

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2015

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD:

On December 2, 2015, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) staff participated in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Guide Committee meeting to discuss and review the following conservation practice standards: Standard 319 – On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility; Standard 368 – Emergency Animal Mortality Management; Standard 443 – Surface Irrigation; Standard 447 – Tailwater Recovery; Standard 449 – Irrigation Water Management; Standard 558 – Roof Runoff Structure; Standard 901 – Construction Specifications for Concrete; Standard 561 – Heavy Use Area Protection; Standard 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure; Standard 412 – Grassed Waterway; Standard 582 – Open Channel; Standard 614 – Watering Facility; Standard 576 – Livestock Shelter Structure; Standard 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting – update IR to add Certification Checklist; Standard 550 – Range Planting – update IR to add Certification Checklist; Standard 528 – Prescribed Grazing – supplement to the Specifications; Standard 332 – Contour Buffer Strips; Standard 589C – Cross Wind Trap Strips; Standard 609 – Surface Roughening; Standard 27 – Conservation Cover, Pollinator specifications; Standard 390 – Riparian Herbaceous Cover, spec & implementation requirements; Standard 422 – Hedgerow, Pollinator specifications; Standard 649 – Structures for Wildlife, Wetland Basking Structures specification; and Finalize Standard TN 23 - Conservation Measures to Reduce Impacts to Nesting Birds.

On December 8, 2015, ILRP staff participated in a California Association of Pest Control Adviser - Certified Crop Adviser Board of Director's (BOD) meeting to discuss replacing the State Agronomist position on the BOD.

On December 9, 2015, ILRP staff participated in California Agricultural Partnership Forum (CAPF) kick-off meeting. The purpose for the meeting was to reconvene a multi-agency agricultural related group that was named the Interagency Agriculture Coordinating Team (IACT) and led by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9. USEPA and the participating member agencies agreed to reconvene the IACT to assist growers address the many agricultural initiatives currently being developed, including the Healthy Soils Initiative. USEPA suggested renaming the multi-agency group to the CAPF. Kick-off meeting discussion included: Purpose of forum – collaboration and shared vision; adoption of conservation practices to promote healthy soils resulting in cross media benefits such as air and water quality benefits, pollinator health, and increased diversion of waste streams; using a common language regarding the soil health framework; Agency updates regarding current and future needs related to agriculture; identify upcoming opportunities; discuss workgroup logistics; discuss possibility of a field workshop; and discuss other meetings related to agricultural sustainability and soil health (i.e. avoid redundancy). Updates were provided by NRCS, USEPA, State Water Board, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Air Resources Control Board (ARB) CalRecycle, California Resource Conservation District (RCD). Follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled for end of January 2016.

On December 9, 2015, ILRP staff participated in the conference call meeting with the Farm Food Safety Conservation Network (FFSCN) and authors of a paper titled "Comanaging Fresh Produce For Nature Conservation And Food Safety". Authors of the paper are Daniel S. Karp, Sasha Gennet, Christopher Kilonzo, Melissa Partyka, Nicolas Chaumont, Edward R. Atwill, and Claire Kremen who represent Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management University of California, Berkeley, CA; The Nature Conservancy, San Francisco, CA;

Department of Population Health and Reproduction, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis; and The Natural Capital Project, Stanford, CA, respectively. Discussion addressed concerns regarding the reports statements that certain vegetated buffers may increase the risk of pervasive pathogen presence. The authors provided clarifying comments.

On December 17, 2015, ILRP staff met with the California Bioresources Alliance (CBA) to discuss re-defining the goal and objective of the CBA. Meeting participants agreed that environment, innovation technologies, and sustainability is a multidisciplinary effort that combines aspects of environmental protection including water quality, resource recovery, sustainable design and energy to define effective ways to better utilize energy and water toward developing healthier soils and communities while protecting our valuable resources. Building on the governor's Healthy Soils Initiative it is recognized that a multi-agency collaborative effort must lead the decisions and actions needed to be successful in reducing and diverting waste from landfills for resource recovery. Meeting participants agreed that the CBA needs to recognize that the integrated nature of sustainable solutions, and that the CBA is in a unique position to collaboratively access practical negotiation and flexible solutions and must develop partnerships from a variety of sectors, including:

- research,
- energy,
- planning and policy,
- environmental and water resources, and
- public health,

The Water Boards and the California Bioresources Alliance promote collaborating with the resource recovery community and other agricultural related agencies/entities/academia to exchange information on co-management of organic soil amendments, healthy soils, food safety, water quality and environmental protection.

