

## Proposed Changes in Coalition Membership Rules

In an effort to relieve the backlog of applications to join a coalition, the Regional Water Board is going to consider some basic rule changes for late applicants. Under the existing rules, a grower can join a coalition under the following conditions:

- (1) They were not a discharger previously;
- (2) They were covered under the Individual Discharge Order provisions;
- (3) coalition boundary changes or formation of a new coalition;
- (4) Property is under new ownership after December 31, 2006;
- (5) the Water Board staff has determined that a parcel is a discharger after the owner has reasonably claimed not to be, or;
- (6) other conditions approved on a case by case basis.

Under the proposed changes, the Executive Officer of the Regional Board may approve a new participant should conditions 1 through 4 above be met. Should a participant seek membership with reasons other than 1 through 4, after June 30, 2008, the executive officer may approve the application with the submission of an application fee. As of this time, the fees that are proposed would include acreage assessments not paid since 2007 (or the sum of previous assessments, as determined by the coalition) plus a potential penalty as laid out in state law. As of this writing, no decision at the Kings River Sub-Watershed level has been made as to the nature of this fee structure.

The Regional Board will consider the changes during their April 2008 meeting. More information regarding the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program can be found at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/central-valley/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/central-valley/).

## New Monitoring Allows Flexibility, Draft of Program Is Underway

A new Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) is being drafted in response to changes implemented by the Regional Board in January 2008. The new MRP requires more of a systematic monitoring approach to a coalition's waterways, with sampling during each month of the year. The list of constituents tested for remains essentially the same, but more flexibility exists for a coalition to customize that list to match the cropping patterns surrounding the sample site.

The new program will consist of complete testing for water contaminants during the first year of a 3-year cycle, with reduced monitoring for years two and three. Should a problem be detected, additional investigative work will be required to identify the cause, and the development and implementation of a management plan for the problem will take place. It is anticipated that such steps will not be necessary, given the results of the testing program to date.

Testing is being expanded from three sites to five, plus several specific sites during the winter months to evaluate storm influences on the river.

**Is your contact information accurate?**

**Please update us by phone at 559-237-5567 or e-mail at: [comments@krcd.org](mailto:comments@krcd.org)**

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