

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
ORDER NO. R3-2012-0011-02
AS MODIFIED BY ORDER WQ-2013-0101**

TIER 2

**DISCHARGERS ENROLLED UNDER
THE CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS**

This Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R3-2012-0011-02 (MRP) is issued pursuant to California Water Code (Water Code) section 13267 and 13269, which authorizes the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (hereafter Central Coast Water Board) to require preparation and submittal of technical and monitoring reports. Water Code section 13269 requires a waiver of waste discharge requirements to include as a condition, the performance of monitoring and the public availability of monitoring results. The Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Order No. R3-2012-0011 (Order) includes criteria and requirements for three tiers. This MRP sets forth monitoring and reporting requirements for **Tier 2 Dischargers** enrolled under the Order. A summary of the requirements is shown below.

SUMMARY OF MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR TIER 2:

- Part 1: Surface Receiving Water Monitoring and Reporting (*cooperative or individual*);
- Part 2: Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting;
Nitrate Loading Risk Factor Determination and Total Nitrogen Reporting
(*required for subset of Tier 2 Dischargers if farm/ranch has high nitrate loading risk to groundwater*);
- Part 3: Annual Compliance Form;
- Part 4: Photo Monitoring
(*required for subset of Tier 2 Dischargers if farm/ranch contains or is adjacent to a waterbody impaired for temperature, turbidity or sediment*);

Pursuant to Water Code section 13269(a)(2), monitoring requirements must be designed to support the development and implementation of the waiver program, including, but not limited to, verifying the adequacy and effectiveness of the waiver's conditions. The monitoring and reports required by this MRP are to evaluate effects of discharges of waste from irrigated agricultural operations and individual farms/ranches on waters of the state and to determine compliance with the Order.

MONITORING AND REPORTING BASED ON TIERS

The Order and MRP includes criteria and requirements for three tiers, based upon those characteristics of the individual farms/ranches at the operation that present the highest level of waste discharge or greatest risk to water quality. Dischargers must meet conditions of the Order and MRP for the appropriate tier that applies to their land and/or the individual farm/ranch. Within a tier, Dischargers comply with requirements based on the specific level of discharge and threat to water quality from individual farms/ranches. The lowest tier, Tier 1, applies to dischargers who discharge the lowest level of waste (amount or concentration) or pose the lowest potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards in waters of the State or of the United States. The highest tier, Tier 3, applies to dischargers who discharge the highest level of waste or pose the greatest potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards in waters of the State or of the United States. Tier 2 applies to dischargers whose discharge has a moderate threat to water quality. Water quality is defined in terms of Regional, State, or Federal numeric or narrative water quality standards. Per the Order, Dischargers may submit a request to the Executive Officer to approve transfer to a lower tier. If the Executive Officer approves a transfer to a lower tier, any interested person may request that the Central Coast Water Board conduct a discretionary review of the Executive Officer's determination.

PART 1. SURFACE RECEIVING WATER MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring and reporting requirements for surface receiving water identified in Part 1.A. and Part 1.B. apply to Tier 2 Dischargers. Surface receiving water refers to water flowing in creeks and other surface waters of the State. Surface receiving water monitoring may be conducted through a **cooperative monitoring program**, or Dischargers may choose to conduct surface receiving water monitoring and reporting individually. Key monitoring and reporting requirements for surface receiving water are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Time schedules are shown in Table 6.

A. Surface Receiving Water Quality Monitoring

1. Dischargers must elect a surface receiving water monitoring option (cooperative monitoring program or individual receiving water monitoring) to comply with surface receiving water quality monitoring requirements, and identify the option selected on the Notice of Intent (NOI).
2. Dischargers are encouraged to choose participation in a cooperative monitoring program (e.g., the existing Cooperative Monitoring Program or a similar program) to comply with receiving water quality monitoring requirements. Dischargers not participating in a cooperative monitoring

program must conduct surface receiving water quality monitoring individually that achieves the same purpose.

3. Dischargers (individually or as part of a cooperative monitoring program) must conduct surface receiving water quality monitoring to a) assess the impacts of their waste discharges from irrigated lands to receiving water, b) assess the status of receiving water quality and beneficial use protection in impaired waterbodies dominated by irrigated agricultural activity, c) evaluate status, short term patterns and long term trends (five to ten years or more) in receiving water quality, d) evaluate water quality impacts resulting from agricultural discharges (including but not limited to tile drain discharges), e) evaluate stormwater quality, f) evaluate condition of existing perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams or riparian or wetland area habitat, including degradation resulting from erosion or agricultural discharges of waste, and g) assist in the identification of specific sources of water quality problems.

