

Imperial County Farm Bureau's

Voluntary TMDL Compliance Program

Director's Report
January 2007

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By Linsey J. Dale, Natural Resources Director

Voluntary Compliance Program Update

TMDL Compliance Program Drained Meetings

There were no drained meetings conducted during the month of January.

Outreach Efforts

I attended the following meetings during the month of January: ICFB Board of Directors, ICFB Water Committee, IID Board of Directors, TMDL Joint Advisory Committee, California Irrigation Institute Annual Meeting and State of California Salton Sea PEIR Workshop.

I joined AI on an educational tour for Carla Scheidlinger with Agrarian Research. Carla is doing research on various new BMPs that her organization is considering.

On-Farm Consulting by AI Kalin

AI has continued his work with local city councils and community groups to educate them on Salton Sea issues. AI joined me at the California Irrigations Institute's Annual Meeting in Sacramento where he made a presentation on how the TMDL Program is affecting the Salton Sea.

Website

There were no additions or changes made to the TMDL website during the month of January.

Farm Water Quality Management Plans

To date, forms have been submitted for 5,821 fields representing 452,265.12 of 494,063 net farmable acres or 91.5%.

TMDL Advisory Committee

There was a TMDL Advisory Committee meeting held on January 9th. Discussion was held regarding the newly prepared Pollution Load Reduction Report. This report is in draft form and a final draft is expected within the next month from Grant Consultant Sheila Ault. Ivory Stark, Grant Manager for the Regional Water Quality Control Board joined in the meeting via telephone and reported that the RWQCB had no current monitoring data because of a reduced amount of staff personnel. Steve Charlton from the Imperial Irrigation District reported that he is in the process of preparing the IID's annual report and it would be available in February. So far there are no red flags to report. The next TMDL Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 6th. After the meeting it is planned that Ivory and the RWQCB's new Ag. Liaison, Cliff Raley would take a tour of the fields with AI.

ICFB 319(h) NPS Implementation Grants

319(h) Grant #1 Funding Cycle July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2003 \$124,600.00
The final paperwork has been completed and filed for this grant.

319(h) Grant #2 Funding Cycle July 1, 2003 – October 31, 2004 \$115,980.00
This grant was approved on February 27, 2004. The maximum amount approved is \$115,980.00 with a local match of \$77,320.00 for a total of \$193,000.00. The grant was scheduled to end on March 28, 2005; however, we reached the end of the funds for this grant in October. All paperwork has been filed for this grant.

319(h) Grant #3 Funding Cycle Nov. 1, 2004–June 30, 2007 \$370,450.37
We are still awaiting payment of Invoice #5 for period of July 1, 2006 – September 30, 2006 in the amount of \$35,177.82. The invoice has been approved by the RWQCB and has been forwarded for payment to SWQCB.

Invoice #6 for the period of October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 has been completed and received by the RWQCB for review. The invoice for this reporting period is for the amount of \$34,946.69.

319(h) Grant #4 Funding Cycle Schd: June 30, 2007 – December 31, 2009 \$379,440.00
The fourth grant has been approved. We received final documentation for this grant during the month of January and are awaiting its start date.

Match Funding

The match fund requirement for the current Grant #3 has been fulfilled. A total of \$70,000 has been received from the Imperial Irrigation District since the beginning of this grant in 2004. Grant #4 requires a total of \$94,860 (20% of the 319(h) Project) in Match Funds; therefore, I plan to approach the IID Board of Directors in July 2007 as we begin the next grant cycle.

Goals for February 2007

Meetings scheduled to attend:

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| • IID's Water Conservation Advisory Board | February 8 th |
| • ICFB Board of Directors Meeting | February 12 th |
| • ICFB Executive Committee | February 22 nd |
| • CFBF Leadership Conference | February 27 th |

Program Goals

- Complete Load Reduction Report with Sheila.
- Conduct tour and educate new RWQCB Ag Liaison, Cliff Raley on Imperial Valley irrigation practices and TMDL Program.
- Assist Regional Water Board applicants with application process.
- Conduct TMDL related interview and / or report for KGBA Farm Report and Imperial Valley Press Farm Page.
- Brainstorm with AI on possible new approaches to excite TMDL activities
- Begin compiling information for new TMDL brochure to be handed out during Drain Shed meetings in the spring.