

Collaborative Grazing Lands Water Resource Management

4th Rustici Rangeland Science Symposium

UC Davis Conference Center

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Board Member DeeDee D'Adamo

State Water Resources Control Board



California Rangeland

- Over 40 million acres of grazing land
- Covers roughly 40 percent of the state
- Half public and half private owned

Well-Managed Livestock Grazing Operations

- Facilitate environmental stewardship
- Contribute to the economy
- Feed Californians

Poorly-Managed Livestock Grazing Operations

- Can cause impacts in riparian streams and other vulnerable areas
- Can cause pollution and nuisance
- Can impact beneficial uses of water
 - Lead to 303(d) listings

Regulatory Framework

Water Code authorizes Water Boards to regulate discharges that impact/have potential to impact, waters of state

- State Board
- 9 Regional Boards

Effective non-regulatory approaches offer an attractive alternative to traditional regulatory approaches

Water Boards Grazing Regulation History in California

1995: California Rangeland Water Quality Management Program (CRWQMP) developed

2004: SWRCB Res # 2004-0030 *“Policy for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program”*

2015: SWRCB Res # 2015-0062 Discontinuation of Statewide Approach/Direction to Regional Boards to Address Water Quality Impacts from Livestock Grazing

Resolution 2015-0062

Directs Regional Boards to:

- Develop regional approaches
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders to determine best methods to protect water quality, including **regulatory & non-regulatory** approaches for BMP implementation
- Consider hydrology, impacts to water quality & cost of compliance

Resolution 2015-0062 (Cont.)

Regional Boards also directed to:

- Prioritize actions to address operations that cause impairment
- Consider watershed or regional monitoring programs to assess effectiveness of actions

California Grazing Water Quality Partnership

- Renewed collaborative approach to protect water quality
- Update Rangeland Management Plan
- Opportunity to develop voluntary approaches with all Stakeholders: Regulators, Agencies, Producers, NGOs
- Partnership/Members want partnership to succeed
- Success requires on-going engagement & collaboration
- **Water Board will stay engaged and support this effort**

Collaborative Implementation of the Resolution

San Francisco Bay Water Board

- Implementing two waivers for grazing operations.
- Adopted Dairy and Confined Animal Facility permits, which include grazing management requirements

The Los Angeles Water Board

- Implementing requirements for grazing in the Ventura River Algae TMDL

Collaborative Implementation of the Resolution (Cont.)

Central Valley Water Board

- Developing a permitting system for nonpoint source activities on lands managed by the USFS and the BLM

Lahontan Water Board

- WDRs for Grazing Operations and Other Activities in the East Walker River Watershed.
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Grazing Program

SB88

Measurement and Reporting: Updates

- Requires all water right types to measure & report annually
- For diversions $\geq 1,000$ af per year: must measure by January 1, 2017 and report:
 - April 1 – post 1914 water rights
 - July 1 – pre-1914 & riparian
- Exemption for measurement ≤ 10 af

SB 88: Special Provisions

- Special Provisions.
 - Additional time
 - Alternative compliance
 - Measurement method
- Deadlines to request special provisions:
 - April 1-post 1914 water rights \geq 1,000 afa
 - July 1-pre-1914 & riparian \geq 1000 afa
 - Stockponds-Alt Compliance
 - July 1 or Jan 1 depending on size/amount



Save Our Water

Public Education Campaign

Governor Brown, May 2016: “Make conservation a California way of life”

