

## IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2016

### STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD:

On April 1 and 27, 2016, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) staff participated in a meeting with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9. The meeting objective was to develop a California Agricultural Partnership Forum strategy to advance NRCS/State Water Board/EPA partnership. Discussion focused on the use of NRCS Planning and Conservation Practices that will improve soil health and water quality, promote sustainability, and help achieve regulatory awareness and acceptance.

On April 4, 2016, ILRP staff participated in Farm Food Safety Conservation Network (FFSCN) steering committee meeting. Topics of discussion included development of training at the farm level to identify high risk food safety issues and what management practice should be utilized to reduce or eliminate the risk. Other topics included the need to revise FFSCN mission and objective.

At the request of a UC Davis invitation, on April 5, 2016, ILRP staff presented at a UC Davis environmental policy class. The class consisted of ~50 undergraduate students and their professor. Topics discussed included a general description of the statewide Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

On April 12, 2016, ILRP staff participated in technical discussion on biochar. Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse Director - Deputy Director, Administration, Governor's Office of Planning and Research hosted the meeting. Discussion included the potential for biochar to be used as a product itself or as an ingredient within a blended product, with a range of applications as an agent for soil fertility enhancement, improved soil water use efficiency, remediation (e.g. dead trees from fire ravaged lands), and/or protection against organic and inorganic particular environmental pollutants, and as an avenue for greenhouse gas mitigation.

On April 13, 2016, ILRP staff participated in a conference call hosted by Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). Meeting discussion focused recommendations from the Milken Institute Center for Innovation in Jerusalem around water technology and possible actions to increase deployment of irrigation technology in California. The Milken team's recommendations to expand R&D and grower education around innovative irrigation technologies, OPR has decided to pursue developing an online irrigation technology clearinghouse to be housed within UC Office of the President, in collaboration with other academic and NGO entities engaged in irrigation technology demonstration and grower/irrigation manager education. The clearinghouse will serve as a central hub of information about ongoing and completed demonstration sites, education, and technical assistance by UC, CSU, USDA, CDFR, NGOs, private industry and others in the space. It will also include information about funding and other resource for growers.

For additional information on the statewide ILRP, please contact State Water Board staff:

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## **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 April 21, 2016 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/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/)

For specific program information on the Central Valley Water Board ILRP, contact:

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## **CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM April 2016**

### **Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Development**

#### **Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed, Tulare Lake Basin Area, Western Tulare Lake Basin Area, Western San Joaquin River Watershed, San Joaquin County and Delta Area, Sacramento River Watershed Area, and Grassland Drainage Area WDRs**

On February 19, 2016, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) adopted amendments to the Waste Discharge Requirements General Orders for growers within the Central Valley that are members of a third-party group (ILRP General Orders) for removal of Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) and Sediment and Erosion Control Plan reporting requirements for managed wetlands and the removal of NMP reporting requirements for irrigated pasture.

The Order amends 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
- San Joaquin County and Delta Area R5-2014-0029
- Sacramento River Watershed Area R5-2014-0030
- Grassland Drainage Area R5-2015-0095

#### **Sacramento River Watershed WDRs**

On February 19, 2016, the Board adopted an amendment to the Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-party Group under Order R5-2014-0030-R1 to allow a one-year extension to March 1, 2017 for the certification of the Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) and submittal of the Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report.

## **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 Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Data gathered during these inspections will be used to focus and prioritize the issuance of 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.

<b>Coalition Area</b>	<b>Parcel Inspections Jan 16 – Mar 16</b>
East San Joaquin	5
Kings River	156
San Joaquin County & Delta	267
Sacramento Valley	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>

### **Water Code Section 13260 Directives**

These directives are sent to owners of commercial irrigated lands as identified through staff inspections of agricultural-zoned parcels. The recipients are required to submit a Notice of Intent 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.

<b>Coalition Area</b>	<b>Directives Mailed Jan 16 – Mar 16</b>
Kings River	109
San Joaquin County & Delta	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>

### **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.

<b>Coalition Area</b>	<b>NOVs Mailed Jan 16 – Mar 16</b>
San Joaquin County & Delta	15
Kings River	2
Tule Basin	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

### **Pre-Administrative Civil Liability Notification Letters**

Pre-Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) letters offer the recipients the opportunity to negotiate a settlement with 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.

