



Update:

Central Coast Water Board

Agricultural Order

R3-2012-0011

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program
September 13, 2013

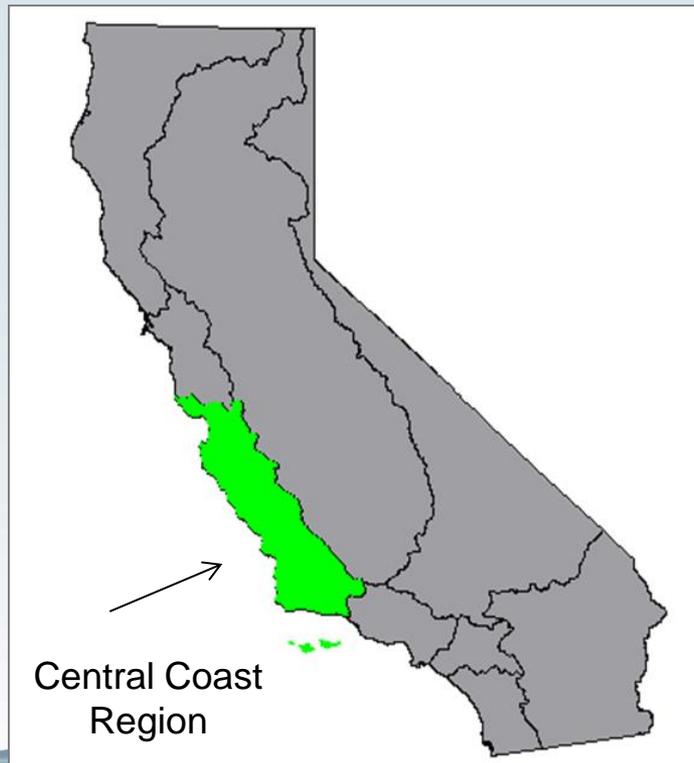


Overview

- **Role of the Water Board**
- **Agricultural Order R3-2012-0011**
- **Implementation Priorities**
- **Resources for Growers**
- **Questions**



Role of the State and Regional Water Boards



Mission Statement
***“Preserve, enhance and restore
the quality of California’s
water resources”***





Current Status

2012 Agricultural Order

- **3+ Year Process**
- **Adopted on March 15, 2012**
- **Expires in March 15, 2017**
- **Petitioned to State Board in April 2012**
- **Order in effect now (except stayed provisions)**
- **State Board Hearing – September 24, 2013**



Agricultural Water Quality Concerns

- Irrigation runoff
- Stormwater runoff
- Drainage water that percolates to groundwater and impacts drinking water sources
- Operational spills
- Pesticides and Toxicity
- Nitrogen and other nutrients
- Salt
- Soil, silt, sediment
- Trash



Old Salinas River, 2007



Safe Drinking Water

2012 UC Davis Nitrate Report

“Nitrate is one of the state’s most widespread groundwater contaminants, causing major health risks and substantial costs to rural communities.”

“Fertilizers and animal wastes applied to cropland are by far the largest regional sources of nitrate in groundwater.”

“Nitrate loading reductions are possible”

Addressing Nitrate in California’s Drinking Water

With a Focus on Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley Groundwater