Surface Receiving Water Quality Sampling and Analysis Plan

4. **Within three months** of adoption of the Order, Dischargers (individually or as part of a cooperative monitoring program) must submit a surface receiving water quality Sampling and Analysis Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Dischargers (or a third party cooperative monitoring program) must develop the Sampling and Analysis Plan to describe how the proposed monitoring will achieve the objectives of the MRP and evaluate compliance with the Order. The Sampling and Analysis Plan may propose alternative monitoring site locations, adjusted monitoring parameters, and other changes as necessary to assess the impacts of waste discharges from irrigated lands to receiving water. The Executive Officer must approve the Sampling and Analysis Plan and QAPP.
5. The Sampling and Analysis Plan must include the following minimum required components:
 - a. Monitoring strategy to achieve objectives of the Order and MRP;
 - b. Map of monitoring sites with GIS coordinates;
 - c. Identification of known water quality impairments and impaired waterbodies per the 2010 Clean Water Act 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies (List of Impaired Waterbodies);
 - d. Identification of beneficial uses and applicable water quality standards;
 - e. Identification of applicable Total Maximum Daily Loads;
 - f. Monitoring parameters;
 - g. Monitoring schedule, including description and frequencies of monitoring events;
 - h. Description of data analysis methods;

6. The QAPP must include receiving water and site-specific information, project organization and responsibilities, and quality assurance components of the MRP. The QAPP must also include the laboratory and field requirements to be used for analyses and data evaluation. The QAPP must contain adequate detail for project and Water Board staff to identify and assess the technical and quality objectives, measurement and data acquisition methods, and limitations of the data generated under the surface receiving water quality monitoring. All sampling and laboratory methodologies and QAPP content must be consistent with U.S. EPA methods, State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) protocols and the Central Coast Water Board's Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP). Following U.S. EPA guidelines¹ and SWAMP templates², the receiving water quality monitoring QAPP must include the following minimum required components:
- a. Project Management. This component addresses basic project management, including the project history and objectives, roles and responsibilities of the participants, and other aspects.
 - b. Data Generation and Acquisition. This component addresses all aspects of project design and implementation. Implementation of these elements ensures that appropriate methods for sampling, measurement and analysis, data collection or generation, data handling, and quality control activities are employed and are properly documented. Quality control requirements are applicable to all the constituents sampled as part of the MRP, as described in the appropriate method.
 - c. Assessment and Oversight. This component addresses the activities for assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the project and associated QA and QC activities. The purpose of the assessment is to provide project oversight that will ensure that the QA Project Plan is implemented as prescribed.
 - d. Data Validation and Usability. This component addresses the quality assurance activities that occur after the data collection, laboratory analysis and data generation phase of the project is completed. Implementation of these elements ensures that the data conform to the specified criteria, thus achieving the MRP objectives.

¹ USEPA. 2001 (2006) USEPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R-5) Office of Environmental Information, Washington, D.C. USEPA QA/R-5

² http://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/tools.shtml#qa

7. The Central Coast Water Board may conduct an audit of contracted laboratories at any time in order to evaluate compliance with the QAPP.
8. The Sampling and Analysis Plan and QAPP, and any proposed revisions are subject to approval by the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer may also revise the Sampling and Analysis Plan, including adding, removing, or changing monitoring site locations, changing monitoring parameters, and other changes as necessary to assess the impacts of waste discharges from irrigated lands to receiving water.

Surface Receiving Water Quality Monitoring Sites

9. The Sampling and Analysis Plan must, at a minimum, include monitoring sites to evaluate waterbodies identified in Table 1, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Officer. The Sampling and Analysis Plan must include sites to evaluate receiving water quality impacts most directly resulting from areas of agricultural discharge (including areas receiving tile drain discharges). Site selection must take into consideration the existence of any long term monitoring sites included in related monitoring programs (e.g. CCAMP and the existing CMP). Sites may be added or modified, subject to prior approval by the Executive Officer, to better assess the pollutant loading from individual sources or the impacts to receiving waters caused by individual discharges. Any modifications must consider sampling consistency for purposes of trend evaluation.

Surface Receiving Water Quality Monitoring Parameters

10. The Sampling and Analysis Plan must, at a minimum, include the following types of monitoring and evaluation parameters listed below and identified in Table 2:
 - a. Flow Monitoring;
 - b. Water Quality (physical parameters, metals, nutrients, pesticides);
 - c. Toxicity (water and sediment);
 - d. Assessment of Benthic Invertebrates.
11. All analyses must be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Public Health (CDPH) or at laboratories approved by the Executive Officer. Unless otherwise noted, all sampling, sample preservation, and analyses must be performed in accordance with the latest edition of *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste*, SW-846, U.S. EPA, and analyzed as specified herein by the above analytical methods and reporting limits indicated. Certified laboratories can be found at the web link: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/labs/Documents/ELAPLablist.xls>

12. Water quality and flow monitoring is used to assess the sources, concentrations, and loads of waste discharges from individual farms/ranches and groups of Dischargers to surface waters, to evaluate impacts to water quality and beneficial uses, and to evaluate the short term patterns and long term trends in receiving water quality. Monitoring data must be compared to existing numeric and narrative water quality objectives.
13. Toxicity testing is to evaluate water quality relative to the narrative toxicity objective. Water column toxicity analyses must be conducted on 100% (undiluted) sample. At sites where persistent unresolved toxicity is found, the Executive Officer may require concurrent toxicity and chemical analyses and a Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) to identify the individual discharges causing the toxicity.

