
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION MANAGEMENT PLAN
1 March 2012 – MEETING No. 14

MEETING NOTES

ATTENDEES: Parry Klassen, Mike Johnson, Melissa Turner, Joe Karkoski (present at the pre-agenda discussion), Susan Fregien, Chris Jimmerson, Jelena Hartman

ITEMS DISCUSSED

Before the meeting, the Coalition distributed handouts to staff. The handouts included a summary table of 2011 MPM results including a percentage of samples with exceedances, High Priority Performance Goal status for first, second, third, and fourth sets of high priority subwatersheds, and Performance Goal summary tables.

Pre-Agenda Discussion: Coalition budget projections and fiscal problems

Outcome: The Coalition projections show a deficit by the end of 2012 due to increase in costs and loss of membership dues (members moving to the Dairy Program and non-renewals). The forecast is that the Coalition will run out of funds by October/November 2012. If funds run out, the Coalition will need to cease work. As an alternative to ceasing operations, the Coalition will propose cuts in its monitoring strategy to have enough funds to go into 2013. The Coalition has asked the consultants MLJ-LLC to develop options for cuts encompassing monitoring activities, analytical work, and reporting (Options). In order to raise revenue and keep enrollment, the Coalition has already sent out reminder letters to members who have not yet paid their 2012 dues. The Coalition Board is reluctant to raise membership dues in 2012 until the Regional Board increases their enforcement actions.

Joe Karkoski asked about the timeline for Option development and recommended that multiple potential scenarios be considered ranging from scenarios with minimal changes, to those with more significant alterations in monitoring. All scenarios will be evaluated in context of the MRP Order requirements. Raising membership fees might have to be considered as well. Staff has already identified the top one hundred non-members in the Coalition area and, with the Coalition assistance, will intensify outreach to increase participation within the Coalition. Staff offered help with questions regarding elements of compliance when developing Options.

The Coalition indicated that the Options for cuts will be prepared the following week and put before the Coalition Board at the meeting on 3/19/2012. The proposed Options will be sent to the Central Valley Water Board 3/20/2012, or shortly thereafter.

(1) Agenda Review

Outcome: The Coalition added an item to the agenda regarding the removal of Duck Slough @ Hwy 99 from the monitoring schedule. Monitoring at the Duck Slough @ Hwy 99 site will be carried out through April 2012, when construction due to road expansion is scheduled to start.

The Coalition is preparing a letter explaining that the Duck Slough @ Hwy 99 site will be inaccessible due to construction for up to four years, and to request the removal of the site from the monitoring schedule. The downstream monitoring site Duck Slough @ Gurr Rd will still be operational and monitoring will continue at that location capturing the water quality in the subwatershed.

(2) Summary of activity since the previous meeting

Outcome: Staff summarized prior activities:

- Quarterly Monitoring Report and 2012 Monitoring schedule submitted on time
- Yori Grove Drain site removal request received 1/5/2012, approved 2/7/2012, MRP Plan revised 2/16/2012
- Constituent removal request submitted 1/06/2012, under Staff review. The response will likely come in multiple letters, depending on the complexity of each considered constituent/site pair.

(3) Update on Management Plan Performance Goals

Outcome: Referring to the 2011 MPM results summary table, the Coalition reviewed the exceedances for constituent/site pairs under the Management Plan. There were no exceedances of chlorpyrifos, diazinon, or diuron, or *C. dubia* toxicity during Management Plan monitoring in 2011. There was one instance of sediment toxicity to *Hyalella* (65%) at Dry Creek @ Wellsford Rd on 9/6/11.

The water quality objective for copper was exceeded on 15 occasions. The Coalition pointed out that all but two exceedances were at sites in Madera County. Creeks in Madera County are used as conveyances to deliver irrigation water, and the Coalition learned from a vendor that copper-containing sludge was applied to the canals by the irrigation district for algae control. It was not clear whether there were any requirements in the irrigation district, and Staff will find out if there are requirements for Madera Irrigation District with regards to copper application.

Referring to the Performance Goal handouts, the Coalition summarized progress. Performance Goal schedules for the first and second sets of high priority subwatersheds are completed, and information will be reported this year. The Coalition is on schedule with the third and fourth sets of subwatersheds. In the 3rd Priority subwatersheds, efforts are focusing on growers with recommended practices, and mailings were sent out on 1/24/12 and reminders on 2/21/12 to return the follow-up surveys. The Coalition explained that most growers already have good management practices in place.

(4) Update on the status of TMDL constituents

Outcome: The Coalition reported there were no exceedances of chlorpyrifos and diazinon load capacity at the compliance points on the river during the quarterly monitoring conducted at the ESJWQC and monthly monitoring at the Westside Coalition compliance sites. There were three exceedances of the load allocation for chlorpyrifos: Deadman Creek and Berenda Slough during the first irrigation event of the year (4/19/11 sampling), and an additional exceedance at Deadman Creek (9/13/2011 sampling).

The TMDL annual monitoring and compliance report was on schedule, and the Coalition indicated that the report will address the seven compliance requirements and will address issues from the previous report.

The Coalition inquired about comments from the TMDL unit regarding the 2011 combined Coalition TMDL report. Staff explained that no response was in preparation, and that TMDL monitoring discussion will continue between Regional Board staff and may result in updates to the TMDL monitoring schedule.

(5) 303(d) listing of cis-permethrin in Mustang Creek

Outcome: The Coalition asked about the reporting limit and laboratory proficiency for analyzing cis-permethrin in water. Staff explained that the current Evaluation Guideline of 0.0033 µg/L is based on the 24-hour LC50 instead of the described narrative objective in the Basin Plan that involves 96-hour LC50 for the most sensitive freshwater species. Establishing the RL for cis-permethrin is complicated because the best MDL currently possible for cis-permethrin is greater than the Evaluation Guideline.

There were no toxicities due to unknown sources in Mustang Creek. During monitoring from 2006 to 2010, there was one case of *C. dubia* toxicity (0% survival) due to pyrethroids, and toxicity to *Selenastrum* (80%) in February 2008 and *Hyalella* (80%) in March 2008 that did not persist when resampled. The Coalition provided a data summary of the past monitoring results for total permethrin at Mustang Creek @ East Ave (9 samples), and at Highline Canal where Mustang Creek drains (62 samples from 2005 to 2008). There were no detections of permethrin in any of the samples (the MDL of 0.009 µg/L and laboratory RL of 0.02 µg/L).

Staff will work with the TMDL unit and new staff with pesticide expertise to resolve the RL issue, and find out if total permethrin could be used for meeting the compliance requirement.

(6) *E. coli* joint Work Plan

Outcome: Staff distributed copies of the EO letter sent on the 2/17/2012 and informed the Coalition that internal strategy and guidelines for the group discussions will be developed. The internal team will consist of at least three people, and at this time the point person will be Susan Fregien. The timeline for the strategy and guidelines is not known.

(7) Next Steps/To Do Items

Coalition: Assist with outreach effort by 3/9/12

Coalition: Prepare a list of cost-cutting Options by 3/20/12

Coalition: Submit Duck Slough @ Hwy 99 site removal request soon

Staff: Prepare Meeting Notes

Staff: Check Madera County irrigation district requirements (copper application)

Staff: Investigate cis-permethrin RL and find out what is necessary for 303(d) compliance

Staff: Respond to constituent removal request

Next Meeting – **5 June 2012, 10 AM – 12 PM**