Report for the State Water Resources Control Board Report to the Legislature



California Nitrate Project,
Implementation of Senate Bill X2 1

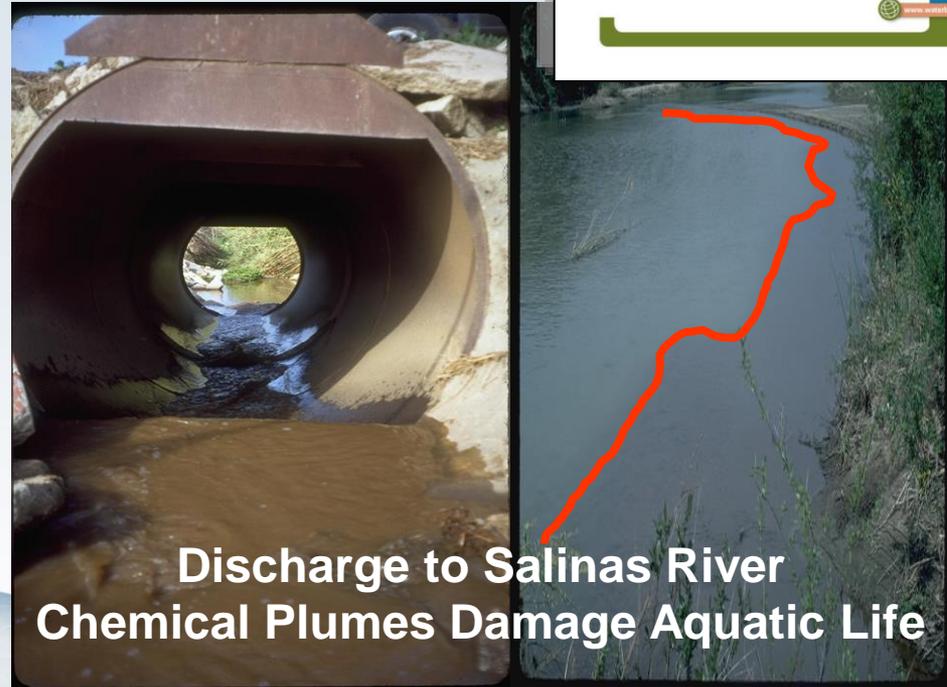
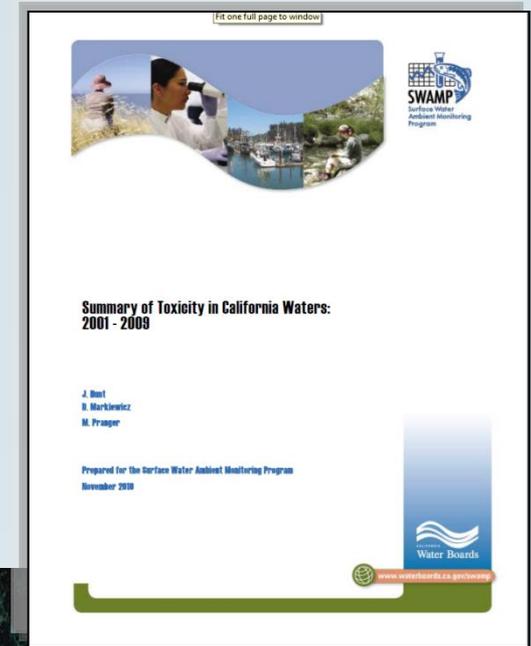
Center for Watershed Sciences
University of California, Davis
<http://groundwatermitrate.ucdavis.edu>

Prepared for the California State Water Resources Control Board

2010 State Water Board Report Toxicity in California Waters

Central Coast Region:

- Highest percentage of toxic sites state-wide
- 56% of sites toxic
- 22% of sites highly toxic



What is the purpose of the Agricultural Order?

Requires farmers and landowners to implement management practices, and conduct monitoring and reporting, to ensure that farms are protecting surface water and groundwater.



What does the Agricultural Order apply to?

1. Land planted to row, vineyard, field and tree crops where water is applied for producing commercial crops;
2. Specific commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and greenhouse operations;
3. Land planted to commercial crops that are not yet marketable, such as vineyards and tree crops.



Tiers and Criteria

Based on relative risk to water quality and discharge

Tier 1 (Lower Risk)