Surface Receiving Water Quality Monitoring Frequency and Schedule

14. The Sampling and Analysis Plan must include a schedule for sampling. Timing, duration, and frequency of monitoring must be based on the land use, complexity, hydrology, and size of the waterbody. Table 2 includes minimum monitoring frequency and parameter lists. Agricultural parameters that are less common may be monitored less frequently. Modifications to the receiving water quality monitoring parameters, frequency, and schedule may be submitted for Executive Officer consideration and approval. At a minimum, the Sampling and Analysis Plan schedule must consist of monthly monitoring of common agricultural parameters in major agricultural areas, including two major storm events during the wet season (October 1 – April 30).
15. Storm event monitoring must be conducted within 18 hours of storm events, preferably including the first flush run-off event that results in significant increase in stream flow. For purposes of this MRP, a storm event is defined as precipitation producing onsite runoff (surface water flow) capable of creating significant ponding, erosion or other water quality problem. A significant storm event will generally result in greater than 1-inch of rain within a 24-hour period.
16. **Within six months** of adoption of the Order, Dischargers (individually or as part of a cooperative monitoring program) must initiate receiving water quality monitoring per the Sampling and Analysis Plan and QAPP approved by the Executive Officer.

B. Surface Receiving Water Quality Reporting

Surface Receiving Water Quality Data Submittal

1. **Within nine months** of adoption of this Order and quarterly thereafter (by January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1), Dischargers (individually or as part of a cooperative monitoring program) must submit water quality monitoring data to the Central Coast Water Board electronically, in a format specified by the Executive Officer and compatible with SWAMP/CCAMP electronic submittal guidelines.

Surface Receiving Water Quality Monitoring Annual Report

2. **By July 1, 2014**, and annually thereafter, Dischargers (individually or as part of a cooperative monitoring program) must submit an Annual Report, electronically, in a format specified by the Executive Officer including the following minimum elements:
 - a. Signed Transmittal Letter;
 - b. Title Page;
 - c. Table of Contents;
 - d. Executive Summary;
 - e. Summary of Exceedance Reports submitted during the reporting period;
 - f. Monitoring objectives and design;
 - g. Monitoring site descriptions and rainfall records for the time period covered;
 - h. Location of monitoring sites and map(s);
 - i. Tabulated results of all analyses arranged in tabular form so that the required information is readily discernible;
 - j. Summary of water quality data for any sites monitored as part of related monitoring programs, and used to evaluate receiving water as described in the Sampling and Analysis Plan.
 - k. Discussion of data to clearly illustrate compliance with the Order and water quality standards;
 - l. Discussion of short term patterns and long term trends in receiving water quality and beneficial use protection;
 - m. Evaluation of pesticide and toxicity analyses results, and recommendation of candidate sites for Toxicity Identification Evaluations (TIEs);
 - n. Identification of the location of any agricultural discharges observed discharging directly to surface receiving water;
 - o. Laboratory data submitted electronically in a SWAMP/CCAMP comparable format;
 - p. Sampling and analytical methods used;
 - q. Copy of chain-of-custody forms;

- r. Field data sheets, signed laboratory reports, laboratory raw data;
- s. Associated laboratory and field quality control samples results;
- t. Summary of Quality Assurance Evaluation results;
- u. Specify the method used to obtain flow at each monitoring site during each monitoring event;
- v. Electronic or hard copies of photos obtained from all monitoring sites, clearly labeled with site ID and date;
- w. Conclusions.

PART 2. GROUNDWATER MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Groundwater Monitoring

1. Dischargers must sample private domestic wells and the primary irrigation well on their farm/ranch to evaluate groundwater conditions in agricultural areas, identify areas at greatest risk for nitrogen loading and exceedance of drinking water standards, and identify priority areas for follow up actions.
2. Dischargers must sample at least one groundwater well for each farm/ranch on their operation, including groundwater wells that are located within the property boundary of the enrolled county assessor parcel numbers (APNs). For farms/ranches with multiple groundwater wells, Dischargers must sample all wells that are used or may be used for domestic use purposes and the primary irrigation well. For the purposes of this MRP, a well that is used or may be used for domestic use purposes is defined as any groundwater well that is connected to a residence, workshop, or place of business that may be used for human consumption, cooking, or sanitary purposes. Groundwater monitoring parameters must include well screen interval depths (if available), general chemical parameters, and general cations and anions listed in Table 3.
3. Dischargers must conduct two rounds of monitoring of required groundwater wells during calendar year 2017; one sample collected during spring (**March - June**) and one sample collected during fall (**September - December**).
4. Groundwater samples must be collected by a qualified third party (e.g., consultant, technician, person conducting cooperative monitoring) using proper sampling methods, chain-of-custody, and quality assurance/quality control protocols. Groundwater samples must be collected at or near the well head before the pressure tank and prior to any well head treatment. In cases where this is not possible, the water sample must be collected from a sampling point as close to the pressure tank as possible, or from a cold-water spigot located before any filters or water treatment systems.

5. Laboratory analyses for groundwater samples must be conducted by a State certified laboratory according to U.S. EPA approved methods; unless otherwise noted, all monitoring, sample preservation, and analyses must be performed in accordance with the latest edition of *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste*, SW-846, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and analyzed as specified herein by the above analytical methods and reporting limits indicated. Certified laboratories can be found at the web link below: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/resources4growers/2016_04_11_labs.pdf
6. If a discharger determines that water in any well that is used or may be used for drinking water exceeds or is projected to exceed 10 mg/L of nitrate as N, the discharger or third party must provide notice to the Central Coast Water Board within 24 hours of learning of the exceedance or projected exceedance. For wells on a Discharger's farm/ranch, the Central Coast Water Board will require that the Discharger notify the users within 10 days. For all other wells, the Central Coast Water Board will notify the users promptly.

