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Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

## AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM

### RESOURCES FOR GROWERS INDIVIDUAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING (Updated January 24, 2013)

**This is a general overview of the groundwater sampling and reporting requirements that apply to operations enrolled in the Agricultural Regulatory Program, who have chosen to comply with the groundwater monitoring requirement on an individual basis**

#### **Which Wells Must A Grower Sample?**

All growers must have a third party take a sample of the wells located inside the boundaries of each farm/ranch enrolled under their operation (unless one of the Alternatives below applies). For farms/ranches with multiple groundwater wells, the primary irrigation well and **ALL** the wells that are used for drinking water purposes, must be sampled. If there is no well, then monitoring is NOT requirement.

#### **Which Parameters Must the Well(s) be Sampled For?**

The well(s) must be sampled for the Sampling Parameters listed in Table 3 of the Monitoring and Reporting Program, which can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml)

#### **How Often Must a Well(s) be Sampled?**

ALL Wells must be sampled twice; one sample collected during the fall of 2012 (**September/December**) and the second during the spring of 2013 (**March/June**).

- Growers with ranches in Tiers 1 and 2 must repeat the above mentioned two rounds of sampling every 5 years.
- Growers with ranches in Tier 3 must sample the well/s annually thereafter, and the sample must be collected during the sampling period when the nitrate concentration was at its maximum.

#### **Who Must Take the Sample(s)?**

Groundwater samples must be collected by a “**Qualified Third Party**”. A “Qualified Third Party” means any individual, other than the owner, operator, and person who filed, signed or is named on the eNOI, with the “knowledge and training in proper sampling methods, chain of custody, and QA/QC protocols.” In the Agricultural Program, the well samples are typically collected by personnel from qualified laboratories.

***IMPORTANT:*** Growers who want to have their samples collected by an individual, other than personnel from a qualified laboratory, should consult with the lab selected to run the analysis to ensure that the “third party” sampler clearly understands and follows the proper sampling collection procedures and protocols. Many laboratories provide groundwater sampling kits, including specific sample collection instructions and all necessary forms, containers, preservatives, etc. The Water Board will **REJECT** all groundwater sampling results that do not include a properly completed chain of custody form, appropriate sampling containers, or follow the appropriate quality assurance procedures, etc.

### **Which Laboratories Must Perform the Analyses?**

Given that our primary objective of our groundwater monitoring program is to obtain the highest water quality data possible, Central Coast Water Board requires that all the groundwater analyses (wells sampled) be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Department of Public Health (CDPH) or by a laboratory approved by the Executive Officer (the approved laboratories must submit the results to the Water Board GeoTracker database). Below is a list of laboratories that have been approved to perform the required analyses and to report the result electronically on behalf of growers.

### **How are the Sampling Results Reported and When?**

In the Agricultural Regulatory Program, an approved laboratory is responsible for uploading the analytical results directly onto the GeoTracker database in the required Electronic Deliverable Format (EDF). Approved laboratories must upload the sampling data onto the grower’s eNOI account in GeoTracker. All results must be uploaded by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

### **Are there Any Alternatives to Sampling of the Wells?**

Yes, two alternatives are available for growers with farm/ranches in Tiers 1 and 2 ONLY:

#### **Alternative 1:**

Growers can satisfy the sampling requirements by submitting existing water well analysis data if the following are true:

- 1) You have data for at least one groundwater well for an individual farm/ranch,
- 2) You have a minimum of two samples collected within the last five years,
- 3) The samples were analyzed for nitrate using U.S. EPA approved analytical methods.
- 4) You submit the data to us by October 1, 2013.

The submittal must include the ranch name, well location (latitude/longitude), well type, construction information (if available), and must have laboratory analytical results attached.

### **How Are Results of Existing Groundwater Data Reported?**

Existing data, that meets the above criteria, **MUST** be uploaded to the grower’s GeoTracker account in PDF Format, as follows:

### **GEOTRACKER UPLOAD GUIDE FOR PDF FILES**

Step 1: Using your "Username" and "Password", log onto your GeoTracker account at:

<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/login.asp>

Step 2: From the "TOOLS" menu, Click "Upload EDD" and Select "GEO\_REPORT"

Step 3: Select your Facility from the list.

Step 4: Follow the GEO\_REPORT UPLOAD INSTRUCTIONS by filling-in the blanks and Select "Browse". **Note:** in the drop down menu under "report type" choose Monitoring report-other.