On February 5, 2016, the Assistant Executive Officer issued pre-ACL letters to six East San Joaquin growers for failure to obtain regulatory coverage in the ILRP. The pre-ACL letter recipients are almond, walnut, grape and stone fruit growers with farm operations ranging in size from 18 to 78 acres. The pre-ACL letters proposed fines ranging from \$16,088 to \$46,410 depending on the size of the grower's operation and time of non-compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

On March 16, 2016, the Assistant Executive Officer issued a pre-ACL letter to a Sacramento Valley walnut grower for failure to obtain regulatory coverage in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The pre-ACL letter proposed a fine of \$12,480 based on the size of the grower's operation and the time of non-compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. Pre-ACL letters for three other Sacramento Valley growers were averted because the growers responded to a "last chance" phone call from Regional Water Board staff or in one case from a Coalition representative, by promptly obtaining regulatory coverage.

### **Administrative Civil Liability Complaints**

On January 25, 2016, the Assistant Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Jim & Vera Kurnosoff of Fresno County for violating California Water Code section 13260 by failing to obtain regulatory coverage for their irrigated agricultural lands. The full complaint, which proposes a fine of \$27,885, is available for review on the Central Valley Water Board's "Tentative Orders" webpage.

Also on January 25, 2016, the Assistant Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Gurchuran & Balwinder Rakkar of Madera County for violating California Water Code section 13260 by failing to obtain regulatory coverage for their irrigated agricultural lands. The Complaint, which proposes a fine of \$70,980, is available for review on the Central Valley Water Board's "Tentative Orders" webpage.

### **Coalition Enrollment Summary**

The tables below provide the latest coalition enrollment data based on coalition member lists submitted annually to comply with the ILRP General Order requirements, subsequent voluntary updates to member lists, and Central Valley Water Board staff identified additional enrollment data. The ILRP General Orders require coalitions to provide enrollment data each July and Regional Water Board staff requests a voluntary update in December to ensure accurate information for annual billing. Executive Officer Reports produced in months when coalitions are not required to provide member and participant information are updated using Water Board staff enrollment information.

**Cleanup & Abatement Order (CAO)**

<b>Table 1 of 2. Coalition Enrollment Information Summary in the Sacramento, Delta, East and Western San Joaquin River Watersheds</b>					
<b>Coalition Group</b>	<b>East San Joaquin</b>	<b>Sacramento Valley</b>	<b>San Joaquin Co. &amp; Delta</b>	<b>Western San Joaquin River</b>	
<b>Participating Growers</b>					
Number of Growers, Pre-Order	2,225	7,888	3,256	2,450	
Number of Growers reported by Coalition as of Jan 2016 (annual fees)	3,579	8,618	3,515	2,508	
Number* of Growers enrolling land due to Directive/eNOI (Jan-Mar 2016)	16	70	71	0	
Projected number of Growers in March	3595	8688	3586	2508	
<b>Enrolled Acreage</b>					
Number of Acres, Pre-Order	535,653	1,183,491	348,200	467,625	
Number of Acres reported by Coalition as of Jan 2016 (annual fees)	696,156	1,340,216	386,452	435,922	
Number* of Acres added due to Directive/eNOI (Jan-Mar 2016)	2,130	10,623	1,901	0	
Projected Acres Enrolled in March	698,286	1,350,839	388,353	435,922	

On February 1, 2016, the Assistant Executive Officer issued a CAO to Alldrin Boatwright LLC (Discharger) in Stanislaus County. The Discharger has mass-graded a large area of former foothill pasture to convert the land use to 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 schedule.

\* Changes in participating growers and enrolled acreage reflect Notices of Applicability that have been issued since the last Executive Officer's Report. They are based on staff calculations and have not been confirmed by the coalition groups. Formal statistics on grower participation is required to be provided by the coalitions in July and requested from the Coalitions in January for annual fees

<b>Table 2 of 2. Coalition Enrollment Information Summary for the Tulare Lake and Western Tulare Lake Basins</b>										
<b>Coalition Group</b>	<b>Buena Vista</b>	<b>Cawelo</b>	<b>Kaweah Basin</b>	<b>Kern River</b>	<b>Kings River</b>	<b>Tule Basin</b>	<b>Westside</b>	<b>Westlands</b>		
<b>Participating Growers</b>										
Number of Growers, Pre-Order	3,794 (Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition)								1,070	
Number of Growers, as of January 2016	61	87	1,321	819	4,724	1,116	43	1,275		
Change* (Additional Growers Enrolled)	0	0	3	6	14	4	0	1		
Projected number of Growers in March	61	87	1,324	825	4,738	1,120	43	1,276		
<b>Enrolled Acreage</b>										
Number of Acres, Pre-Order	957,362 (Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition)								507,489	
Number of Acres, as of January 2016	30,788	34,524	163,422	522,776	761,019	225,018	99,761	490,495		
Change* (Additional Acres Enrolled)	0	0	19	1,628	1,318	439	0	1,348		
Projected Acres Enrolled in March	30,788	34,524	163,441	524,404	762,337	225,457	99,761	491,843		

\* Changes in participating growers and enrolled acreage reflect Notices of Applicability that have been issued since the last Executive Officer's Report. They are based on staff calculations and have not been confirmed by the coalition groups. Formal statistics on grower participation is required to be provided by the coalitions in July and requested from the Coalitions in January for annual fees.