B. Groundwater Reporting

1. **Within 60 days of sample collection**, Dischargers must coordinate with the laboratory to submit the following groundwater monitoring results and information, electronically, using the Water Board's GeoTracker electronic deliverable format (EDF):
 - a. GeoTracker Ranch Global Identification Number
 - b. Field point name (Well Name)
 - c. Field Point Class (Well Type)
 - d. Latitude
 - e. Longitude
 - f. Sample collection date
 - g. Analytical results
 - h. Well construction information (e.g., total depth, screened intervals, depth to water), as available
2. **By the first October 1 following adoption of this order**, and every October 1 thereafter, dischargers must submit the following groundwater monitoring information, electronically, in the electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI):
 - a. Number of groundwater wells present at each farm/ranch
 - b. Identification of any groundwater wells abandoned or destroyed (including method destroyed) in compliance with the Order
 - c. Use for fertigation or chemigation
 - d. Presence of back flow prevention devices

- e. Photo-documentation of well condition and back flow prevention device must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted upon request of the Executive Officer

C. Nitrate Loading Risk Factor Determination and Total Nitrogen Reporting

1. Tier 2 Dischargers must calculate the nitrate loading risk factor for each ranch/farm included in their operations. The nitrate loading risk factor is a measure of the relative risk of loading nitrate to groundwater. Tier 2 Dischargers must determine the nitrate loading risk factor for each ranch/farm, based on the highest risk activity existing at each ranch/farm. For example, if a Discharger uses both sprinkler and drip irrigation on the same crop, they must use the irrigation type "sprinkler" in the nitrate loading risk calculation. To calculate nitrate loading risk, Tier 2 Dischargers must use the criteria and methodology described in Table 4 of this MRP, or use the Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index developed by University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR).
2. Tier 2 Dischargers may choose to subdivide the ranch/farm into "nitrate loading risk units," based on the variability of ranch/farm conditions for the purposes of complying with this Order. A nitrate loading risk unit is a subdivided unit of the ranch/farm. Factors that a discharger may consider in subdividing the farm into nitrate loading risk units include but are not limited to irrigation system type, crop type, nitrate concentration in the irrigation water, soil type, number and size of management blocks that would have to otherwise be reported under Method 1 in subsection C.5 below. The nitrate loading risk unit may be the total ranch, a number of blocks, or an individual block. If a Discharger chooses to subdivide the ranch/farm into individual nitrate loading risk units, the Discharger must maintain individual record keeping, and conduct monitoring and reporting for each nitrate loading risk unit.
3. Tier 2 Dischargers who choose to evaluate nitrate loading risk using the Table 4 criteria and methodology must calculate the ranch/farm or nitrate loading risk unit's nitrate loading risk level (low, moderate, or high), as described in Table 4. Dischargers must report Nitrate Loading Risk factors and level in the electronic Annual Compliance Form.
 - a. LOW - Nitrate loading risk is less than 10;
 - b. MODERATE – Nitrate loading risk is between 10 and 15;
 - c. HIGH – Nitrate loading risk is more than 15;
4. Tier 2 Dischargers who choose to evaluate nitrate loading risk using the Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index must characterize the soil type for the individual farm(s), including any variability in soil type, and utilize the index tool at the Internet link below. Soil types may vary across individual

fields, and this variability must be accounted for when using the Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index. If the soil type is unknown or if the soil type is not included in the UCANR Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index tool, Dischargers must use the Table 4 criteria and methodology described above. Dischargers must provide documentation of input to the index for crop type, soil type, irrigation type, and deep rip. A resulting Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index number greater than or equal to 20 indicates a High Nitrate Loading Risk.

http://ucanr.org/sites/wrc/Programs/Water_Quality/Nitrate_Groundwater_Pollution_Hazard_Index/

5. Tier 2 Dischargers with individual farms/ranches or nitrate loading risk units that have a HIGH nitrate loading risk must report application of nitrogen annually using Method 1 or 2:

Method 1 (by field or management block):

- a. Total nitrogen applied in lbs/acre¹ per crop for each field or management block and identification of the crop type². Total nitrogen applied includes any product, form or concentration including, but not limited to, organic and inorganic fertilizers, slow release products, compost, compost teas, manure, and extracts. The discharger shall also identify the underlying basis for the amount of total nitrogen that the discharger decided to apply. The discharger may report more than one basis.
- b. Average nitrogen concentration in irrigation water during the annual reporting period, reported as total nitrogen in mg/L, applied to each farm/ranch or nitrate loading risk unit, and also the calculated or estimated nitrogen load in lbs/acre for each field or management block.
- c. Total nitrogen present in the soil in lbs/acre for each field or management block prior to the first application of fertilizer to the crop, or at an alternative time when it is most effective to determine nitrogen present in the soil that is available for the next crop and to minimize nitrate leaching to groundwater.

