



## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

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### Our Mission...

*To preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.*

### Who we are

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVWB) is one of nine Regional Water Boards in California. The CVWB is a regulatory Board appointed by the Governor, tasked with establishing policies and regulations to protect the quality of surface and ground waters throughout the Central Valley. The CVWB does this through issuing permits and other orders to businesses, industries, public agencies, and districts that conduct activities or practices that may impact or harm water quality.



### Water in the Central Valley

The Central Valley is the largest and most diverse region in California, stretching from the Oregon border to the tip of Los Angeles County – about 60,000 square miles or nearly 40 percent of the state. It includes all or part of 38 of California's 58 counties and about 75 percent of the State's irrigated agricultural land. It includes the entire watersheds for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and the Tulare Lake Basin. Nearly all of the legal Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta is within the CVWB jurisdictional area.

In total, water from the Central Valley provides more than 50 percent of the State's total water supply, providing drinking water for 2/3 of the State and irrigation for millions of acres of farms in and out of the valley. Many of the waterways within the Central

Valley, especially those on the valley floor, are impacted or polluted by an assortment of pollutants that pose a risk to agricultural irrigation water, drinking water, fish and wild life. These pollutants include pesticides, metals, salts, pathogens, fertilizers, and industrial chemicals.

### Protecting Water Quality

To protect the quality of surface<sup>1</sup> and ground waters, the CVWB issues permits to individuals, businesses, industries, cities, counties, and local districts where their practices or activities could impact the quality of surface and ground waters. These practices or activities include treating sewage, treating water to provide drinking water, industrial processes, mining, dredging, wash waters, cooling water, construction, irrigation of crops, dairy operations, timber harvest, etc.

The CVWB has various programs that focus on specific types of practices or activities; such as, cannabis, dairies, forest activities, landfills, mining, wastewater, underground storage tanks and storm water discharges.

In 2003, the CVWB created a specific program designed to address activities associated with irrigated lands. This program is referred as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program or ILRP.



<sup>1</sup> Surface water includes natural waterways like lakes, rivers and streams, and man-made water collection and delivery systems like canals and drains.

# Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)



[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands)

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## What is the ILRP?

The ILRP is a Central Valley Water Board (CVWB) program that issues permits and conducts compliance and enforcement activities to ensure growers comply with CVWB regulations.

## Who needs permit coverage under the ILRP?

Anyone who irrigates land to produce crops or pasture commercially must seek ILRP permit coverage.

## Who does not need to be in the ILRP?

An ILRP permit is not required if the property is not used commercially, is never irrigated, is a dairy, or the agricultural land is covered by a separate permit.

## Background

- 1999 The CVWB created an agricultural program that is referred to as the ILRP in response to Senate Bill 390.
- 2003 CVWB adopted its first ILRP permit to regulate only growers that discharge irrigation or storm waters to surface waters from fields irrigated to produce crops. This permit allowed growers to form coalitions to assist them in complying with the CVWB permit requirements.
- 2012 CVWB expanded the ILRP to regulate all Central Valley growers, continuing to allow growers to form or join coalitions.



## How do I seek permit coverage under the ILRP?

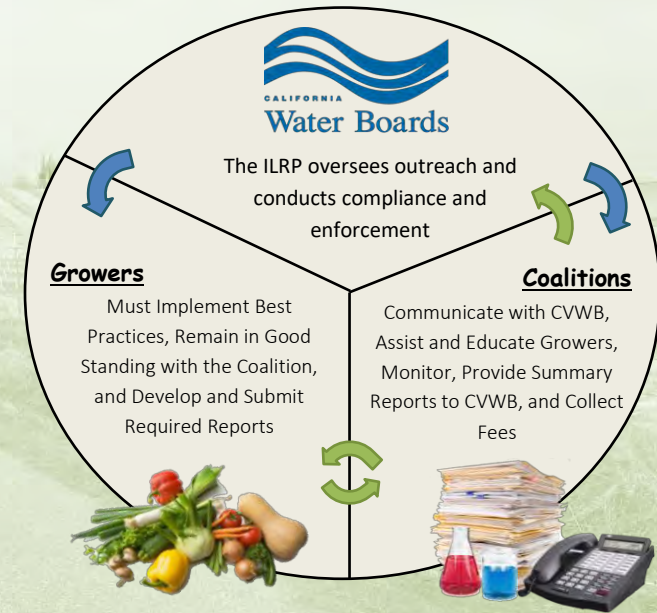
The CVWB offers two ILRP permit options:

1. **Coalition Option:** A grower may enroll in a permit which allows them to join a coalition that assists them with permit compliance. The grower remains fully responsible for complying with the permit. This option allows a grower to share the cost of compliance, monitoring and reporting with other members of the coalition and reduces/eliminates grower interactions with the CVWB.  
  
A grower must file an application to join a coalition **and** must remain in good standing with their coalition to maintain coverage.
2. **Individual Option:** A grower may seek individual coverage by submitting an NOI and fee directly to the CVWB. The grower would communicate directly with the CVWB and bear the full cost and responsibility for compliance, monitoring and reporting.

## How do growers in coalitions comply with the ILRP?

Growers must implement ILRP permit requirements and maintain in good standing with their coalitions. Growers must work to prevent sediment, fertilizer, pesticides, manure and other materials used in farming from leaving the field in irrigation or storm water and entering surface waters or from leaching below the root zone to groundwater. Growers are also required to develop and implement on-farm plans and submit reports to their coalitions; these reports are then summarized and reported to the CVWB.

## What is the relationship between growers, coalitions and CVWB?



## How can growers seek help on ILRP compliance?

Coalitions are required to provide outreach, education and assistance to growers; they are the primary resource for growers. Growers may seek outside assistance from local or state groups, agencies, or educational institutions. Growers may also seek assistance directly from the CVWB staff.