## **Sacramento River Watershed Coalition Groups**

### **Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition**

On January 19, 2016, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) submitted a request for completion of the management plan requirements for lead in the Pit River in the Northeastern California Water Association subwatershed. Regional Water Board staff is in the process of reviewing the request.

On February 2, 2016, the Lake County subwatershed submitted a proposal for the Reduced Monitoring / Management Practices Verification Option for review and approval by the Central Valley Water Board Executive Officer. Regional Water Board staff is in the process of reviewing the proposal.

On February 3, 2016, Regional Water Board staff held a Quarterly Status Update Meeting with SVWQC to discuss the status of the Delta Regional Monitoring Plan (RMP) proposal; status of the Sediment Discharge Erosion Assessment Report Workplan to Address Proximity to Surface Waters; update on submitted Reduced Monitoring / Management Practices Verification Option proposals; status of submitted management plan completion requests; and progress of SVWQC's management plans.

On February 26, 2016, the Executive Officer issued approval to allow the SVWQC to reduce water quality monitoring and participate in the Delta Regional Monitoring Program.

On March 10, 2016, Regional Water Board staff held a meeting with SVWQC and representatives from Applied Engineering and Geology, Inc. to discuss the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report – Workplan to Address Proximity to Surface Waters. The discussion focused on SVWQC's proposed exemptions to the requirement for completion of a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan which included parcels affected by levees or barriers; riparian vegetation; agricultural operations; and existing government ordinances for sediment and erosion control.

On March 10, 2016, the Executive Officer issued a conditional approval for the El Dorado Subwatershed to participate in the Reduced Monitoring/Management Practices Verification

Option (See MRP Order R5-2014-0030 at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2014-0030-r1.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2014-0030-r1.pdf)

A proposal submitted by the Coalition/Subwatershed demonstrates that conditions specified in the MRP Order are met. Final approval is pending completion of sediment toxicity monitoring during 2016 and submittal of the results to Regional Water Board staff.

## **San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Groups**

### **East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition**

On January 29, 2016, the Coalition submitted the Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program (GQTMP) Workplan, Phase II - Preliminary Determination of Specific Wells for GQTMP. Regional Water Board staff is currently reviewing the proposed trend monitoring workplan for compliance with the requirements of the Order.

On February 2, 2016, the Coalition submitted an evaluation report for management plans associated with DO and pH exceedances in the Coalition region according to the time schedule

provided in the approved Surface Water Quality Management Plan. Regional Water Board staff is currently reviewing the DO/pH evaluation report.

On February 3, 2016, the Executive Officer issued a letter notifying the Coalition members about their legal requirement to submit groundwater quality information required to develop a groundwater monitoring network. Members who fail to return information associated with their existing domestic, irrigation, monitoring and water supply wells could be subject to administrative or civil enforcement.

On February 4, 2016, Regional Water Board staff held the 26th Quarterly Meeting with the Coalition representatives to discuss progress of implementing the Coalition's Management Plans, performance goals, sediment and erosion control plan, and status of other activities in progress. The Coalition provided an update on management plan monitoring results and outreach in the subwatersheds.

On February 11, 2016, staff attended the Nitrogen Management Plan Certification training sponsored by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Fertilizer Research and Education Program in Stockton. The training session included an overview of nitrogen and groundwater quality issues, and nitrogen management plan.

On February 12, 2016, Regional Water Board staff's combined review of the 2014 and 2015 Annual Monitoring and Management Plan Progress Reports, covering the period January 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, was provided to the Coalition. The Coalition complied with all MRP Order monitoring and reporting requirements in both Annual Reports. However, based on compliance statistics provided in the Farm Evaluation summary, Regional Water Board staff is pursuing enforcement to bring members who failed to return the Farm Evaluation surveys to the Coalition into compliance with the Order.

On March 1, 2016, Regional Water Board staff received the Coalition's Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period July-September 2015.