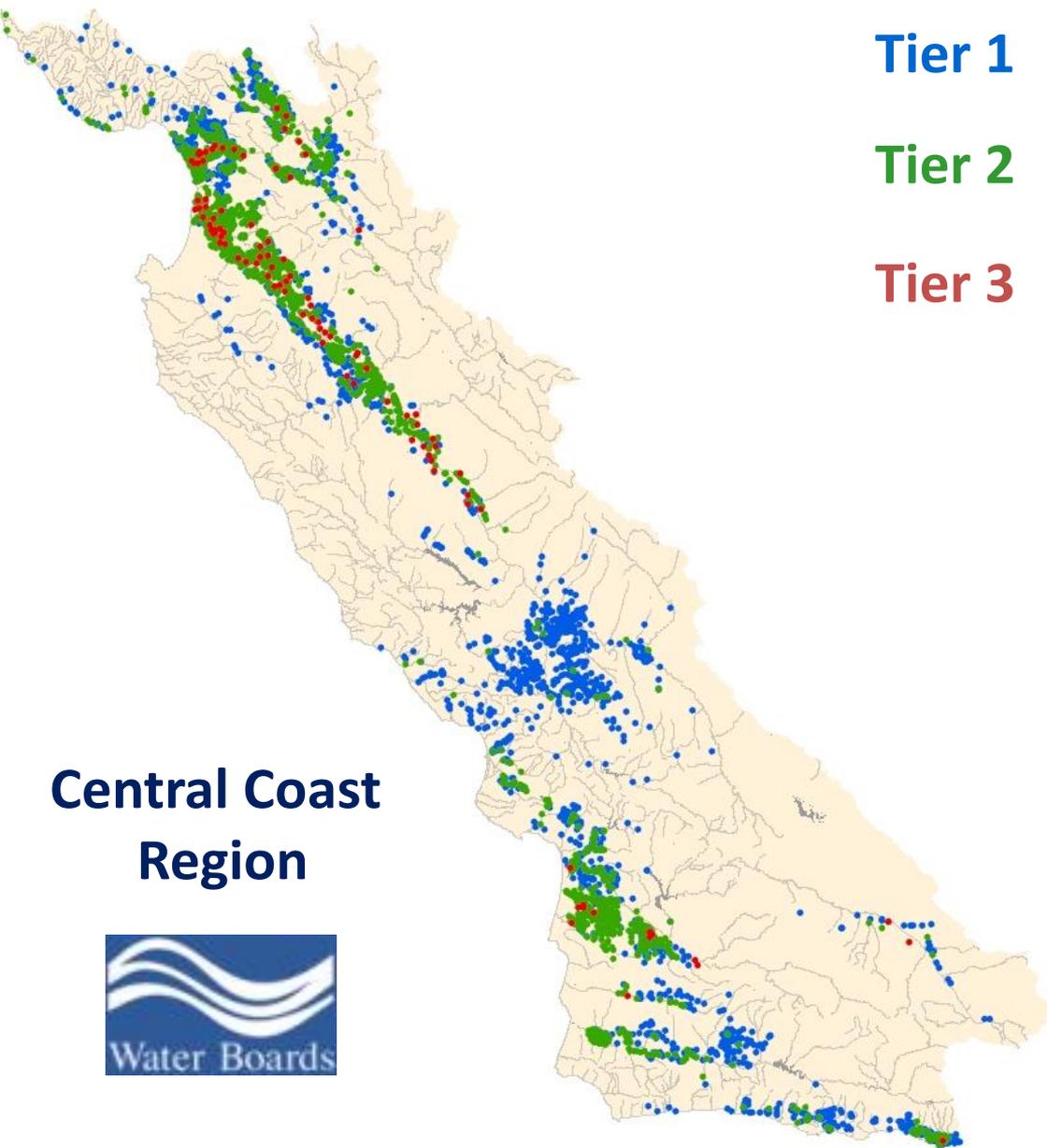
- NO chlorpyrifos or diazinon applied,
- NO impaired surface water, AND
- If nitrogen loading crop, must be less than 50 acres and not near impacted public drinking water well.
- OR Certified Sustainable-In-Practice (SIP).

Tier 2

- Chlorpyrifos or diazinon applied,
- Impaired surface water, OR
- If nitrogen loading crop, near impacted public drinking water well or between 50 – 500 acres.

Tier 3 (Higher Risk)

- Chlorpyrifos or diazinon applied, and discharge to impaired surface water; OR
- If nitrogen loading crop, greater than or equal to 500 acres.

