

Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: Agricultural Water Management Plans
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: California Department of Water Resources
3. Brief Description of Program:
Under Assembly Bill 3616, the Agricultural Efficient Water Management Act of 1990, Water Code Section 10900-10904; the objective of the Agricultural Water Management Planning & Implementation Program is to provide technical, financial and administrative assistance to assist water districts throughout the State develop Agricultural Water Management Plans and implement cost-effective Efficient Water Management Practices (EWMPs).

Senate Bill X7-7 (Water Conservation Act of 2009) requires that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2013, and thereafter in the years ending in six and years ending in one, a report to the Legislature summarizing the status of the Agricultural Water management Plans adopted pursuant to the requirement of the Act. The report prepared by the Department shall identify the outstanding elements of any plan adopted and an evaluation of the effectiveness of Agricultural Water Management Planning in promoting efficient agricultural water management practices.

4. Purpose and Objectives of Program:
Promote agricultural water use efficiency through the implementation of efficient water management practices.
5. Timeline for Program Objectives:
DWR will prepare and submit to the Legislature a report summarizing the status of the submitted Agricultural Water management Plans, their outstanding elements, effectiveness of promoting efficient water management practices (EWMPs) and recommendations relating to proposed EWMPs changes, as appropriate. The report will subsequently be submitted in years ending in six and one. Agricultural water management planning is an on-going activity and plans are to be submitted on a 5-year cycle basis.
6. Current Status of Program:
The Department of Water Resources is currently in the process of revising the requirements for Agricultural Water Management Plans. An Agricultural Water Management Planning Guidebook is being developed to address legislative and procedural issues for submittal of Agricultural Water Management Plans to DWR.
7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

Name	Fethi Benjema
Title	Chief, Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
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8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program: ~ \$500,000.
9. URL, if a Website is Available: <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/>

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10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program?

As outlined above, the program is built around an adaptive management approach. During the review of Agricultural Water Management Plans submitted in any given 5-year cycle, the Department in its report to the Legislature identifies outstanding elements as well as the effectiveness of promoting efficient water management practices (EWMPs). Subsequently, the Department makes recommendations relating to proposed EWMPs changes, as appropriate. This iterative process offers an adaptive management tool to consistently enhance and refine the EWMPs toward an increased efficiency of agricultural water use.

11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program:

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return your completed questionnaire to Gina Ford (gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov) no later than October 6, 2011.