Method 2 (by nitrate loading risk unit):

- a. Total acres of each nitrate loading risk unit.
- b. Total nitrogen applied (sum of all applications) to each nitrate loading risk unit during the annual reporting period in lbs¹. Total nitrogen applied includes any product, form or concentration including, but not

¹This reporting requirement is for nitrogen content of fertilizer in lbs and not the total lbs of fertilizer. For example, if 100 lbs/acre of nitrogen is applied with 12 percent nitrogen, 12 lbs/acre of nitrogen is reported.

² In order to report on a field basis, the entire field must be planted with the same crop and receive the same fertilizer inputs. A management block is any portion of a discharger's land that is planted with the same crop and receives the same fertilizer inputs. Management blocks may consist of multiple fields and/or divisions of a single field.

limited to, organic and inorganic fertilizers, slow release products, compost, compost teas, manure, and extracts. The discharger shall also identify the underlying basis for the amount of total nitrogen that the discharger decided to apply. The discharger may report more than one basis.

- c. Average nitrogen concentration in irrigation water during the annual reporting period, reported as total nitrogen in mg/L. applied to each farm/ranch or nitrate loading risk unit, and also the calculated or estimated nitrogen load in lbs/acre.
- d. Total acres of each crop type grown¹ within the nitrate loading risk unit during the annual reporting period.
- e. Total nitrogen present in the soil in lbs/acre for each field within the nitrate loading risk unit, measured once per annual reporting period prior to the first application of fertilizer to the first crop in rotation, or at an alternative time when it is most effective to determine nitrogen present in the soil that is available for the next crop and to minimize nitrate leaching to groundwater.

PART 3. ANNUAL COMPLIANCE FORM

Tier 2 Dischargers must submit annual compliance information, electronically, in a format specified by the Executive Officer. The purpose of the electronic Annual Compliance Form is to provide information to the Central Coast Water Board to assist in the evaluation of threat to water quality from individual agricultural discharges of waste and measure progress towards water quality improvement and verify compliance with the Order and MRP. Time schedules are shown in Table 5.

A. Annual Compliance Form

1. **By October 1, 2012 and updated annually thereafter by October 1**, Tier 2 Dischargers must submit an Annual Compliance Form electronically, in a format specified by the Executive Officer. The electronic Annual Compliance Form includes, but is not limited to the following minimum requirements²:
 - a. Signed transmittal letter;
 - b. Verification that any change in general operation or farm/ranch information (e.g., crop type, irrigation type, discharge type) is reported on update to Notice of Intent (NOI);
 - c. Verification of compliance with monitoring requirements, including any cooperative monitoring fees;
 - d. Verification of completed Farm Plan and date of last update;

¹ If a crop type is grown in more than one rotation during the annual reporting period, the total acres of the crop type equals the sum of the acres planted in each rotation.

² Items reported in the Annual Compliance Document are due by October 1, 2012 and annually thereafter, unless otherwise specified.

- e. Information regarding type and characteristics of discharge (e.g., number of discharge points, estimated flow/volume, number of tailwater days);
- f. Identification of any direct agricultural discharges to a stream, lake, estuary, bay, or ocean;
- g. Identification of specific farm water quality management practices completed, in progress, and planned to address water quality impacts caused by discharges of waste including irrigation management, pesticide management, nutrient management, salinity management, stormwater management, and sediment and erosion control to achieve compliance with this Order; and identification of specific methods used, and described in the Farm Plan consistent with Order Provision 44.g., for the purposes of assessing the effectiveness of management practices implemented and the outcomes of such assessments;
- h. Average nitrogen concentration in irrigation water during the annual reporting period, reported as total nitrogen in mg/L applied for each farm/ranch or nitrate loading risk unit, and also the calculated or estimated nitrogen load in lbs/acre;
- i. Identification of the application of any fertilizers, pesticides, fumigants or other chemicals through an irrigation system (e.g. fertigation or chemigation) and proof of proper backflow prevention devices;
- j. Description of method and location of chemical applications relative to surface water;
- k. Nitrate Loading Risk factors in Table 4 or Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index input and Nitrate Loading Risk level;
- l. Proof of approved California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement, as required by CDFG for any work proposed within the bed, bank or channel of a lake or stream, including riparian areas, that has the potential to result in erosion and discharges of waste to waters of the State;

Tier 2 Dischargers with farms/ranches that contain or are adjacent to a waterbody impaired for temperature, turbidity or sediment:

- m. Photo monitoring to document condition of streams, riparian, and wetland area habitat and the presence of bare soil within the riparian habitat area that is vulnerable to erosion;¹

*Tier 2 Dischargers with farms/ranches that have High Nitrate Loading Risk:*²

Either:

¹ Reporting due by October 1, 2014 and October 1, 2017.

² Due by October 1, 2014 and annually thereafter by October 1.

