

*CALFED Bay-Delta Program Agricultural Water Quality Technical Team
Meeting Summary
August 22, 1996*

Main Conclusions of Meeting

- Corrections to the parameters list include that sodium should be replaced by SAR, alkalinity should be replaced with pH, and BOD/COD and metals should be dropped.
- In general, water quality criteria from Ayers and Westcot (1984) will be used as a basis for agricultural water quality criteria. Rather than addressing special cases by generating new sets of criteria, the criteria will be accompanied by a thorough discussion of accompanying assumptions and the implications of these assumptions. Included in this discussion will be the impacts of water quality on leaching fraction and therefore on drainage water volume, of drainage water recycling on future leaching requirements, and the non-sustainability of agriculture when water quality and irrigation and drainage management are not compatible.
- Agricultural water quality standards should be based on the most sensitive crops grown in the region.
- Safety factors for blending of water and in-field variability in irrigation and drainage conditions should also be considered.
- Regulatory and contractual criteria already exist for many locations, and CALFED should not specify criteria that are less stringent.
- The South Coast hydrologic area needs to be added to the analysis of crop yield sensitivity to salinity.
- The timing of water quality criteria application should be year-round.
- Thirteen agricultural water quality criteria locations were retained. Historical water quality data should be compiled and summarized for the proposed locations.
- The sub-team will limit current input on actions to those affecting parameters of interest for agricultural water supply. A simplified actions list will be prepared and submitted to the sub-team. Sub-team members will provide their estimation of major benefits and constraints associated with each action.