

Meeting Notes

March 6, 2012 10:00 AM

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Office
344 East Laurel, Willows CA

Appropriate Beneficial Uses for Agricultural Drains Receiving NPDES Discharges

Attendees:

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID)

Bill Menke
Ben Pennock

Central Valley Water Board

Heidi Bauer
Anne Littlejohn
Calvin Yang

City of Willows

Greg Tyhurst

Southwest Water Company (manages City of Willows treatment plant)

Skyler Lipski

Meeting Objectives:

- Provide a brief background on the project
- Identify key participants and/or contacts
- Review hydrology and water management in the study area
- Review monitoring sites and accessibility

Meeting Summary

1. Background

- a. A brief background on the current project was provided covering:
 - i. POTW discharges to Ag. drains, MUN designation via Basin Plan's interpretation of the Drinking Water Policy, resulting economic implications to small communities
 - GCID staff confirmed that they had no knowledge of MUN use in their district.
 - ii. CV-SALTS stake in the project – CV-SALTS has a parallel process in place to review MUN designation in agricultural drains within the POTW watersheds as

archetypes for developing templates for similar reviews in other areas of the Central Valley.

- b. The initial study will lead to a broader analysis of the appropriate beneficial uses in the Central Valley's agriculturally dominated water bodies

2. Identify key participants and/or contracts

- a. Bill Menke is to be the primary contact at GCID, with Ben Pennock serving as a secondary contact.
- b. No other entities were identified as potential participants

3. Hydrology and Water Management

- a. GCID provided confirmation of Central Valley Water Board's map of Ag. Drain C and Lateral 26-2 near the City of Willows treatment plant. A current GCID map was reviewed as well as a map from the 1920's, soon after GCID's formation. City of Willows is permitted to release effluent to either receiving water body. The primary receiving water body over the last few years has been Ag. Drain C.
- b. GCID is the largest irrigation district in the Sacramento Valley and its area covers approximately 175,000 acres. In the area downstream of the City of Willows treatment plant, GCID provides water to area farms (primarily rice) and to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge.
 - i. Lateral 26-2 runs south after passing the treatment plant providing water to cropland to the east and west, as well as the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge to the southeast. Channels C-11 and C-4 (and their associated arms) enter the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge from at the northwest corner. Lateral 26-2 continues south to Hunter Creek.
 - ii. Ag. Drain C is a constructed extension of the North Fork of Logan Creek. It meanders southeast after the treatment plant and goes through the eastern portion of the Sacramento Refuge where there is a confluence with the C-11 and C-4 channels. The C-4 channel is also known as Logan Creek within the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. After its confluence with C-4, Ag. Drain C becomes Logan Creek and leaves the refuge at the southeast corner.
 - iii. Hunter Creek runs along the south end of the refuge. Water leaving the refuge or the land parcels on the west side of the refuge will ultimately end up in Logan or Hunter creeks, which may then flow to the Colusa Basin Drain or be diverted to parcels south of Hunter Creek. Water is

also diverted to the Delevan Wildlife Refuge. There is a weir on Logan Creek where it meets the Western Canal, prior to its confluence with Hunter Creek, which can be used to divert water directly south to Hunter Creek using gravity drain diversion. There are three gravity drain diversions along Hunter Creek and a district pump to facilitate these water diversions. A flow meter is stationed at the Hunter Creek Weir 3 (acoustic doppler for flow velocities).

- iv. Water from the Colusa Basin Drain may also be diverted south of the City of Colusa at the Davis Weir. Two lift stations (Williams 1, Williams 2) are located along Lateral 64-1 and these systems enable water to be supplied to areas on the western side of the Colusa Basin Drain, including parcels back up to the north.
- v. One of the primary sources of water in GCID is from the Sacramento River at Mile 206, three miles north of Hamilton City. The wildlife refuges also have water rights in the Sacramento River and GCID has a wheeling agreement with them. Other sources of water in the GCID system may include storm water runoff and well water used by local landowners. GCID is not a flood control district.
- vi. GCID confirmed that there have been no changes to the water bodies in this study area that would affect their classification in 1993 for the Inland Water Surface Plan.

4. Review of Monitoring Sites and Accessibility

- a. Monitoring sites from the draft Monitoring Plan were reviewed. The complexity of the system, with the level of re-use and diversion, makes monitoring all possible downstream flow pathways from the treatment plant infeasible. The proportion of water coming from the treatment plant to the GCID water is extremely small. Samples downstream from the treatment plant would be most influenced by agricultural return water.
- b. GCID suggested two possible monitoring locations prior to the Colusa Basin Drain – Logan Creek at Four Mile Road and Hunter Creek at Four Mile Road, a public access road. Other public access roads were reviewed on the GCID aerial map for areas around the Colusa Basin Drain. GCID suggested contacting the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge for access to their land. GCID was willing to accompany Central Valley Water Board staff to the surrounding area if their schedule allowed it.

Action Items for Central Valley Water Board staff:

- *Follow-up with GCID to schedule a field survey day*
- *Contact Sacramento Wildlife Refuge to explore possibility of access to their land and discussion of current water management.*

5. Next Steps

- a. Central Valley Water Board will conduct field reconnaissance by the end of March 2012. Water Quality monitoring will start in April 2012.
- b. GCID will be included in future project meeting correspondence as a stakeholder. Next project meeting tentatively scheduled for April 2012.