IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Management Plan
5 June 2012 - Meeting No. 15

MEETING NOTES

ATTENDEES: Parry Klassen, Mike Johnson, Melissa Turner,
Susan Fregien, Chris Jimmerson, Jelena Hartman

ITEMS DISCUSSED

(1) Agenda Review
Outcome: Coalition indicated that member meetings were scheduled for June 21st, 26th, and 28th in Madera, Merced, and Modesto to inform growers about the new Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). Staff expressed interest to attend meetings and tour the Coalition region.

The Coalition collected and tested samples from Lateral 3 at East Taylor Road (mistakenly sampled instead of Yori Grove Drain, and subsequently removed from the Coalition's MRP Plan). Data collected at Lateral 3 at East Taylor Road in 2011 were presented in an Appendix to the 2012 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), and the Coalition enquired how to report the results from January and February 2012. The data have already been submitted in the Quarterly Monitoring Data report on 1 June 2012. Staff recommended that a brief reference to sampling that occurred at Lateral 3 at East Taylor Road in 2012 in the next AMR would be sufficient, and that adding an appendix to the AMR was not necessary.

(2) Summary of activity since the previous meeting
Outcome: Staff summarized prior activities:

- TMDL monitoring at San Joaquin River compliance sites in 2012 modified 3/27/12
- Request to suspend core and management plan monitoring received 4/16/12, approved 4/17/12
- Duck Slough at Hwy 99 site removal request received 4/12/2012, approved 4/26/2012
- MRP Plan revision submitted 4/30/12
- Annual Monitoring report submitted 3/1/12, response sent 5/30/12
- Constituent removal request submitted 1/06/2012, approved 5/31/12
- June Quarterly Monitoring Report submitted 6/1/12
- Multiple responses to staff requests submitted promptly
- Management Plan Update Report: submitted 4/2/12, draft review complete
- Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL AMR: submitted 5/1/12, draft review complete

(3) Madera Irrigation District copper discharges
Outcome: All but two copper exceedances in 2011 were observed at sites in Madera County. As creeks in Madera County are used as conveyances to deliver irrigation water, staff followed

up on Madera Irrigation District (MID) copper algaecide applications. Based on information from the Fresno office staff, the general manager of MID is aware of regulatory obligations and a meeting was initiated about submitting an application for the Aquatic Pesticide Use Permit. Additional details will be available once a NOI is submitted to the Fresno office.

(4) Cis-permethrin 303(d) list monitoring in Mustang Creek

Outcome: Cis-permethrin in the water column at Mustang Creek has been placed on the 303(d) list, and is required to be monitored monthly as a part of Assessment Monitoring when Mustang Creek is rotated into the monitoring schedule. With the current analytical capabilities, only exceedances can be demonstrated, but not compliance with the water quality objective. Based on staff discussions with the Pesticide TMDL unit, monitoring for permethrin will be acceptable, and weights of evidence can be used to demonstrate compliance (water column and sediment chemistry and toxicity results, PUR data and implemented management practices). Finally, under the new WDR, 303(d) listed constituents with an agricultural source will be reviewed and a monitoring design recommended on a case-by-case basis. There is no action needed by either the Central valley water Board or the Coalition at this time.

(5) Update on Management Plan Performance Goals

Outcome: Coalition distributed a copy of 2012 Management Plan Monitoring Report table and sampling schedule for 2012, and tables summarizing status of the Performance Goals in the third and fourth Priority subwatersheds.

With the exception of copper, no exceedances have been observed during MPM in 2012. Although management plan monitoring (MPM) in 2012 is suspended with the exception of monitoring Bear Creek at Kibby Road, the Coalition will conduct MPM as a part of Assessment Monitoring in Berenda Slough along Ave 18 ½, Deadman Creek at Hwy 59, and McCoy Lateral at Hwy 140. Full MPM will resume in 2013.

The 1st and 2nd Priority subwatershed Performance Goals are complete. The Coalition is conducting follow-up surveys in the 3rd Priority subwatersheds with growers specifically recommended to implement additional management practices. All surveys from the first round of follow-up have been received, and the remaining follow-up surveys were mailed on 4/16/12. Meetings are being scheduled with targeted growers in the 4th Priority subwatersheds, and the Coalition is on target to have surveys completed by 7/30/12.

(6) Representative monitoring strategy proposed for the new WDR

Outcome: Coalition distributed copies of the flowchart summarizing monitoring and management plan efforts proposed in responses to the WDR draft. There would be two types of sites in each Zone: a pair of Core sites (one site monitored for two consecutive years, followed by two years of monitoring at the second site, so that one Core site is always being monitored within a Zone), and a number of Representative sites (during the meeting, “Represented sites” was suggested as a more appropriate term). When justified by water quality at Core sites and Pesticide Use, monitoring for specific constituents would be initiated at Represented sites (i.e. exceedances are observed at the Core site, and the compound is applied in the area). Some Represented sites would be non-monitored, e.g. in cases when there is no access to the site.