Method 1 (by field or management block):

- n. Total nitrogen applied in lbs/acre per crop for each field or management block and identification of the crop type Total nitrogen applied includes any product, form or concentration) including, but not limited to, organic and inorganic fertilizers, slow release products, compost, compost teas, manure, and extracts. The discharger shall also identify the underlying basis for the determination of the amount of total nitrogen applied. The discharger may report more than one basis;
- o. Total nitrogen present in the soil in lbs/acre for each field or management block prior to the first application of fertilizer to the crop, or at an alternative time when it is most effective to determine nitrogen present in the soil that is available for the next crop and to minimize nitrate leaching to groundwater.

or

Method 2 (by nitrate loading risk unit):

- p. Total acres of each nitrate loading risk unit;
- q. Total nitrogen applied (sum of all applications) to each nitrate loading risk unit during the annual reporting period in lbs. Total nitrogen applied includes any product, form or concentration including, but not limited to, organic and inorganic fertilizers, slow release products, compost, compost teas, manure, and extracts. The discharger shall also identify the underlying basis for the determination of the amount of total nitrogen applied. The discharger may report more than one basis;
- r. Total acres of each crop type grown within the nitrate loading risk unit during the annual reporting period;
- s. Total nitrogen present in the soil in lbs/acre for each field within the nitrate loading risk unit, measured once per annual reporting period prior to the first application of fertilizer to the first crop in rotation or at an alternative time when it is most effective to determine nitrogen present in the soil that is available for the next crop and to minimize nitrate leaching to groundwater.

PART 4. PHOTO MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Photo monitoring and reporting requirements identified in Part 4.A. apply to Tier 2 Dischargers that have farms/ranches that contain or are adjacent to a waterbody identified on the List of Impaired Waterbodies as impaired for temperature, turbidity or sediment (see Order Table 1). Time schedules are shown in Table 5.

A. Photo Monitoring and Reporting

1. **By October 1, 2012**, Tier 2 Dischargers that have farms/ranches that contain or are adjacent to a waterbody *impaired for temperature, turbidity or sediment* must conduct photo monitoring to do the following:
 - a. Document the existing condition of perennial, intermittent or ephemeral streams (wet or dry), riparian or wetland area habitat; Photo monitoring of existing conditions must be repeated every four years.
2. Tier 2 Dischargers must conduct photo monitoring consistent with protocol established by the Executive Officer. Dischargers must include date of photo, photo location and point of reference in the photo. Photos must be accompanied by explanations and descriptions of the management practices demonstrated in the photos to meet the Basin Plan requirements specified below and must include estimated widths of riparian areas from top of bank.

Basin Plan (Chapter 5, p. V-13, Section V.G.4 – Erosion and Sedimentation, *“A filter strip of appropriate width, and consisting of undisturbed soil and riparian vegetation or its equivalent, must be maintained, wherever possible, between significant land disturbance activities and watercourses, lakes, bays, estuaries, marshes, and other water bodies. For construction activities, minimum width of the filter strip must be thirty feet, wherever possible....”*

3. Tier 2 Dischargers must maintain photos in the Farm Plan and submit upon request of the Executive Officer.

PART 5. GENERAL MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Submittal of Technical Reports

1. Dischargers must submit reports in a format specified by the Executive Officer. A transmittal letter must accompany each report, containing the following penalty of perjury statement signed by the Discharger or the Discharger’s authorized agent:

“In compliance with Water Code §13267, I certify under penalty of perjury that this document and all attachments were prepared by me, or under my direction or supervision following a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this document and all attachments are true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment”.

2. If the Discharger asserts that all or a portion of a report submitted pursuant to this Order is subject to an exemption from public disclosure (e.g. trade secrets or secret processes), the Discharger must provide an explanation of how those portions of the reports are exempt from public disclosure. The Discharger must clearly indicate on the cover of the report (typically an electronic submittal) that the Discharger asserts that all or a portion of the report is exempt from public disclosure, submit a complete report with those portions that are asserted to be exempt in redacted form, submit separately (in a separate electronic file) unredacted pages (to be maintained separately by staff). The Central Coast Water Board staff will determine whether any such report or portion of a report qualifies for an exemption from public disclosure. If the Central Coast Water Board staff disagrees with the asserted exemption from public disclosure, the Central Coast Water Board staff will notify the Discharger prior to making such report or portions of such report available for public inspection. In the interest of public health and safety, the Central Coast Water Board will not make available for public inspection, the precise location of any groundwater well monitored in compliance with this Order. Consistent with the reporting of groundwater wells on GeoTracker, groundwater well location and data will only be referenced within a one-half mile radius of the actual well location.

B. Central Coast Water Board Authority

1. Monitoring reports are required pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code. Pursuant to Section 13268 of the Water Code, a violation of a request made pursuant to Section 13267 may subject you to civil liability of up to \$1000 per day.
2. The Water Board needs the required information to determine compliance with Order No. R3-2012-0011. The evidence supporting these requirements is included in the findings of Order No. R3-2012-0011.
3. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Coast Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of the order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of the order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality
or will be provided upon request.

