

ITEM: 20

SUBJECT: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report Development Update

BOARD ACTION: *Informational Item Only*

BACKGROUND: All growers regulated by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) are required to prepare and implement Nitrogen Management Plans (NMP). Growers in high vulnerability groundwater areas must certify the NMPs and must submit NMP Summary Reports for the previous crop year to their respective coalitions. Each year, the coalitions must report information collected in the NMP Summary Reports aggregated by Township.

Growers must use NMP and NMP Summary Report templates approved by the Executive Officer. The NMP template has been approved for all regions regulated by the ILRP Orders. This item is to update the board on the development of the NMP Summary Report template and the associated information needs. The ILRP Orders require NMP Summary Reports to provide the nitrogen consumption ratio for each crop grown, and to gather information needed for the Monitoring Report and for the Management Practices Evaluation Program.

The NMP Technical Advisory Work Group (Work Group), consisting of Central Valley agricultural coalitions, representatives from California Department of Food and Agriculture and University of California Cooperative Extension, and practicing agronomists and crop experts, has been developing a metric for nitrogen removal reporting. The proposal to use a ratio of nitrogen applied divided by yield (A/Y Ratio) was presented and discussed at the September public meeting of the NMP Work Group, and at the October ILRP Stakeholder Meeting.

The advantages of using the A/Y Ratio as a nitrogen removal reporting metric are rapid data collection, consistent reporting across all crops and across reporting years, ease of calculation, and a tangible meaning of the relationship between the Applied Nitrogen and the Yield. The A/Y Ratio will provide the coalitions with data for analyzing and reporting nitrogen removal, as required by the ILRP Orders, and for developing outreach material for feedback to growers on nitrogen use compared to commonly recommended application rates and to other growers of the same crop in their area.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only.

Mgmt. Review SYM  
Legal Review PEP

10-11 December 2015