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**TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 13, 2014  
To: Darrin Polhemus, State Water Resources Control Board  
From: Dr. Stuart W. Styles, ITRC Director  
Sarah Crable, ITRC Engineer  
**Subject: Expert Panel Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2014**

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**State Water Resources Control Board Nitrate Expert Panel**

Expert Panel Chair, Dr. Charles Burt called the meeting of the Expert Panel to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 9, 2014 in San Luis Obispo.

**1. Introduction – Expert Panel Members**

- Dr. Lowell Zelinski
- Till Angermann
- Dr. Charles Burt
- James duBois
- Bill Brush
- Robert Hutmacher
- Daniel Munk
- Mark McKean

**2. Expert Panel Charge.....Dr. Charles Burt, Panel Chair**

- Public comment process

**3. Clarification Item #1..... Darrin Polhemus,  
State Water Resources Control Board**

- Clarified what the State Board is asking the Panel for in terms of solid recommendations
- Clarified Question #2 for Expert Panel: The question is referring to farms, rather than “broad-brush areas”

4. **Discussion: Question 2**..... **Expert Panel**
  - Discussed definitions of “risk” and “vulnerability”
  - Discussed irrelevance of size of farming operation
  - Discussed relevance of NHI
  - Discussed nitrogen mass balance
  - Discussed difficulties in quantifying nitrogen applied and removed
  - Discussed objectives of recommendations and concentrating on surface practices rather than groundwater monitoring
  
5. **Discussion: Question 1**..... **Expert Panel**
  - Discussed NDVI techniques
  - Discussed effective rainfall
  - Discussed tracking of nitrogen applications as reported by farmers
  - Discussed using data to track progress over multiple years, rather than as a “snapshot” tool
  - Discussed crop variations and nitrogen requirements
  - Discussed potential farmer objections to reporting
  
6. **Discussion: Questions 3-4**..... **Expert Panel**
  - Panel requested further clarification from State Board on Questions 3, 4, and 11, especially concerning surface waters.
  
7. **Public Commenter #1** ..... **Steve Shimek, The Otter Project**
  - Commented on backflow prevention devices
  - Commented on wetlands and riparian habitat for treatment of agricultural waters
  
8. **Public Commenter #2** ..... **George Adam, Innovative Produce**
  - Commented on nitrate reporting of irrigation water
  - Promoted “pump and fertilize”
  - Commented that Region 3 would not accept 3<sup>rd</sup> party coalitions
  
9. **Public Commenter #3** ..... **Jennifer Clary, Clean Water Cares**
  - Commented on nitrogen reporting requirements
  
10. **Public Commenter #4** ..... **Claire Wineman, Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties**
  - Commented on risk assessment
  - Commented on 3<sup>rd</sup> party coalitions
  - Commented on variability in crop types and soils in relation to nitrogen use reporting
  
11. **Public Commenter #5** ..... **Kirk Schmidt, Central Coast Water Quality Control Board**
  - Commented on Region 3 cooperative monitoring of surface water in response to panel question

**12. Discussion: Questions 5-6..... Expert Panel**

- Discussed what farmers need to keep track of in terms of timing and uniformity of water and nitrogen applications
- Discussed data that needs to be collected and reported by farmers
- Emphasized importance of 3<sup>rd</sup> party coalitions
- Emphasized importance of “spoonfeeding” and “pump and fertilize” techniques
- Discussed farmer education and offering a “menu” of management practices as options, rather than recommendations or requirements

Dr. Charles Burt adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2014. The next scheduled Expert Panel meeting will be held on June 23, 2014 in San Luis Obispo.