AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE THROUGH THE GRASSLAND BYPASS PROJECT

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INTRODUCTION

The Grassland area in the San Joaquin Valley in California is highly productive and includes approximately 97,000 acres of irrigated farmlands. Soils are primarily derived from rocks that form the California Coastal Range and are elevated in salt and trace element concentrations. Starting in 1997, the Grassland Bypass Project (GBP) conveyed subsurface drainage water from the agricultural water districts in the San Joaquin Valley utilizing the San Luis Drain. Drainage from the Grassland area prior to the Project was conveyed through channels that delivered water to adjacent wetland areas with high habitat value, resulting in severe impacts on water quality for state and federal wildlife refuges (Ohlendorf et al. 1990). In addition to bypassing vulnerable habitat areas, efforts are made to significantly reduce salt, selenium, and boron loads to the Drain through conservation and improved applications, recycling of irrigation water and reuse on salt tolerant crops, tiered water conservation and improved applications, recycling of irrigation water and reuse on salt tolerant crops, tiered water conservation and improved applications, recycling of irrigation water and reuse on salt tolerant crops, tiered water conservation and improved applications, recycling of irrigation water and reuse on salt tolerant crops, tiered water conservation and improved applications, recycling of irrigation water and reuse on salt tolerant crops, tiered water conservation and improved applications, recycling of irrigation water and reuse on salt tolerant crops, tiered water conservation and improved applications, recycling of irrigation water and reuse on salt tolerant crops, tiered water conservation and improved 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