

SVWQC Communication Report

DATE: May 6, 2008
Revised June 13, 2008

TO: Jodi Pontureri, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

CC: Joe Karkoski, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Margie Read, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

FROM: Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

SUBJECT: Water Quality Exceedances

EVENT DATES: February 21-22, 2008

EVENT TYPE: Storm Season

RESULT TYPES: Field Measurements

SUMMARY OF EXCEEDANCES

The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) conducted water sampling from February 21, 2008 through February 22, 2008 as required by the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver and the Coalition's Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (MRPP). This Communication Report presents the results of additional evaluations and provides information supplemental to the Exceedance Report dated March 5, 2008. The observed exceedances of the Basin Plan's narrative and numeric objectives and planned follow-up actions are summarized in **Table 1**.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

In response to the observed exceedances of the Basin Plan numeric and narrative objectives, the following actions were implemented:

- For exceedances being addressed by Management Plans, follow-up actions will be performed as determined in those plans. Management Plans are currently under development for DO, pH, and conductivity.
- Evaluation of beneficial uses was not proposed for these exceedances.
- For the purpose of this report, conductivity at the Grand Island Drain near Leary Road (GIDLR) site was compared to the California recommended Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (2^o MCL) and the Ayers and Westcott UN Agricultural Supply Goal (1985). However, there are site-specific Basin Plan objectives for conductivity in the Delta that may apply to agricultural drainage and runoff from Grand Island. A dialogue has been initiated with the Regional Board to determine whether site-specific Basin Plan objectives for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta or the unadopted objectives cited above should apply to the GIDLR site. To date, the Coalition has not received further guidance from the Regional Board regarding this issue, so no changes have been made to the evaluation of the exceedance.

- No immediate follow-up sampling was conducted. Access to upstream locations will be evaluated for future follow-up sampling, if required.
- Information regarding these exceedances was provided to local growers in the affected subwatershed through local outreach efforts.

Discussion of additional relevant follow-up actions will be initiated with the representatives of the affected subwatershed as outlined in the Coalition's communication strategy document.

Relevant Site Observations

Relevant site observations were evaluated for possible causes of pH exceedances, as well as the conductivity exceedance at GIDLR.

GIDLR – Low flows (1.60 cfs) were observed at this site at the time of sampling. Debris was observed to be piled up against the catwalk from which field measurements were taken. The immediate source of the conductivity exceedance was not determined, but it may be typical background conductivity for this site, since the irrigation supply in this area is groundwater and water from the Delta.

CCBRW – Flow at this site was calculated to be 58.70 cfs. The cause of the marginal pH exceedance at this site was not determined. Based on the time of year, flows, and water temperatures, the exceedance was not likely to have been caused by instream algae respiration. Because there is no significant agricultural activity occurring in the drainage during this season, there is no apparent likely agricultural cause of the exceedance. The measured pH of 8.87 was less than 1 pH unit above the relatively high average pH observed at this site (approximately 8.0), and the pH measured on February 22, 2008 may not be an unusual value for this water body.

LAGAM – Field staff were unable to measure flow at this site because the water was too fast and deep to allow wading. The cause of the marginal pH exceedance at this site was not determined. Based on the time of year, flows, and water temperatures, the exceedance was not likely to have been caused by instream algae respiration. Because there is no significant agricultural activity occurring in the drainage during this season, there is no apparent likely agricultural cause of the exceedance. The measured pH of 8.74 was approximately 1.1 pH units above the average pH observed at this site (approximately 7.6), and the pH measured on February 21, 2008 may not be unusual for this water body.

CONCLUSIONS AND ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Based on the observed exceedances, the primary follow-up action recommended is to implement the standard procedures outlined in the Coalition's communication strategy document. No other additional follow-up actions or reports are recommended or planned for the observed exceedances based on these results.

Table 1. Summary of exceedances and follow-up actions

Subwatershed	Site ID	Site	Sample Date	Analyte	Units	Result	WQO ¹	WQO Basis ²	Follow-up Evaluations				
									Existing Management Plan?	Follow-up sampling	Evaluate Relevant Site Conditions	Evaluate Beneficial Uses	Outreach
Solano-Yolo	CCCPY	Cache Creek at Capay Diversion Dam	2/22/08	Conductivity	uS/cm	812	900 ⁽³⁾ , 700 ⁽⁴⁾	Narrative	YES	NO	NO	NO	X
Colusa-Glenn	FRSHC	Freshwater Creek at Gibson Road	2/21/08	Conductivity	uS/cm	968	900 ⁽³⁾ , 700 ⁽⁴⁾	Narrative	NO ⁵	NO	NO	NO	X
Sac-Amador	GIDLR	Grand Island Drain near Leary Road	2/21/08	Conductivity	uS/cm	902	900 ⁽³⁾ , 700 ⁽⁴⁾	Narrative	NO ⁵	NO	YES ⁶	NO	X
Colusa-Glenn	LGNCR	Logan Creek at 4 Mile-Excelsior Road	2/21/08	Conductivity	uS/cm	751	900 ⁽³⁾ , 700 ⁽⁴⁾	Narrative	NO ⁵	NO	NO	NO	X
Colusa-Glenn	LRLNC	Lurline Creek at 99W	2/21/08	Conductivity	uS/cm	841	900 ⁽³⁾ , 700 ⁽⁴⁾	Narrative	NO ⁵	NO	NO	NO	X
Solano-Yolo	UCBRD	Ulatis Creek at Brown Road	2/21/08	Conductivity	uS/cm	1028	900 ⁽³⁾ , 700 ⁽⁴⁾	Narrative	NO ⁵	NO	NO	NO	X
Solano-Yolo	WLSPL	Willow Slough Bypass at Pole Line	2/21/08	Conductivity	uS/cm	957	900 ⁽³⁾ , 700 ⁽⁴⁾	Narrative	YES	NO	NO	NO	X
PNSSNS	CCBRW	Coon Creek at Brewer Road	2/22/08	pH	-log[H+]	8.87	6.5-8.5	BP	NO ⁵	NO	YES	NO	X
Sac-Amador	LAGAM	Laguna Creek at Alta Mesa Road	2/21/08	pH	-log[H+]	8.74	6.5-8.5	BP	NO ⁵	NO	YES	NO	X

1 Water Quality Objective or Narrative Interpretation Limit

2 Water Quality Objective Basis: *BP* = Central Valley Basin Plan; *BPA* = Basin Plan Amendment; *CTR* = California Toxics Rule; *Narrative* = unadopted limits used to interpret Basin Plan narrative objectives by the Central Valley Regional Board.

3 California recommended 2^o MCL

4 UN Agricultural Supply Goal (Ayers and Westcott 1985)

5 Management Plan currently under development

6 Applicable WQO for Grand Island is being evaluated with the Central Valley Water Board