

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATOR PROGRAM

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IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM (ILRP)

- **Program Purpose and Objective** - to address agricultural discharges that are impairing receiving waters and to partner with agricultural related liaison agencies and technical service providers to develop farm water quality management and conservation plans to assist growers comply with regulatory requirements .
- **Scope**
 - Approximately 9 million acres and 40 thousand growers
 - Significant groundwater and surface water bodies are impaired due to pesticides, nitrate, salt, sediment, and bacteria contamination.
- Data below is from the 2010 303(d) list of impaired waters.
- **Total impaired waters where the source may be from agricultural sources:**
 - 7,986 miles of rivers/streams
 - 310,370 acres of lakes, reservoirs, bays, estuaries and wetlands
- **Pesticides impaired waters (may or may not be from an agricultural source):**
 - 4,133 miles of rivers, streams and coastline listed for pesticides
 - 792,708 acres of lakes, reservoirs, bays, estuaries, ocean and wetlands listed for pesticides
- **Regional Water Board ILRPs** regulate discharges from irrigated agricultural by issuing waste discharge requirements (WDRs) or conditional waivers of WDRs (Waivers) to either agricultural coalition groups or individual growers.
 - WDRs and Waivers contain conditions requiring water quality monitoring of receiving waters and corrective actions when impairments are found.



1 – North Coast Region

2 – San Francisco Bay Region

3 – Central Coast Region

4 – Los Angeles Region

5 – Central Valley Region

6 – Lahontan Region

7 – Colorado River Basin Region

8- Santa Ana Region

9 – San Diego Region

STATE WATER BOARD - ILRP

- **Program Oversight**
 - Coordinate with Regional Water Boards, Agricultural Commodity Groups, Technical Service Providers, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Local Agencies, and State Administration
- **Public Outreach**
 - Provide information and technical support to the regulated community
- **Information Management Solutions**
 - Develop a reporting and tracking database for ILRP
- **Petitions**
 - Provide technical assistance to the review and response of Regional Board petitions

IMPORTANCE OF COALITIONS

- The ILRP supports and recommends the utilization of grower coalitions.
- Coalitions can be developed to serve as aggregate liaisons between the growers and the Regional Water Boards.
 - coalitions can collect data from farmers, organize it, and present summaries to the Regional Water Boards.
 - As local organizations, coalitions can provide strong input to the specifics of local regulatory programs' formation and modification.
 - Coalitions can serve as the first point of contact in notifying farmers of any apparent compliance problem.
 - Coalitions can also coordinate, sponsor, and/or conduct research and education.

ILRP MULTI-AGENCY TEAM CONCEPT

- **Multi-Agency Team Concept** - developing specific MPs as implementation projects to address prioritized areas of agricultural related water quality impairment.
- Team should include agencies associated with pollutants of concern, and management practices to address pollutants:
 - **Pesticides** – Department of Pesticides Regulation and County Agricultural Commissioners;
 - **Nutrients** – California Department of Food and Agriculture and County Agricultural Commissioners;
 - **Management Practices** – Resource Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of California Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau's.
 - Developing multi-agency partners for demonstration projects

ILRP ACTIVITY TO ADDRESS NITRATE/DRINKING WATER ISSUES

Multi-pronged strategy consisting of:

- Informing and protecting water users from known public health threats due to nitrate pollution,
- Supporting ongoing monitoring and assessment to document measurable improvements in source reduction and groundwater and drinking water quality.
- Implementing source control to reduce nitrate loading over time
- Establishing basin-wide salinity and nitrate management programs,
- Developing groundwater quality protection strategies, and

ILRP PRIORITIES OVERTIME

- Pesticides in surface water
- Food safety
- Nutrients in groundwater
- Healthy soils