On December 18, 2015, ILRP staff met with Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA) and Nonpoint Source staff to discuss revisions to the multi-agency agreement (MAA) between the State Water Board and DPR. Meeting discussion included what we learned from the Water Boards & DPR joint workshop held on November 9th & 10th, 2015. In an effort to help improve communications among various Regional and State Water Boards programs, a survey was distributed to Regional Board staff.

For additional information on the statewide ILRP, please contact State Water Board staff:
Johnny Gonzales (916) 341-5510 Johnny.Gonzales@waterboards.ca.gov
Ashley Zellmer (916) 341-5911 Ashley.Zellmer@waterboards.ca.gov

REGIONAL WATER BOARD:

This month's ILRP report provides an update on the activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) ILRP as presented in the Regional Water Board December 10-11, 2015 Executive Officer report and formatted by State Water Board ILRP staff.

Future monthly reports alternately present the status of the Central Valley Regional Water Board ILRP for one month, and the Regional Water Board ILRPs the alternate month.

Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the State Water Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program website:

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

For specific program information on the Central Valley Water Board ILRP, contact:
Ms. Sue McConnell at (916) 464-4798 or Sue.McConnell@waterboards.ca.gov

**CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM
DECEMBER 2015**

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Development

On October 2, 2015, the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted amendments to the WDR General Orders for growers within the Central Valley that are members of a third-party group [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) General Orders] to clarify that a designee can participate in outreach events on behalf of a third-party Member in fulfillment of the requirements for the following ILRP General Orders:

- Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed R5-2012-0116
- Tulare Lake Basin Area R5-2013-0120
- Western Tulare Lake Basin Area R5-2014-0001
- Western San Joaquin River Watershed R5-2014-0002
- Sacramento River Watershed Area R5-2014-0030
- Sacramento Valley Rice Growers R5-2014-0032

Sediment Erosion and Control Plan Template

On September 14, 2015, the agricultural water quality coalitions submitted a draft Sediment and Erosion Control Plan template developed under the Group Option through collaboration of the third-party groups in the Central Valley. The ILRP General Orders require that the third-party members (Members) with the potential to cause erosion and discharge sediment that may degrade surface waters prepare and implement a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan. To comply with the requirements, a template approved by the Executive Officer must be used. The template will help identify locations subject to erosion or to frequent water flow (sediment and erosion risk areas), and describe and ensure the implementation of practices to minimize or eliminate the discharge of sediment in storm water and irrigation water discharges.

Regional Water Board staff provided comments to the agricultural water quality coalitions on September 29, 2015 and a revised draft template was received on October 9, 2015. The revised draft Sediment and Erosion Control Plan template was circulated for public review and comments. Comments on the draft template are due by November 20, 2015, and will be considered prior to the Executive Officer providing the final template to the third-party groups.

Nitrogen Management Plan Technical Advisory Work Group

The Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Technical Advisory Work Group was convened by the Central Valley Water Quality Coalitions to develop guidance for member growers to estimate nitrogen removed and to develop a "Crop Nitrogen Knowledge Gap Study Plan." The NMP Work Group has met since April 2015 to discuss current nitrogen management tools, methods to estimate available nitrogen in organic amendments and residual in soil, and methods to estimate nitrogen removed during plant harvest for various crops. On September 21, 2015 the NMP Work Group met to discuss using nitrogen applied over yield as a tool for growers to evaluate their nitrogen use, in place of nitrogen removed.