Step 5: Find the file(s) that you want to upload and Click "Upload File"

#### **Alternative 2:**

Growers can satisfy the sampling requirements by submitting a reference or citation of local groundwater quality monitoring study that includes data collected within the last 5 years and documents that local groundwater quality in the uppermost aquifer does not exceed drinking water standards.

#### **How Do I Log onto My GeoTracker eNOI Account?**

To login to GeoTracker with your secure username and password, go to:  
<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi>.

#### **What If I Forgot my eNOI Login Information?**

If you do not remember your GeoTracker login account information (username or password), contact the GeoTracker Help Desk directly at [Geotracker@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Geotracker@waterboards.ca.gov) or 1-(866) 480-1028.

If you have questions regarding the groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements, please contact **Hector Hernandez** at (805) 544-4641 or [hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov)

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## List Of Water Board Approved Laboratories

(Updated January 24, 2013)

The following is a list of **approved laboratories**<sup>1</sup> that provide electronic submittal of groundwater analytical data to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database over the Internet. Laboratory data must be provided in Electronic Deliverable Format (EDF) pursuant to the SWRCB Policy Statement-Electronic Reporting Requirements found on web page: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/electronic\\_submittal/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/electronic_submittal/)

1. **Abalone Coast Analytical**, 141 Suburban Rd., Suite C-1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, Phone: (805) 595-1080, Cell: (805) 235-2330, Fax: (805) 595-1075, <http://www.abalonecoastanalytical.com/>
2. **Soil Control Lab**, 42 Hangar Way, Watsonville, CA 95076, Direct 831-761-7272, Front Office: (831) 724-5422, Direct: (831) 761-7272, Fax: (831) 724-3188, [mike@controllabs.com](mailto:mike@controllabs.com)
3. **Dellavalle Laboratory, Inc.**, 1910 W. McKinley, Suite # 110, Fresno, CA 93728-1298, Office: (800) 228-9896, Cell: (559) 647-5330, (831) 750-4509, [www.dellavallelab.com](http://www.dellavallelab.com)
4. **Fruit Growers Laboratory (FGL)**, Locations: Santa Paula, Visalia, San Luis Obispo, Stockton, and Chico; Contacts: Denis Barry, (805) 392 2032, [denisb@fglinc.com](mailto:denisb@fglinc.com); General Inquiries (Debi Skelton), (805) 783 2940, [debis@fglinc.com](mailto:debis@fglinc.com) and (Vickie Taylor), (805) 392 2010, [viki@fglinc.com](mailto:viki@fglinc.com); Yee Ren (Chinese Translation), (805) 392 2015, [yren@fglinc.com](mailto:yren@fglinc.com); Ricardo Sandoval (Spanish Translation), (805) 392 2034 [ricardos@fglinc.com](mailto:ricardos@fglinc.com); [www.fglinc.com](http://www.fglinc.com)
5. **Monterey Bay Analytical Services (MBAS)**, 4 Justin Court, Suite D, Monterey, CA 93940, (831) 375-6227, (831) 238-6876, [www.mbasinc.com](http://www.mbasinc.com), [montereybayanalytical@usa.net](mailto:montereybayanalytical@usa.net)
6. **Perry Laboratory**, 424 Airport Blvd., Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 722-7606, Fax: (831) 722-5053, [Cliff@perrylaboratory.com](mailto:Cliff@perrylaboratory.com)
7. **Monterey County Consolidated Laboratory**, 1270 Natividad Road, Room 118, Salinas, CA 93906, Office: (831) 755-4516, Fax: (831) 755-4652, [lamtt@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:lamtt@co.monterey.ca.us)
8. **Deerpoint Group, Inc.**, 4339 N. Selland Ave., Fresno, CA 93722, Office: (559) 224-4000, Fax: (559) 431-0014, [www.thedeerpointgroup.com](http://www.thedeerpointgroup.com)
9. **Bolsa Analytical**, 2337 Technology Pkwy., Suite K, Hollister, CA 95023, Office: (831) 637-4590, Fax: (831) 634-1854, [aquaticlab@aol.com](mailto:aquaticlab@aol.com), [www.bolsalab.com](http://www.bolsalab.com)

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<sup>1</sup> An "Approved Laboratory" is a laboratory that is certified by the State Department of Public Health (CDPH) to conduct the required groundwater analyses or is approved by the Executive Officer, and has complied with the criteria outlined in *Procedures for Laboratories to Obtain GeoTracker Upload Authorization from GeoTracker Helpdesk*, updated September 19, 2012.