On March 7, 2016, the Executive Officer approved the Coalition's request to amend the 2016 Monitoring Plan Update for sediment toxicity management plan monitoring. This amendment was approved based on the current Surface Water Quality Ambient Monitoring Program recommendation for evaluating toxicity data.

### **San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition**

On January 22, 2016, the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Coalition's work plan that addresses sediment discharges from parcels adjacent to water bodies not identified in the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report. This will be an addendum to the SDEAR.

On February 12, 2016, based on the August 27, 2014 Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Toxicity Workgroup Recommendation protocol letter, the Coalition submitted an amendment to the 2015 Monitoring Plan Update and 2016 water year monitoring schedule. It is under management review.

On February 16, 2016, the Coalition submitted the 2016 Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plan (GQMP), as per the Order. The GQMP presents the approach to eliminating/reducing impairments of beneficial uses of groundwater.

On February 19, 2016, the Executive Officer provided an email response to the South Delta Water Agency concerning southern Delta salinity management plans requirements. The email effectively said the Coalition will need to either join CV-SALTS or prepare salinity management plans.

On February 22, 2016, the Coalition submitted a DO and pH special study as per the time schedule discussed in the approved Surface Water Quality Management Plan (SQMP). The Coalition met its 120-day due date established in the SQMP. It is under Regional Water Board staff review.

On March 4, 2016, Regional Water Board staff completed its review of the SJD Coalition's Annual Monitoring Report and Management Plan Progress report covering the period January through September 2014. The Coalition is complying with the Order requirements. The AMR was due before the Farm Evaluation and nitrogen management plan summary information was due. Management practice and nitrogen management plan data will need to be summarized by township in the next AMR.

On March 7, 2016, the Coalition's request to update the 2016 water year monitoring schedule to reduce management plan monitoring for sediment toxicity was approved by the Executive Officer, based on the current SWAMP recommendation for evaluating toxicity data and information provided in the request letter.

#### **Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition**

On January 16, 2016, the Executive officer approved the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition's (Coalition) 2016 Monitoring Plan Update (MPU). This Monitoring Plan covers the period from March 2016 through February 2017 and fulfills the monitoring and reporting program requirements of the Order. The approved MPU allowed the Coalition to monitor additional sites at Wetlands Supply Channels for selenium, boron and field parameters.

On February 11, 2016, Regional Water Board staff attended a self-certification course for completion of the Nitrogen Management Plan. This certification course is made available to the growers in order to equip them with the required knowledge to plan their nitrogen input. It enables the growers to certify their own Nitrogen Management Plans.

On February 16, 2016, Regional Water Board staff held a Quarterly Meeting with Coalition representatives to discuss the status of ongoing surface water quality management plans. Coalition education and outreach activities were discussed along with exceedance reports, comprehensive surface water quality management plan report, and management plan completion requirements. Regional Water Board staff also briefed the Coalition about implications of the State Board Order on Eastside General Order.

On March 7, 2016, the Coalition submitted a request to change the frequency of their monitoring report from a Semi-Annual Monitoring Report to an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The Coalition's request is currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

On March 9, 2016, Regional Water Board staff held a meeting with Coalition representatives and their analytical laboratory personnel to discuss issues within the January 5, 2016 QAPP amendment request. The Coalition also discussed a change from submitting SAMRs to an AMR. The Coalition will submit a revised QAPP amendment request.

On March 11, 2016, Regional Water Board staff's review of the Coalition's Semi-Annual Monitoring Reports and Management Plan Progress reports covering the monitoring period from September 2014 through August 2015 was provided to the Coalition. The Coalition is complying with the Order requirements.

### **Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee (Grassland Drainage Area Coalition)**

On November 12, 2015, the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Manager approved the Coalition's proposed outline for the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report. The draft outline details the information and format for the Report required for submittal by July 31, 2016.

## **Tulare Lake Basin Coalition Groups**

### **Buena Vista Coalition**

On February 3, 2016 the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report submitted by the Buena Vista Coalition. The Groundwater Quality Assessment Report designates high and low vulnerability areas within the Coalition, and establishes due dates for growers to complete the Farm Evaluation Template and Nitrogen Management Plan Template. A copy of the letter is available on the Regional Water Board's ILRP webpage.

### **Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association**

On February 3, 2016 the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report submitted by the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association. The Groundwater Quality Assessment Report designates high and low vulnerability areas within the Coalition, and establishes due dates for growers to complete the Farm Evaluation Template and Nitrogen Management Plan Template. A copy of the letter is available on the Regional Water Board's ILRP webpage.

