



February 8, 2008

Memo

To: Water Districts, Municipalities, Manufacturers and Commercial End Users

From: Brian Vinchesi, SWAT Irrigation Association Chair

Re: Protocols for centralized or computer-based control systems

Currently there is no SWAT protocol for testing centralized computer-based controlled irrigation technology. The existing protocol was designed to test the irrigation adequacy and excess of residential and light commercial smart controllers. Smart controllers include both climatologically- and soil moisture sensor-based controllers; however, currently only climate-based controllers have a protocol that measures the irrigation adequacy and excess of the technology. A protocol for soil moisture sensors is in the process of being completed. In order to test the irrigation adequacy and excess of central control technology a new protocol would need to be developed.

SWAT surveyed the industry in 2006 to identify the next SWAT category for the development of testing protocols and outreach materials that would follow climate- and soil moisture sensor-based smart controllers. The majority chose rain sensors; the industry and water providers surveyed did not place central control technology very high.

We are aware that some water authorities are requiring SWAT labeling for rebates on central computer-based control systems. However, at this time there is not a SWAT protocol to test these devices.

If you have questions regarding the SWAT protocol process, please contact me at bvinchesi@irrigationconsulting.com.