John M. Robertson
Executive Officer

August 22, 2017

Date

Table 1. Major Waterbodies in Agricultural Areas¹

Hydrologic SubArea	Waterbody Name	Hydrologic SubArea	Waterbody Name
30510	Pajaro River	30920	Quail Creek
30510	Salsipuedes Creek	30920	Salinas Reclamation Canal
30510	Watsonville Slough	31022	Chorro Creek
30510	Watsonville Creek ²	31023	Los Osos Creek
30510	Beach Road Ditch ²	31023	Warden Creek
30530	Carnadero Creek	31024	San Luis Obispo Creek
30530	Furlong Creek ²	31024	Prefumo Creek
30530	Llagas Creek	31031	Arroyo Grande Creek
30530	Miller's Canal	31031	Los Berros Creek
30530	San Juan Creek	31210	Bradley Canyon Creek
30530	Tesquisquita Slough	31210	Bradley Channel
30600	Moro Cojo Slough	31210	Green Valley Creek
30910	Alisal Slough	31210	Main Street Canal
30910	Blanco Drain	31210	Orcutt Solomon Creek
30910	Old Salinas River	31210	Oso Flaco Creek
30910	Salinas River (below Gonzales Rd.)	31210	Little Oso Flaco Creek
30920	Salinas River above Gonzales Rd. and below Nacimiento R.)	31210	Santa Maria River
30910	Santa Rita Creek ²	31310	San Antonio Creek ²
30910	Tembladero Slough	31410	Santa Ynez River
30920	Alisal Creek	31531	Bell Creek
30920	Chualar Creek	31531	Glenn Annie Creek
30920	Espinosa Slough	31531	Los Carneros Creek ²
30920	Gabilan Creek	31534	Arroyo Paredon Creek
30920	Natividad Creek	31534	Franklin Creek

¹ At a minimum, sites must be included for these waterbodies in agricultural areas, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Officer. Sites may be proposed for addition or modification to better assess the impacts of waste discharges from irrigated lands to surface water. Dischargers choosing to comply with surface receiving water quality monitoring, individually (not part of a cooperative monitoring program) must only monitor sites for waterbodies receiving the discharge.

² These creeks are included because they are newly listed waterbodies on the 2010 303(d) list of Impaired Waters that are associated with areas of agricultural discharge.

Table 2. Surface Receiving Water Quality Monitoring Parameters

Parameters and Tests	RL ³	Monitoring Frequency ¹
Photo Monitoring		
Upstream and downstream photographs at monitoring location		With every monitoring event
<u>WATER COLUMN SAMPLING</u>		
Physical Parameters and General Chemistry		
Flow (field measure) (CFS) following SWAMP field SOP ⁹	.25	Monthly, including 2 stormwater events
pH (field measure)	0.1	"
Electrical Conductivity (field measure) (µS/cm)	2.5	"
Dissolved Oxygen (field measure) (mg/L)	0.1	"
Temperature (field measure) (°C)	0.1	"
Turbidity (NTU)	0.5	"
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	10	"
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	0.5	"
Nutrients		
Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	0.5	Monthly, including 2 stormwater events
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N) (mg/L)	0.1	"
Total Ammonia (mg/L)	0.1	"
Unionized Ammonia (calculated value, mg/L)		"
Total Phosphorus (as P) (mg/L)	0.02	
Soluble Orthophosphate (mg/L)	0.01	"
Water column chlorophyll a (µg/L)	1.0	"
Algae cover, Floating Mats, % coverage	-	"
Algae cover, Attached, % coverage	-	"
Water Column Toxicity Test		
Algae - <i>Selenastrum capricornutum</i> (96-hour chronic; Method 1003.0 in EPA/821/R-02/013)	-	4 times, twice in dry season, twice in wet season
Water Flea – <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (7-day chronic; Method 1002.0 in EPA/821/R-02/013)	-	"
Midge - <i>Chironomus spp.</i> (96-hour acute; Alternate test species in EPA 821-R-02-012)	-	"

Parameters and Tests	RL ³	Monitoring Frequency ¹
Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE)	-	As directed by Executive Officer
Pesticides² /Herbicides (µg/L)		
Organophosphate Pesticides		
Azinphos-methyl	0.02	2 times, once in dry season and once in wet season, concurrent with water toxicity monitoring
Chlorpyrifos	0.005	"
Diazinon	0.005	"
Dichlorvos	0.01	"
Dimethoate	0.01	"
Dimeton-s	0.005	"
Disulfoton (Disyton)	0.005	"
Malathion	0.005	"
Methamidophos	0.02	"
Methidathion	0.02	"
Parathion-methyl	0.02	"
Phorate	0.01	"
Phosmet	0.02	"
Neonicotinoids		
Thiamethoxam	.002	"
Imidacloprid	.002	"
Thiacloprid	.002	"
Dinotefuran	.006	"
Acetamiprid	.01	"
Herbicides		
Atrazine	0.05	"
Cyanazine	0.20	"
Diuron	0.05	"
Glyphosate	2.0	"
Linuron	0.1	"
Paraquat	0.20	"
Simazine	0.05	"
Trifluralin	0.05	"
Metals (µg/L)		
Arsenic (total) ^{5,7}	0.3	2 times, once in dry season and once in wet season, concurrent with water toxicity monitoring
Boron (total) ^{6,7}	10	"
Cadmium (total & dissolved) ^{4,5,7}	0.01	"
Copper (total and dissolved) ^{4,7}	0.01	"
Lead (total and dissolved) ^{4,7}	0.01	"
Nickel (total and dissolved) ^{4,7}	0.02	"