ILRP Stakeholder Meeting

On October 8, 2015 the Regional Water Board ILRP staff held a stakeholder meeting at the Stanislaus Farm Bureau. The meeting was held to provide an open forum for communication between Regional Water Board staff, agricultural coalitions, environmental justice groups, and other interested parties in Central Valley Region. Updates were provided by representatives of the Water Board, California Department of Food and Agricultural, agricultural coalitions, and environmental justice groups. Information and suggestions were provided by the agricultural coalitions and managed wetlands representatives regarding how they can be more effectively regulated and monitored.

ILRP Compliance, Outreach & Enforcement

Agricultural Parcel Inspections

The purpose of these inspections is to determine if the parcels are commercial irrigated lands that require coverage under the ILRP. Data gathered during these inspections will be used to focus and prioritize the issuance of California Water Code (CWC) 13260 directives to commercial irrigated lands that are not covered by the ILRP. Growers may obtain coverage by joining an agricultural water quality coalition and enrolling in the associated ILRP general order or enrolling in the ILRP individual general order. The table below presents parcel inspections conducted for each coalition area. Coalition areas not shown had no inspections during the reporting period.

Coalition Area	Parcel Inspections Sept 1 - Oct 31
East San Joaquin	29
Kaweah Basin	30
San Joaquin County & Delta	260
Sacramento Valley	65
Total	384

Water Code Section 13260 Directives

These directives are sent to owners of commercial irrigated lands as identified through Regional Water Board staff inspections of agricultural-zoned parcels. The recipients are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain either group or individual regulatory coverage within 15 days of receipt of the directive. Coalition areas not shown had no directives mailed during the reporting period.

Coalition Area	Directives Mailed Sept 1 - Oct 31
Kings River	77
Kaweah Basin	10
San Joaquin County & Delta	152
Sacramento Valley	63
Total	302

Notices of Violation for Failure to respond to a Water Code Section 13260 Directive

Notices of Violation (NOVs) are sent to landowners who fail to respond to a 13260 Directive. These owners of commercial irrigated lands were previously mailed directives that required the recipients to submit proof of coalition membership or a Notice of Intent to get regulatory coverage. The NOVs give the recipients 15 days to respond or face administrative civil liability. The table below presents NOVs mailed by coalition area. Coalition areas not shown had no NOV mail outs during the reporting period.

Coalition Area	NOVs Mailed Sept 1 - Oct 31
Kings River	69
Tule Basin	1
Total	70

Pre-Administrative Civil Liability Notification Letters

On September 30, 2015 the Assistant Executive Officer issued five pre-ACL letters to growers for failure to obtain regulatory coverage in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. An additional four pre-ACL letters were issued on October 5, 2015. The pre-ACL letter recipients were almond and grape growers with farm operations ranging in size from 39 to 574 acres. The pre-ACL letters proposed fines ranging from \$15,730 to \$70,980 depending on the size of the grower's operation and time of non-compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

Pre-ACL letters offer the recipients the opportunity to negotiate a settlement with Regional Water Board staff and avert the issuance of an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint. If a settlement is reached, the details of the settlement are circulated for a 30-day public review prior to the settlement being finalized and approved by the Executive Officer.

Settlement of Administrative Civil Liability Complaints

On September 24, 2015, the Executive Officer approved a settlement agreement and stipulation for entry of Administrative Civil Liability with Madera County almond growers David Ross & Renae Braaksma-Ross (Discharger). The settlement agreement requires the Discharger to pay a fine of \$43,544, with half this amount going toward a Rose Foundation-sponsored supplemental environmental project. This agreement settles an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint that was issued in March 2015 with a proposed penalty of \$32,532.

On October 16, 2015, the Regional Water Board reached a settlement agreement with M.C. Land Company in the amount of \$46,000 for violating Water Code section 13260 by failing to obtain regulatory coverage for their irrigated agricultural lands. As a stipulation of the settlement agreement, a portion of the settlement amount (\$23,000) will be used towards a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). As part of this initiative, the Regional Water Board has partnered with the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment to act as a third-party and assist in dispersing penalty monies to projects that are focused on protecting water quality in the Central Valley and also assist Disadvantaged Communities in the Central Valley. For this settlement, \$21,390 will be distributed to the Central California Environmental Justice Network to enhance residents' abilities to identify, monitor, and report potential threats to groundwater and surface watersheds in Fresno and Kern Counties. The full Settlement Agreement, including a description of the SEP with a timeline and deliverables, is available for review on the Regional Water Board's webpage.