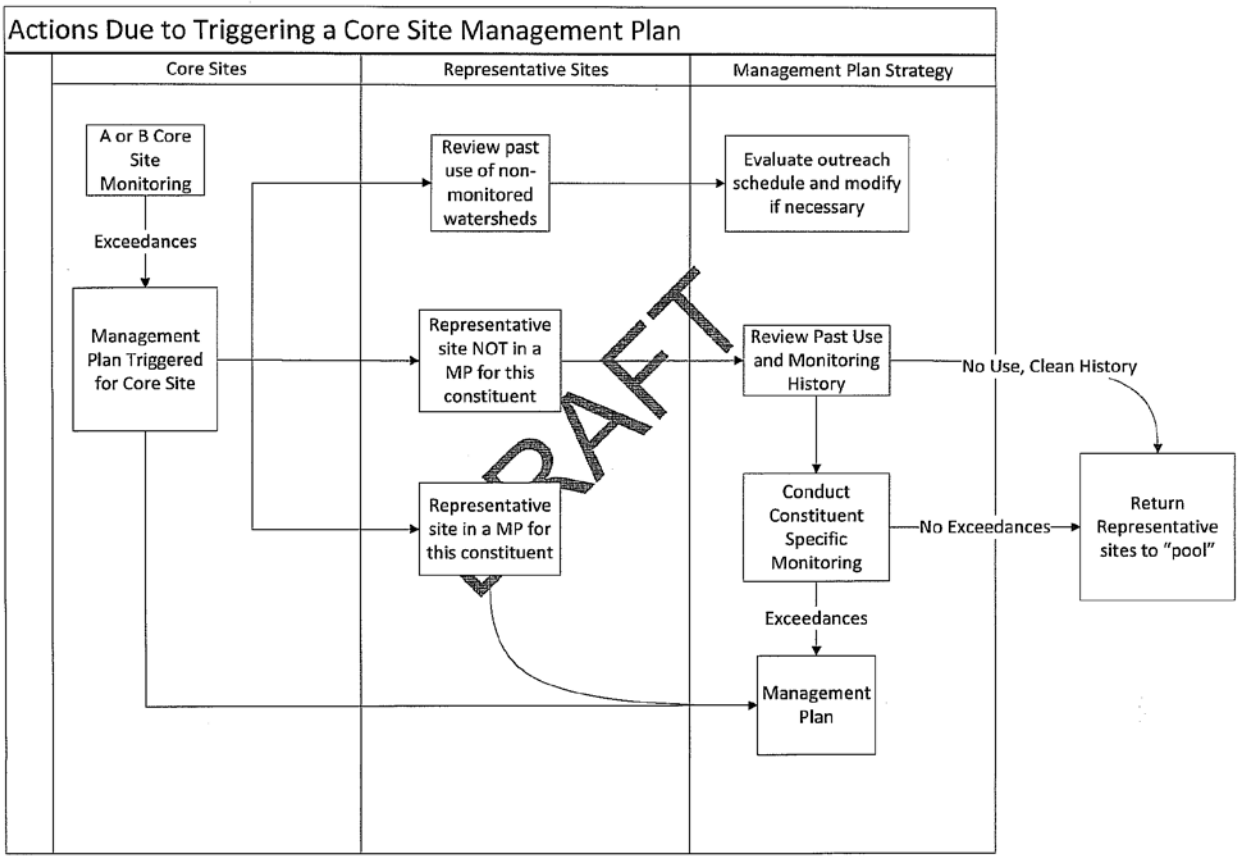
There are three premises of representative monitoring and outreach envisioned by the Coalition:

1) Water quality conditions at Core sites will represent conditions in the entire Zone. If everything is fine the Zone will be considered not to have any water quality issues, if there are problems then additional steps will be initiated;

2) There will be no large-scale outreach effort in Represented subwatersheds without monitoring that indicates there are exceedances at the Represented sites; and
3) Sites can enter management plan status without monitoring in the case of exceedances associated with priority E constituents at Core sites.

If a management plan for a high priority constituent is triggered at a Core site, Representative sites will be evaluated to determine if further action is justified:

1) Outreach will be initiated in non-monitored Represented subwatersheds with a history of use of constituents in question;
2) Monitoring during time of peak use will start in Represented subwatersheds based on past use information and monitoring history. Management plan will be triggered in a Represented subwatershed if more than one exceedance is observed in three years.



If a Core site consistently shows no issues with water quality, perhaps due to management plan efforts, potential site exchange will be discussed with the Central Valley Water Board staff.

(7) <u>Next Steps/To Do Items</u>

Coalition: Submit amendments to 2012 AMR by 6/15/12, request extension if needed
Staff: Prepare Meeting Notes
Staff: Review 2012 MPUR
Staff: Review Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL AMR

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