

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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Supervisor, 2nd District
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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: October 8, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Ed Scofield, District II Supervisor**

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Nevada County agriculture within the Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento Subwatershed Group of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition to be recognized as low threat/low vulnerability for agriculture discharges and to support new Waste Discharge Requirements for low threat geographical areas and crop types to reduce unnecessary administrative and financial burdens thereof.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and authorize the Chair to sign and submit the attached Letter of Support to the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVWB) is one of nine (9) Regional Water Boards within the state that establishes policies and regulations to protect the quality of surface and ground waters throughout the Central Valley. The CVWB is the largest and most diverse region that covers approximately 75% of the State's irrigated agricultural lands and provides more than 50% of the State's total water supply. CVWB's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) issues permits and conducts compliance and enforcement activities to ensure growers are compliant with CVWB regulations. Growers are regulated either individually or through one of the region's eight (8) third-party coalitions. Coalition-members in Nevada County are captured within the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and represented by the Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento Subwatershed Group.

On October 11, 2019, the CVWB will be receiving an information presentation for consideration of special regulations for "low threat" crop types and qualifying criteria in order to reduce administrative costs and regulatory reporting that is required under current regulation, Wastewater Discharge Requirements R5-2019-001 adopted on February 7, 2019. Due to the vast array of different types of agricultural activities within the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, the Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento Subwatershed Group is recommending that the CVWB consider a number of criteria be considered low threat due to their geographical area or specific crop type. These criteria include but are not limited to, foothills and higher elevation areas, irrigated pasture and managed wetlands, organic agriculture crops, Christmas tree and other long-

term crops. Additional requested considerations include exempting low threat crops from various regulatory fees and reporting, and conducting an economic analysis on ILRP regional activities, amongst others. Additional information is found in the attached Supporting Documents.

Therefore, please approve and authorize the Chair to sign and submit the attached Letter of Support to the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board.

Sincerely,
Ed Scofield, District II Supervisor