Coalition Enrollment Summary

The tables below provide the latest coalition enrollment data based on coalition member lists submitted on or about July 31, 2015 per the ILRP general order requirements and subsequent updates to member lists.

Table 1 of 2. Coalition Enrollment Information Summary in the Sacramento, Delta, East and Western San Joaquin River Watersheds

Coalition Group	East San Joaquin	Sacramento Valley	San Joaquin Co. & Delta	Western San Joaquin River
Outreach Start Date	Jan-13	Jun-14	Apr-14	Mar-14
Participating Growers and Associated Acreage				
Number of Growers, Pre-Order ¹	2,225	7,888	3,256	2,450
Number of Growers, as of July 2015	3,743	8,618	3,515	2,507
Change (Additional Growers Enrolled)	1,518	730	259	57
Number of Acres, Pre-Order ²	535,653	1,183,491	348,200	467,625
Number of Acres, as of July 2015	713,216	1,340,216	386,452	446,057
Change in Acres Enrolled	177,563	156,725	38,252	-21,568

Table 2 of 2. Coalition Enrollment Information Summary for the Tulare Lake and Wester Tulare Lake Basins

Coalition Group	Buena Vista	Cawelo	Kaweah Basin	Kern River	Kings River	Tule Basin	Westside	Westlands
New Order Outreach Start Date	Apr-14	Apr-14	Feb-14	Feb-14	Nov-13	Apr-14	May-14	Feb-14
Participating Growers and Associated Acreage								
Number of Growers Pre-Order	3,794 (Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition ³)							1,070
Number of Growers as of July 2015	61	87	1,321	819	5,165	1,116	43	1,214
Change (Additional Growers Enrolled)	4,818 (Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to multiple Tulare Lake coalitions)							144
Number of Acres Pre-Order	957,362 (Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition ⁴)							507,489
Number of Acres as of July 2015	30,788	34,524	163,422	513,097	790,358	225,018	99,761	511,467
Change (Additional Acres Enrolled)	899,606 (Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to multiple Tulare Lake coalitions)							3,978

¹The East San Joaquin coalition pre-Order participating growers comes from July 2012; the rest of the coalitions come from July 2013. Participant values were provided by the coalitions or calculated by staff using a pivot table to determine the number of unique names.

²East San Joaquin Coalition is derived from the 2012-2013 Annual Fees; for the rest of the coalitions, the acre value is derived from the 2013-1014 Annual Fees. Reporting acres vary (e.g., acres, irrigated acres, farmable acres, assessed acres, etc.)

³ Acreage reductions in Western San Joaquin River Coalition area are due to drought-related following of land.

⁴ Participant information prior to 2014 uses data derived from the Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Cleanup & Abatement Order (CAO)

On September 23, 2015, the Assistant Executive Officer issued a CAO to K2 Ranches LLC (Discharger) in Stanislaus County. The Discharger has mass-graded a large area of former foothill pasture to prepare the land for a permanent crop, likely almond orchard. The disturbed earth has created the potential for sediment discharges to surface waters during the upcoming wet season. The CAO requires the Discharger to submit a Sediment & Erosion Control Plan and a Completion Report to document site improvements based on a defined time schedule.

In addition, Regional Water Board staff will continue conducting targeted inspections of other new orchards in the foothills to address the water quality threat from these new operations on steep slopes.

Sacramento River Watershed Coalition Groups

California Rice Commission Coalition

On May 20, 2015, the California Rice Commission submitted a Surface Water Quality Management Plan for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) which examines DO exceedances for the cold and warm water quality objectives from 2004 to 2014. The request for a Management Plan was triggered by water quality objective exceedances in the 2014 season. The DO management plan is under staff review.

