

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: Status of Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Coalition Group Monitoring and Reporting Program

BOARD ACTION: *No Board action. Information item only.*

BACKGROUND: In December 2005, ILRP staff initiated a stakeholder process to revise the Coalition Group Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP). The revision was necessary to address aspects of the MRP that were ambiguous or needed improvement to meet program objectives. Technical issues with regard to the MRP were discussed at the ILRP Technical Issues Committee (TIC) meetings. TIC Members formed smaller focus groups, which generated recommendations for Regional Water Board consideration. The Regional Water Board also contracted with Dr. Brock Bernstein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to conduct a third party review of the working draft MRP. In January 2008, the Board adopted a revised MRP (Order No. R5-2008-0005).

The changes incorporated into the 2008 MRP included elimination of the "phased" approach for monitoring, significant clarification in the QAPP and data submittal requirements, and elimination of reporting redundancy. Another feature was the addition of five Program questions that need to be answered through the Coalitions' monitoring and reporting. Most significantly, the 2008 MRP allows for flexibility in approaches that Coalitions may use to answer these Program questions. This flexibility allows the Coalitions to adapt their monitoring approach to the unique conditions in their area.

All of the Coalitions, except two, have received approval on their Coalition-specific MRP Plans or have been issued a Coalition-specific MRP Order by the Executive Officer that are consistent with the requirements of the 2008 Regional Water Board Order. In addition, many of the Coalitions have submitted and received approval on their Management Plans, which describe how they will address exceedances of water quality objectives through implementation of management practices.

Staff will update the Board on the Coalition Group monitoring, exceedances of water quality objectives identified, and the status of the Coalitions' management plan development and implementation.

RECOMMENDATION: *No recommendation, informational item only.*

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review EGW _____

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