

OVERVIEW AND AUTHORITIES OF THE STATE-WIDE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM NOVEMBER 2008



CHALLENGE

- Meet our statutory obligations for water quality protection considering:
 - Available human and financial resources
 - Consideration of the diverse interest of all parties
 - Sustain strong and viable agricultural operations

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

Issue

- Many surface water bodies in California are listed on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) list as being impaired by agricultural sources.

Goal

- Improve WQ by the regulation of discharges from irrigated agricultural lands.

Objective

- To monitor, assess, and control the impact to receiving waters caused by discharges from irrigated agricultural lands.

REGULATORY TOOLBOX

- **Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)**
- **Conditional Waivers of WDRs**
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
- Management Agency Agreements
- Cooperative Programs

WDRs

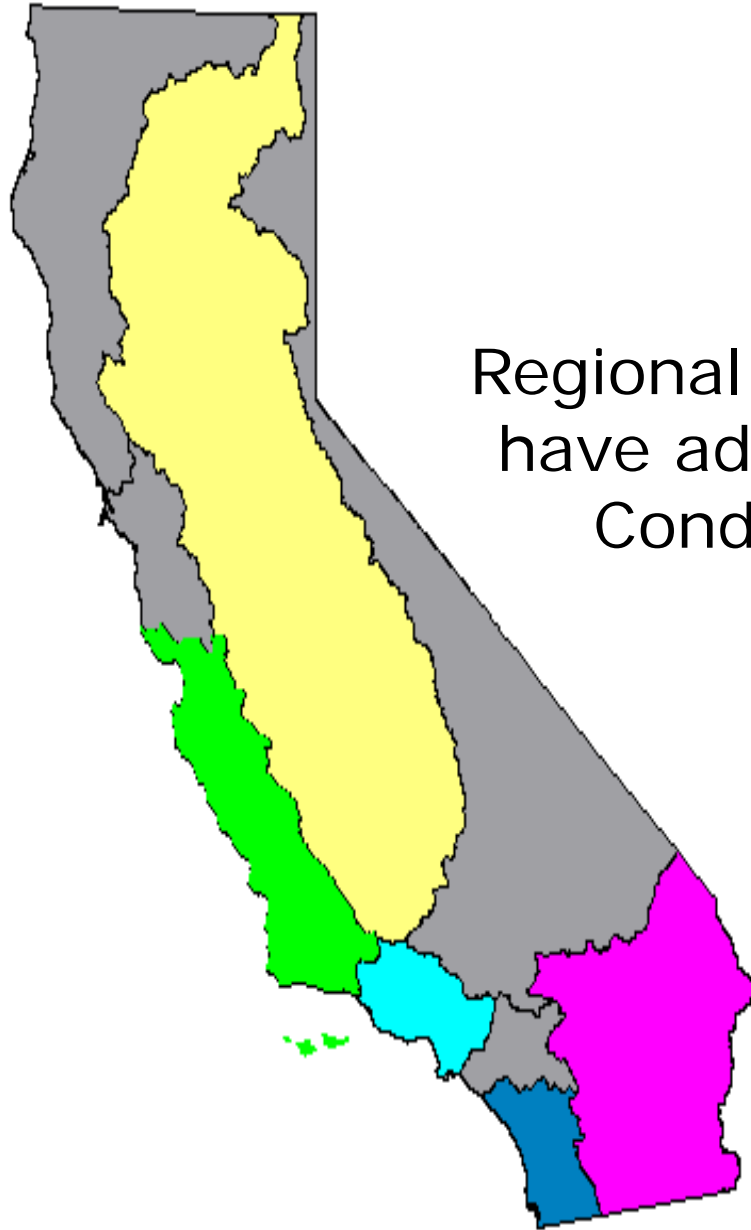
- Formal requirements or conditions prescribed to protect the beneficial uses of receiving waters from an existing, proposed, or potential discharge.
- WDRs and Conditional Waivers are the principal regulatory tools used to regulate discharges.

Conditional Waivers

- Process exemptions from formal permitting requirements of WDRs
- **Not exemptions from regulatory compliance.**
- Regional Water Boards adopted waivers for over 40 categories of discharge
- Conditional and enforceable

SB 390 Facts

- Signed into law October 6, 1999.
- Revised Section 13269 of the California Water Code.
- Requires each regional board to:
 - **review** the terms, conditions, and effectiveness of each type of “Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification” included in their waiver policies;
 - **readopt or terminate** waivers **by January 1, 2003** ;
 - **issue** waste discharge requirements for on-going discharges whose waivers have been terminated;
 - **enforce** waivers; and,
 - **renew/terminate** waivers every five years.



Regional Water Boards that
have adopted Agricultural
Conditional Waivers





QUESTIONS

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 - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/