



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Matthew Rodriguez
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17 February 2012

Mr. Parry Klassen
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
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Modesto, CA 95354

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO DEVELOP A JOINT APPROACH TO ADDRESS
PATHOGEN INDICATOR (*E. COLI*) MANAGEMENT PLANS**

The Technical Issues Committee (TIC) for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program met in August 2010 and agreed to form a focus group to address pathogen indicator (*E. coli*) management plans. It has come to my attention that to date the focus group has not met. I am especially concerned that the Coalitions have not established a consistent and technically sound approach for addressing *E. coli* management plans.

Exceedances of the water quality objective associated with *E. coli* have been observed in numerous water bodies throughout the Central Valley region. At this time, there are 95 water body-specific *E. coli* management plans among six Coalition Groups. The Central Valley Water Board recognizes that *E. coli* occurs widely and comes from a variety of sources. Addressing *E. coli* will be complex, and many of the sources and management practices will be common to multiple Coalitions. I believe that a collaborative approach among the Coalitions will result in more cost effective, consistent, and technically sound results.

Therefore, I am directing staff to set up a meeting with Coalition representatives to begin the focus group discussions. The ultimate outcome of this effort will be a joint Work Plan prepared by the Coalitions. The initial objectives of the joint Work Plan are to identify and characterize the potential agricultural sources of *E. coli* and identify appropriate management practices to prevent discharges to surface waters, if required.

Due to this new approach, any *E. coli* management plan deliverables that are currently scheduled for the Coalitions are hereby suspended and replaced by a schedule of deliverables to be included for approval in the Work Plan.

The following Coalitions are subject to this request:

Goose Lake Water Quality Coalition
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition
Westlands Storm Water Coalition

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Susan Fregien at (916) 464-4813, or by email at sfregien@waterboards.ca.gov or Joe Karkoski at (916) 464-4668, or by email at jkarkoski@waterboards.ca.gov.



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Executive Officer

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