WHAT IS THE INLAND SURFACE WATERS PLAN?

It is a statewide plan for surface water quality protection. It supersedes all Regional Board Basin Plans if there is a conflict.

WHY DID THE STATE BOARD ADOPT THE PLAN?

The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) required all states or EPA to adopt water quality objectives. The State Board adopted this to continue their role as the agency implementing the CWA in California.

ARE SUPPLY CANALS AND DRAINS COVERED BY THE PLAN?

Yes, all surface waters including agricultural supply canals and drains, whether natural or constructed must conform with the Plan.

ARE AGRICULTURAL RETURN FLOWS, BOTH SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE CONSIDERED WASTE DISCHARGES UNDER THE PLAN?

Yes, all return irrigation and drainage water from agricultural operations are considered waste discharges which are regulated by the Regional Board under the Porter-Cologne Act.

WERE NEW WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES ADOPTED IN THE PLAN?

Yes, the State Board adopted 5 narrative water quality objectives, 2 toxicity objectives, and numerical water quality objectives for 41 priority pollutants for protection of freshwater aquatic life and human health.

ARE SOME OF THESE CONSTITUENTS FOUND IN AG DRAINS AND CANALS?

Yes, without question. Several are in agricultural drains and some at relatively high concentrations. Some may result from chemicals or other maintenance operations, as well as discharges occurring from other sources such as dairies and cities.

DOES AGRICULTURE HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE PLAN IMMEDIATELY?

The State Board recognized that immediate compliance may not be feasible, but set out a program of implementation to apply these objectives in a timely manner.

HOW IS THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ORGANIZED?

The State Board divided the agricultural drainage network into two categories, each with a separate plan for implementation. The categories designated are:

1.) natural water bodies that are dominated by agricultural drainage or return waters, and

2.) constructed agricultural drains.

WHAT IS THE TIMING FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

The plan to develop objectives is scheduled over a six-year period. The schedule for the two types of categories are as shown in the table on the reverse page.

WHO WILL THE REGIONAL BOARD BE DEALING WITH FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

The State Board in adopting the Plan specified that the Ag dischargers should identify and/or form drainage entities that have the appropriate powers to work with the Regional Board on this program. The most likely to be involved include, but not limited to, County Boards of Supervisors, Water, Irrigation, Drainage, Resource Conservation, Levee, Flood Control and Reclamation Districts. The Regional Board is to submit a report to the State Board for approval which defined the drainage area entities identified or formed by the dischargers.

WHAT ARE THE INITIAL STEPS THAT NEED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED?

The first major milestone is 12 October 1992 when the Regional Board must submit a report to the State Board which:

1.) identifies whether a water body is a natural water body whose flow is dominated by agricultural drainage, or is a constructed agricultural drain;

2.) establishes a priority listing of these water bodies and drains which identifies where water quality problems may occur; and

3.) identifies which of the adopted numerical objectives are inappropriate for the water bodies or constructed drains based on available data.

In addition, the agricultural industry needs to begin developing the structure to finance the development of the needed information and future activities.

WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION IS NEEDED?

Initially, the water and drainage agencies need to supply the Regional Board with background data to complete the Report to the State Board. The type of information needed is described in detail elsewhere. The Central Valley Regional Board would like to see the agricultural industry play a major role in this program and how the data is compiled into a report. Consideration might also be given to formation of an advisory group to assist the Board in the report preparation.

IS MONITORING A COMPONENT OF THIS WORK?

Yes, the Regional Board will develop the basic structure of a monitoring plan. The monitoring program needs to concentrate on key monitoring stations rather than many samples from a number of sites. The agricultural industry needs to develop a structure to finance this program and distribute the costs on an equitable basis.

Water Body Category	What Applies Upon Adoption	What Applies Within 6 Years or Less
(b) **Water Bodies Dominated by Agricultural Drainage**	- *All Narrative Water Quality Objectives* - *All Toxicity Objectives* - *Numerical Objectives Apply as Performance Goals for Purposes of Regulating Agricultural Drainage Discharges and Other NonPoint Sources*	- *All Numerical Objectives in the Plan or Alternate Site-Specific Objectives Established by the Central Valley Regional Board*
(c) **Constructed Agricultural Drains**	- *All Narrative Water Quality Objectives* - *All Toxicity Objectives* - *The Numerical Objectives Apply as Performance Goals for Purposes of Regulating Agricultural Drainage Discharges and other NonPoint Sources*	- *Initial Performance Goals apply or Alternate Site-Specific Performance Goals Established by the Central Valley Regional Board*