On June 4, 2015, the California Rice Commission submitted a proposed Nitrogen Management Plan template as required by General Order R5-2014-0032. The proposed Nitrogen Management template is specific for rice and will be a web-based system to assist rice growers in managing nitrogen applications. No comments were received on the proposed template, which were due on July 3, 2015. The Nitrogen Management Plan template was approved by the Executive Officer on October 23, 2015.

On October 1, 2015, the California Rice Commission submitted the draft Groundwater Trend Monitoring Workplan and Data Gap Assessment Plan for staff review. The draft Workplan includes a quality assurance project plan for groundwater to supplement the surface water plan as an appendix. As required by the Order, the Workplan details the groundwater trend monitoring that will take place to determine current water quality conditions of groundwater relevant to rice operations and develop long-term groundwater quality information that can be used to evaluate the regional effects of rice practices. The draft Workplan is under staff review.

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC)

On August 20, 2015, SVWQC submitted a revised proposal for participation in the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP). In the proposal, the Coalition outlined specific monitoring reductions that would permit SVWQC to continue to comply with Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2014-0030-R1 and offer support to the Delta RMP.

On September 10, 2015, SVWQC submitted a breakdown of costs associated with their Delta RMP proposed monitoring reductions. Staff is in the process of reviewing the proposal.

On October 19, 2015, Regional Water Board staff held a meeting with SVWQC and representatives from the Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento (PNSSNS) subwatershed to discuss their proposal for participation in the Reduced Monitoring / Management Practices Verification Option.

San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Groups

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

On September 1, 2015, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition submitted an amendment to the 2015 Annual Report to correct calculation error that was noticed during Regional Water Board staff review, and clarify the method for calculating the compliance statistics. The report is currently under staff review.

On September 1, 2015, Regional Water Board staff received the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period January-March 2015.

On September 11, 2015, Regional Water Board staff received the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's updated boundary shape files.

On September 18, 2015, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition resubmitted the Monitoring Plan Update report for the 2016 water year (October 1, 2015 – September 2016), including edits discussed with Regional Water Board staff on September 3, 2015. The Monitoring Plan Update is currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

On September 21, 2015, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition submitted a request to remove 30 constituents from 17 site subwatersheds management plans and management plan monitoring schedule. The request is currently under staff review.

On September 27, 2015, Regional Water Board staff held the 25th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, compliance time schedule and status of other activities in progress. The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition provided an update on the management plan monitoring results and outreach in the subwatersheds.

On August 3, 2015, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition submitted a proposal outlining the monitoring reductions to compensate the monetary contribution to the Delta Regional Monitoring Program. After confirming that the proposed changes to water quality monitoring would allow the Coalition to continue to comply with the requirements of the Order, the EO approved the proposed changes on September 29, 2015. The approved monitoring reductions are included in the 2015 Monitoring Plan Update.

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition

Regional Water Board staff continues to review the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition's (SJD) Comprehensive Surface Water Quality Management Plan, submitted on May 1, 2015. The Plan provides an evaluation of water quality impairments, evaluation of management practices, and establishes performance goals and measures with a time-table.

On August 1, 2015, the SJD submitted its annual 2015 Monitoring Plan Update by the Order's deadline. The Monitoring Plan Update proposes the water quality monitoring schedule for the period between October 2015 and September 2016. It is under staff review.

On September 15, 2015, the Executive Officer approved SJD Coalition proposal outlining its contribution to the Delta Regional Monitoring Program. The reduced monitoring involves eliminating specific months from the core site monitoring schedule where there have not been water quality issues for toxicity, applied pesticides or applied metals.

On October 22, 2015, the Executive Officer approved the SJD Coalition Monitoring Plan Update. The SJD Coalition is required to prepare an annual monitoring plan that includes the monitoring schedule and frequency.

Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

On September 9, 2015, Regional Water Board staff held a meeting with the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition's (SJRW Coalition) representatives and their consultants to discuss the Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plan (GQMP) requirements. The GQMP expectations were discussed.

On September 24, 2015, Regional Water Board staff held a meeting with the SJRW Coalition's representatives to discuss the inclusion of the managed wetlands area into the Sediment Discharge Erosion and Assessment Report. The additional requirements to develop a Sediment Erosion Control Plans for the managed wetland were also discussed.

