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IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEETING NOTES

2 August 2011– MEETING No. 12

ATTENDEES: Chris Jimmerson, Susan Fregien, Melissa Turner, and Parry Klassen.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- (1) ESJ and Westside SJR chlorpyrifos and diazinon TMDL decision tree
- (2) Performance Goals
- (3) Coalition Membership List (added to original agenda)
- (4) ESJ WDR Order
- (5) ESJ MRP Monitoring Design and Strategy Review
- (6) Next Steps

(1) ESJ and Westside San Joaquin River Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL Decision Tree
Outcome: On 19 July, the East San Joaquin and Westside Coalitions provided staff a flow chart regarding decisions that the Coalitions will make in response to TMDL exceedances in the lower San Joaquin River. Staff invited the Coalition to walk through the steps before staff comments on the flow chart (decision tree). Staff informed the Coalition that we intend to meet with the TMDL unit this month to discuss the decision tree and then provide comments back to the Coalition.

Staff informed the Coalition that it will be outlining considerations and criteria for future TMDL water quality monitoring. This will help facilitate future TMDL monitoring discussions with the Coalitions. The discussions should be held in parallel with the developing Order to ensure adequate monitoring data are collected to determine compliance. In the meantime, staff instructed the Coalition to continue to monitor the SJR according to the most recent schedule presented to staff at the May 3, 2011 meeting (3 sites quarterly (ESJ), 3 sites monthly (Westside). In addition, staff agreed that they would be expecting the next TMDL AMR on May 1, 2012 for the 2011 water year (October 2010 to October 2011).

(2) Performance Goals

Outcome: The Coalition provided a hand out reporting its performance goal progress for all three High Priority areas. The Coalition has completed all the performance goals for the 1st and 2nd High Priority Set and will present the findings in the next Management Plan Update Report. The 3rd High Priority Set is on schedule; all growers have been contacted while surveys are still being submitted, returned and recorded.

As part of the outreach, the Coalition mailed a letter to members about the chlorpyrifos TMDL (including chlorpyrifos management practice information) to growers identified as having the potential for direct drainage to the SJR (either growers along the river or those along main tributaries flowing into the SJR). Approximately 1,300 letters were mailed to growers on two separate occasions. Attached to each letter was information produced by Dow AgroSciences discussing chlorpyrifos stewardship to avoid water quality issues. The Coalition continues to conduct one-on-one meetings informing growers of potential problems in the area.

The Coalition reported that in years past, the Madera Irrigation District Canal has received lots of copper applications to eliminate algae in the canals. Although, copper applications of this concentration are not continuing, the copper exceedances currently experienced in Cottonwood Creek may be influenced by past applications. The irrigation district has already discontinued copper applications switching to other products to control algae growth. Fresno office staff will discuss potential discharge points into Cottonwood Creek and may conduct a field visit with the Coalition to identify where agricultural discharge could potentially occur.

The Coalition reported that monitoring results have not indicated any chlorpyrifos exceedances in 2011. However, results for July have not been reported yet and applications of chlorpyrifos tend to be high in July.

(3) Coalition Membership List (added to agenda)

Outcome: The Coalition submitted its July membership list to staff. The Coalition mentioned that there are about 60 growers that did not renew their membership even after repeated contacts to renew. The Compliance and Outreach Unit will reconcile last year's membership list to this year's to determine the dropped members. Once reconciled, the Compliance and Outreach Unit will mail out letters to those growers identified explaining the permit requirements of dischargers. Some non-renewals' could be due to property sell offs.

(4) ESJ WDR Order

Outcome: Staff provided a schedule indicating the Coalition's Order Milestone beginning and end dates. Staff will send out documents for review before the 10 August Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup meeting. The Coalition's boundaries will not be part of the Stakeholder meeting discussion because boundaries are too specific to each Coalition.

(5) ESJ MRP Monitoring Design and Strategy Review

Outcome: Staff is currently developing the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) requirements for the ESJ Order. To help facilitate the MRP development, staff and the Coalition reviewed its representative monitoring strategy. Part of the current monitoring strategy includes periodic monitoring at rotating assessment sites. Staff would like to hold discussions concerning Coalition areas that do not have a monitoring site, as well as the length of time the rotation occurs for some of the rotating monitoring sites as the MRP is developed.

Staff informed the Coalition that there will be a process defined in the MRP to select which pesticides and metals will be monitored under the new Order. The process will be similar to the process used by the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition in their current Order under the current ILRP. Staff indicated that they will email out the Sacramento Valley process

and associated information. Staff indicated that a rough draft of the MRP will be completed by the end of August.

(6) Next Steps

- Next ESJWQC quarterly meeting → Tuesday, 1 November 2011