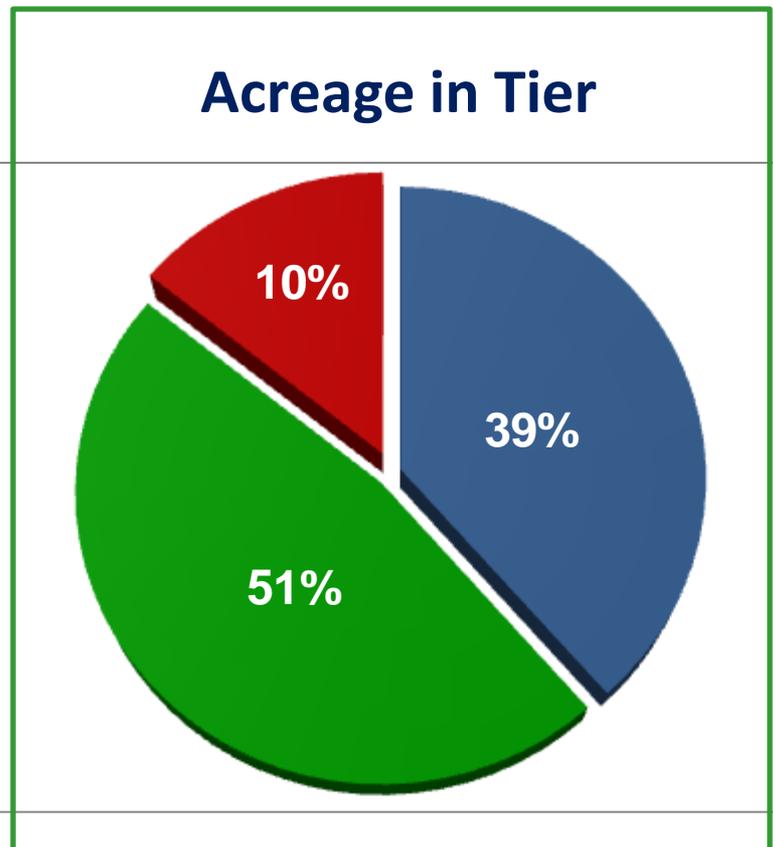


Tier 1

Tier 2

Tier 3

**Central Coast
Region**



Enrollment

419,872 Irrigated Acres
1739 Operations / 4196 Farms

**data approximate as of 12/2012*

2012 Order Tier 1

2012 Order Tier 2

2012 Order Tier 3

Tier 2 Minus:

**Annual compliance
info - Online entry
form**

File / Update Notice of Intent

Farm Plan / BMP Implementation

- irrigation management
- pesticide management
- nutrient management
- erosion management
- schedules to implement

**Surface Receiving Water
Monitoring and Reporting**

**Groundwater Monitoring and
Reporting**

**Backflow prevention and Proper
Well Abandonment**

**Annual compliance info -
Online entry form**

- Total Nitrogen Applied Reporting**
- Photo Monitoring**

Tier 2 Plus:

**Ind. Discharge
Monitoring**

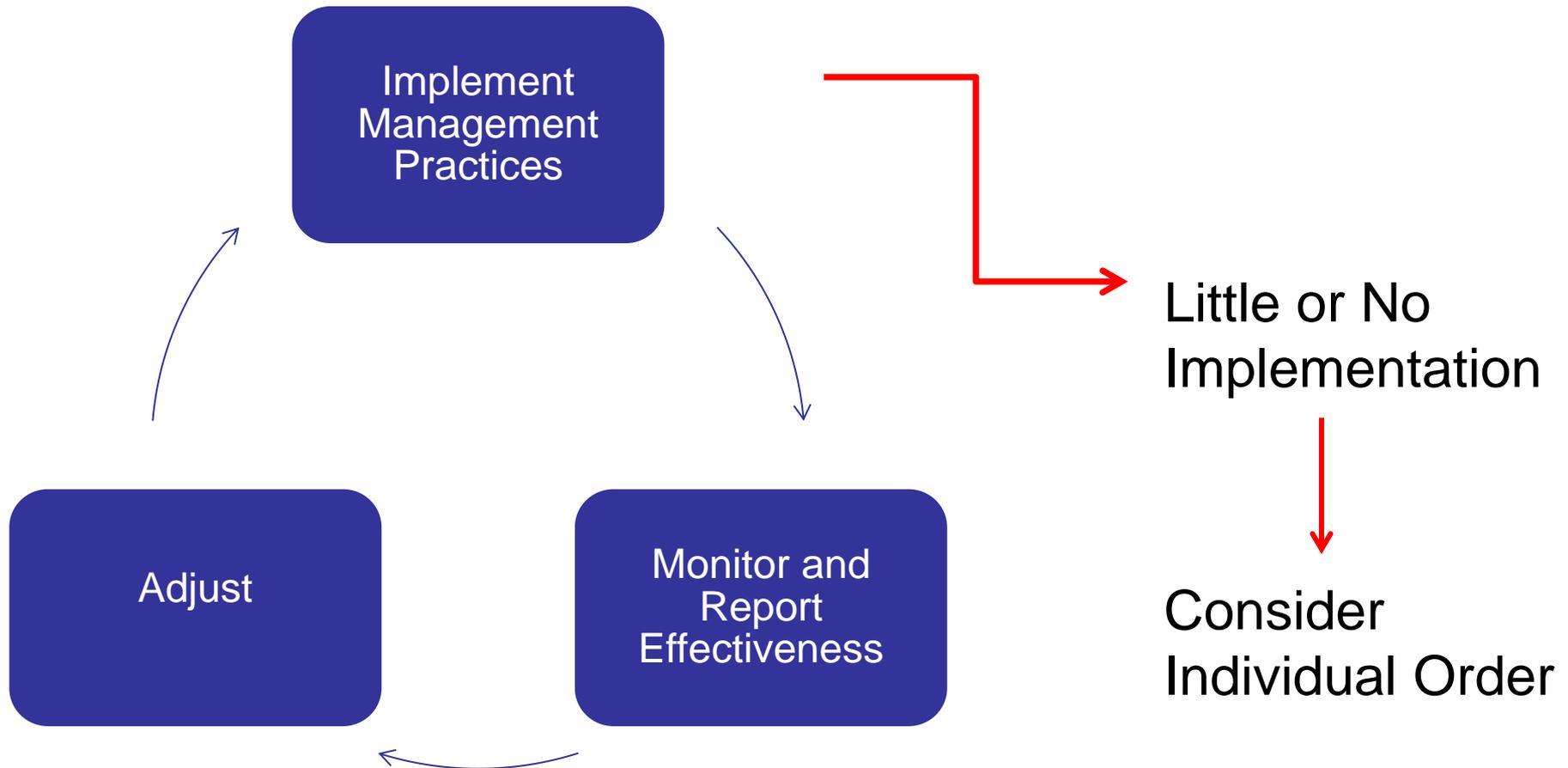
**Irrigation and
Nutrient Mgmt.
Plan****

