

# Attachment A. Water Quality Advisory Committee Draft Charter

## Background and Objective

The Guidelines for Accepting Water into the Friant-Kern Canal (“Guidelines”) were adopted by the Friant Water Authority (FWA) based on the voluntary consensus of and written agreement with a significant majority of the contractors of the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project (“Friant Division”). The Guidelines address concerns regarding the implementation of programs and projects that could introduce water of a lesser quality to the Friant-Kern Canal (“FKC”), when compared to water quality of historic deliveries from Millerton Lake. The Guidelines include water quality constituent thresholds based on agronomic principles and a ledger mechanism to determine the required mitigation for introducing water of lesser quality into the FKC.

The Guidelines provide that FWA will appoint a Water Quality Advisory Committee (“Committee”) composed of Friant Division long-term contractors (“Friant Contractors”) involved in either introducing water to or receiving water from the FKC. The Committee will provide recommendations to FWA and Reclamation on operations and water quality monitoring requirements of the FKC as well as potential revisions to the Guidelines. This document describes Committee membership and Committee roles and responsibilities.

## Water Quality Advisory Committee Membership

The appointed Committee will be composed of Friant Contractors who may either be introducing water to or receiving water from the FKC. Committee membership is described in Table 1. New members in replacement of an existing member or as a new addition to the membership list requires majority approval following notice to and the consent of the FWA Board of Directors.

**Table 1. Water Quality Advisory Committee Membership**

Members
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District
Kern-Tulare Water District

Lindsay Strathmore Irrigation District
Lower Tule River Irrigation District
Pixley Irrigation District
Porterville Irrigation District
Saucelito Irrigation District
Shafter Wasco Irrigation District
South San Joaquin Municipal Utility District
Terra Bella Irrigation District

## Roles and Responsibilities

The Committee will convene on an annual basis prior to the irrigation season or planned reverse flow operations. The Committee will:

- Evaluate current year operations related to Guidelines implementation including but not limited to Ledger operation modifications, potential schedule changes, and potential changes to mitigation deliveries.
- Review and approve annual monitoring.
- Make recommendations regarding the costs and budgets associated with administering and implementing the Guidelines.

The Committee may also convene on an as needed basis under the following conditions:

- When Friant Division Class 1 contract allocation is less than or equal to 25 percent.
- If a future regulatory cost or equivalent fee is imposed on Friant Contractors and a portion of such fee can reasonably be attributed to the incremental difference of water quality conditions in the FKC.
- If there is a significant, scientifically based justification and three out of the following five water contractors agree that a change to Guideline principles and/or criteria should be discussed: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, Shafter Wasco Irrigation District, Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, South San Joaquin Municipal Utility District, or Kern-Tulare Water District.

- If FKC water quality continuously exceeds one or more constituent thresholds and pump-in operations must cease.

The Committee will make recommendations to the FWA Board via consensus decision making. If 100% consensus cannot be reached, a recommendation will be made, and minority viewpoints will also be communicated. The Committee will provide all recommendations to the FWA Board. Single-year modifications to Guidelines implementation, monitoring, and/or pump-in operations will be noticed to all Friant Contractors. Recommendations requiring substantial modifications or updates to the Guidelines will be provided to the FWA Board and the FWA will coordinate with Reclamation to implement recommended changes.

## Monitoring Subcommittee

The Committee will appoint at least three and no more than five representatives of its members to serve on a Monitoring Subcommittee that will coordinate with FWA on the implementation of the Guidelines particularly with respect to potential or actual exceedance of the water quality thresholds established under these Guidelines and the implementation of required mitigation, including the reduction of discharges of Non-Millerton water into the FKC. The Subcommittee will make recommendations to FWA in accordance with Section B.2.d above, but the final operational decisions will be made by FWA.