On March 1, 2016, the Coalition submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015 surface water quality monitoring data. The data covers the 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015 reporting period.

On April 4, 2016, Regional Water Board staff issued a review of the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) submitted by the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association. The review included comments describing necessary changes to the QAPP in order to meet the requirements of the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

### **Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority**

On February 8, 2016, the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority submitted a revised Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR). The revised submittal was required by the conditional approval of the original SDEAR, issued October 6, 2015, to address issues with the methodology used to identify growers which need to complete and implement a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan.

On March 1, 2016, the Coalition submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015 surface water quality monitoring data. The data covers the 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015 reporting period.

### **Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority**

On February 25, 2016 the Executive Officer approved a Source Identification Study proposed by the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority to provide information for the Surface Water Quality Management Plan developed for Chanac Creek. The study will investigate whether

irrigated agriculture is causing or contributing to water quality issues observed in Chanac Creek, and potential modes of transport for constituents of concern, and is anticipated to be completed by November 3, 2016.

On March 1, 2016, the Coalition submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015 surface water quality monitoring data. The data covers the October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 reporting period.

#### **Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition**

On January 6, 2016, the Executive Officer conditionally approved the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report submitted by the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition. A copy of the letter is available on the Regional Board's ILRP webpage.

On February 10, 2016, the Coalition submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015 surface water quality monitoring data. The data covers the 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015 reporting period.

#### **Western Tulare Lake Basin Coalition Group**

##### **Westlands Water Quality Coalition**

On March 2, 2016, Regional Water Board staff attended a meeting with the Westlands Water Quality Coalition to discuss the resubmittal of the 2014 Annual Monitoring Report. Other topics discussed included necessary revisions to the existing approved 2012 Surface Water Quality Management Plans, development of new Surface Water Quality Management Plans, and the status of joining a Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP) Group.

On March 1, 2016, the Coalition submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015 surface water quality monitoring data. The data covers the 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015 reporting period.

On March 7, 2016, the Executive Officer approved the addition of the Westlands Water Quality Coalition and the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition to the existing Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP) Group previously consisting of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District on behalf of the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition, and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority on behalf of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition.

On March 17, 2016, Regional Water Board staff attended a meeting with the Westlands Water Quality Coalition to discuss the submittal of a revised Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR), and the development of a workplan and time schedule addressing proximity to surface waters as a factor which increases sediment and erosion discharge potential. Both submittals were received on March 21, 2016.

#### **Other Projects**

##### **Data Management**

In May 2015, the Central Valley Regional Data Center's (CVRDC) contract expired, and CVRDC'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 ILRP 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 November 30, 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 CV RDC database replica.

On February 17-18, 2016, Regional Water Board staff loaded Westside San Joaquin River Water Quality Coalition monitoring data to the CV-RDC database replica. Data covers the period March through August 2015.

On March 1, 2016, Regional Water Board staff received the Sacramento Valley Coalition data deliverable covering the monitoring period July through September 2015. After the data management team validates the data, it will be loaded into the CV RDC database replica.

On March 7, 2016, Regional Water Board staff loaded Westside San Joaquin River Coalition December monitoring data to the CV-RDC database replica. Data covers the period March through August 2015.

On March 15, 2016, Regional Water Board staff loaded Sacramento Valley Coalition monitoring data to the CV-RDC database replica. Data covers the period April through June 2015.

### **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 staff review. As required by the Order, the draft Plan specifies the sampling and analytical procedures that must be followed by Grassland dischargers. However, some omissions were noted by Regional Water Board staff, and a revised draft will be submitted.

On January 4, 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation submitted the draft Grassland Bypass Project Sediment Monitoring Plan for Regional Water Board staff review. As required by the Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2015-0094, the draft Plan provides details of the monitoring program for sediment for the Grassland Bypass Project. The draft Plan is currently under Regional Water Board staff review.

### **Rice Pesticides Program**

On January 28, 2016, the California Rice Commission submitted the draft technical memorandum for the Rice Pesticides Program: 2015 Thiobencarb Performance Goal Exceedances. Monitoring for thiobencarb started the last week of April 2015 and ended on 1 July 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.

On February 3, 2016, the CRC submitted recommendations for actions to be taken during the 2016 growing season. The actions being considered include: no action, increase educational outreach efforts, perform additional targeted water quality monitoring studies, increase

inspection activities, use limitations resulting from non-compliance, and assess weather and drought effects on thiobencarb use rates and flow rates in the agricultural drains. The draft memorandum and recommendations are currently under Regional Water Board staff review.