**Water Quality
Buffer Plan****

***Subset of Tier*

How will the Water Board evaluate compliance?

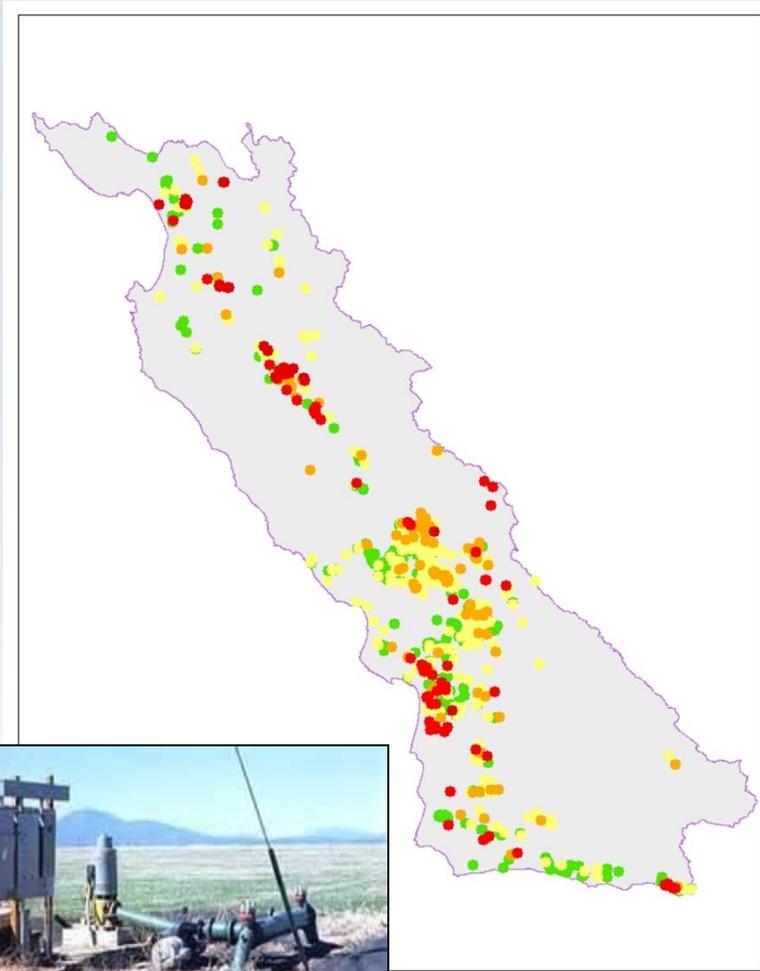
Goal - Improve Water Quality Over Time
Iterative Process



Resources for Growers

- Grower Workshops: eNOI and Annual Compliance Form
- In-Person and phone assistance
- Assistance for small/limited resource farmers
- Technical Assistance Providers
- Private industry consultants
- Grant Funds and Cost Share Opportunities
- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

GROUNDWATER MONITORING



- Primary Irrigation Well
- All Drinking Water Wells
- Nitrate
- General Minerals
- Results uploaded by laboratory
- 1200+ Wells Sampled
- Drinking Water Notifications



MEASURES OF SUCCESS

2011

- ~377,988 acres of irrigated land (87%)
- ~1,690 operations / 3,800 farms

2012

- ~396,000 acres of irrigated land (91%)
- ~1,739 operations / 4,196 farms

2013

- ~429,980 acres of irrigated land (99%)
- ~1,918 operations / 4,267 farms
- Annual Compliance Form ~ 1328 farms





THANK YOU

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Water Board Website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml



Summary

- 2012 Agricultural Order in effect now
- Requirements are scaled based on risk to water quality
- Requires implementation of management practices - to address water quality issues on farm and nearby creeks and groundwater
- Iterative, adaptive approach
- Alternatives available
- Grower assistance and resources