On October 5, 2015, the Executive Officer approved the SJRW Coalition's proposal outlining its contribution to the Delta Regional Monitoring Program. The reduced monitoring involves eliminating specific months from the SJRW Coalition's monitoring schedule where there have not been water quality issues for toxicity, applied pesticides or applied metals.

Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee (Grassland Drainage Area Coalition)

On September 16, 2015, Regional Water Board staff participated in the growers meeting and a field tour of the area hosted by the Grassland Drainage Area Coalition. The new groundwater regulatory requirements were discussed with the growers within the Grassland Drainage Area at the meeting.

On October 20, 2015, the Grassland Drainage Area Coalition submitted a draft outline for the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report for Regional Water Board staff review. The draft outline details the information and format for the Report required by July 31, 2016. The outline is currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

Tulare Lake Basin Coalition Groups

Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association

During September and October 2015, Regional Water Board staff issued one Notice of Applicability (NOA) to a grower within the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association area, notifying the grower of their coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120.

On October 7, 2015 the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report submitted by the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association. A copy of the letter is available on the Regional Board's ILRP webpage.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority

During September and October 2015, Regional Water Board staff issued 3 Notices of Applicability (NOAs) to growers within the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority area, notifying them of their coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120.

On October 7, 2015 the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report submitted by the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority. A copy of the letter is available on the Regional Board's ILRP webpage.

Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority

During September and October 2015, Regional Water Board staff issued 23 Notices of Applicability (NOAs) to growers within the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority area, notifying them of their coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120.

On October 6, 2015 the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report submitted by the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority. A copy of the letter is available on the Regional Board's ILRP webpage.

Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition

On October 29, 2015 the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report submitted by the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition.

Westlands Water Quality Coalition

During September and October 2015, Regional Water Board staff issued 3 Notices of Applicability (NOAs) to growers within the Westlands Water Quality Coalition area, notifying them of their coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0001.

Other Projects

Data Management

In May 2015, the Central Valley Regional Data Center's (Data Center) contract expired, and the Data Center's assistance with loading ILRP data into the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) has ceased until a new contract is executed. This has delayed uploads of ILRP data into CEDEN and will make it more difficult for interested parties to obtain some of the data.

Data collected prior to 2009 will continue to be available on the ILRP surface water quality data webpage until those sets are processed and transferred to CEDEN. Regional Water Board staff is currently processing the Westside and Sacramento Valley Coalition data collected between 2004 and 2008. Once complete, this set will complement the existing data on CEDEN providing all of the data submitted by the Westside Coalition since program inception.

On June 15, 2015, the Westside San Joaquin River Coalition provided their semi-annual monitoring data deliverable. After the data management team validates the data, it will be loaded into the Data Center database replica.

Regional Water Board staff has loaded the Grasslands Bypass Project electronic field data deliverable covering the monitoring period January through December 2014 into the Data Center replica before submitting to CEDEN.

On October 21, 2015, the Grasslands Bypass Project submitted its chemistry electronic field data deliverable covering the period from January through July 2015. Regional Water Board staff is validating the data before loading into the data base.

Grassland Bypass Project

On August 31, 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation submitted the draft Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Compliance Monitoring Program for the operation of the Grassland Bypass Project for Regional Water Board staff review. As required by the Order, the draft Plan specifies the sampling and analytical procedures that must be followed by Grassland dischargers. The draft Plan is currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

Rice Pesticides Program

Monitoring for thiobencarb started the last week of April 2015 and ended on July 1, 2015. Exceedances of the thiobencarb performance goal were observed in two Colusa Basin Drain sites; there were no thiobencarb detections at the water intakes for the Cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento. The California Rice Commission initiated additional monitoring upstream of a Colusa Basin Drain site that is not required by the Rice Pesticides Program to better characterize the drainage. A Rice Pesticides Program stakeholder meeting to discuss the 2015 thiobencarb monitoring results was held on November 6, 2015.