regional	Monitoring and reporting programs must be tailored to the specific conditions in each region, based on the qualities of the discharges and the receiving waters. Monitoring programs may include periodic sampling from surface runoff or groundwater wells, monitoring and sampling of drainage flows and treatment outflows, where such facilities are present, regular inspection and maintenance of treatment systems, and adaptive management of collection, treatment, and disposal programs. However, monitoring programs must be narrowly focused to cover only those constituents for which there is demonstrable need in a particular receiving water or region.

Implementation Mechanism (select one element and provide details)	
Element	Description
Combination-Waiver/WDRs/Conditional Prohibition	The ILRP will use a combination of conditional waivers, waste discharge requirements, and conditional prohibitions, as appropriate under circumstances in each watershed or region. For example, where surface drainage is minimal but drainage to groundwater is more substantial, the implementing entity (i.e., water district) may obtain a conditional waiver for surface drainage and waste discharge requirements for discharges to groundwater.