Parameters and Tests	RL ³	Monitoring Frequency ¹
Molybdenum (total) ⁷	1	"
Selenium (total) ⁷	0.30	"
Zinc (total and dissolved) ^{4,5,7}	0.10	"
Other (µg/L)		
Total Phenolic Compounds ⁸	5	2 times, once in spring (April-May) and once in fall (August-September)
Hardness (mg/L as CaCO ₃)	1	"
Total Organic Carbon (ug/L)	0.6	"
<u>SEDIMENT SAMPLING</u>		
Sediment Toxicity - <i>Hyalella azteca</i> 10-day static renewal (EPA, 2000)		2 times, once in spring (April-May) and once in fall (August-September)
Pyrethroid Pesticides in Sediment (µg/kg)		
Gamma-cyhalothrin	2	2 times, once in spring (April-May) and once in fall (August-September, concurrent with sediment toxicity sampling)
Lambda-cyhalothrin	2	"
Bifenthrin	2	"
Beta-cyfluthrin	2	"
Cyfluthrin	2	"
Esfenvalerate	2	"
Permethrin	2	"
Cypermethrin	2	"
Danitol	2	"
Fenvalerate	2	"
Fluvalinate	2	"
Other Monitoring in Sediment		
Chlorpyrifos (µg/kg)	2	"
Total Organic Carbon	0.01%	"
		"
Sediment Grain Size Analysis	1%	"

¹Monitoring is ongoing through all five years of the Order, unless otherwise specified. Monitoring frequency may be used as a guide for developing alternative Sampling and Analysis Plan.

²Pesticide list may be modified based on specific pesticide use in Central Coast Region. Analytes on this list must be reported, at a minimum.

³Reporting Limit, taken from SWAMP where applicable.

⁴Holmgren, Meyer, Cheney and Daniels. 1993. Cadmium, Lead, Zinc, Copper and Nickel in Agricultural Soils of the United States. J. of Environ. Quality 22:335-348.

⁵Sax and Lewis, ed. 1987. Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary. 11th ed. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1987. Zinc arsenate is an insecticide.

⁶<http://www.coastalagro.com/products/labels/9%25BORON.pdf>; Boron is applied directly or as a component of fertilizers as a plant nutrient.

⁷Madramootoo, Johnston, Willardson, eds. 1997. Management of Agricultural Drainage Water Quality. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage. U.N. FAO. SBN 92-6-104058.3.

⁸<http://cat.inist.fr/?aModele=afficheN&cpsid=14074525>; Phenols are breakdown products of herbicides and pesticides. Phenols can be directly toxic and cause endocrine disruption.

⁹See SWAMP field measures SOP, p. 17

mg/L – milligrams per liter; ug/L – micrograms per liter; ug/kg – micrograms per kilogram;

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units; CFS – cubic feet per second;

¹⁰ Enhanced monitoring (for pesticides and metals) in sediment and water chemistry may be conducted in either the second or the third year of the Order term, but at any given site all enhanced monitoring must be done in the same year,

¹¹ One of the four rounds of enhanced water sampling should be conducted concurrently with bioassessment and sediment monitoring if possible.

Table 3. Groundwater Monitoring Parameters

Parameter	RL	Analytical Method ³	Units
pH	0.1	Field or Laboratory Measurement EPA General Methods	pH Units
Specific Conductance	2.5		µS/cm
Total Dissolved Solids	10		mg/L
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	1	EPA Method 310.1 or 310.2	
Calcium	0.05	General Cations ¹ EPA 200.7, 200.8, 200.9	
Magnesium	0.02		
Sodium	0.1		
Potassium	0.1		
Sulfate (SO ₄)	1.0	General Anions EPA Method 300 or EPA Method 353.2	
Chloride	0.1		
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N) ² or Nitrate as NO ₃	0.1		

¹General chemistry parameters (major cations and anions) represent geochemistry of water bearing zone and assist in evaluating quality assurance/quality control of groundwater sampling and laboratory analysis.

²The MRP allows analysis of “nitrate plus nitrite” to represent nitrate concentrations. The “nitrate plus nitrite” analysis allows for extended laboratory holding times and relieves the Discharger of meeting the short holding time required for nitrate. Dischargers may also analyze for Nitrate as NO₃.

³Dischargers may use alternative analytical methods approved by EPA.

RL – Reporting Limit; µS/cm – micro siemens per centimeter

Table 4. Nitrate Loading Risk Factor Criteria and Risk Level Calculation

A. Crop Type Nitrate Hazard Index Rating

- 1 - Bean, Grapes, Olive.
- 2 - Apple, Avocado, Barley, Blackberry, Blueberry, Carrot, Chicory, Citrus, Lemon Oat, Orange, Peach, Pear, Pistachio, Raspberry, Walnut, Wheat.
- 3 - Artichoke, Bean, Brussel Sprout, Corn, Cucumber, Daikon, Peas, Radish, Squash, Summer, Tomato, Turnip, Squash, Rutabaga, Pumpkin, Potato.
- 4 – Beet, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Cabbage (Napa), Collard, Endive, Kale, Leek, Lettuce, Mustard, Onion, Parsley, Pepper, Spinach, Strawberry.

(Based on UC Riverside Nitrate Hazard Index)

B. Irrigation System Type Rating

- 1 - Micro-irrigation year round (drip and micro-sprinklers) and no pre-irrigation;
- 2 - Sprinklers used for pre-irrigation only and then micro-irrigation;
- 3 - Sprinklers used for germination or at any time during growing season;
- 4 - Surface irrigation systems (furrow or flood) at any, and/or in combination with any other irrigation system type;

(Based on UC Riverside Nitrate Hazard Index, Adapted for the Central Coast Region)

C. Irrigation Water Nitrate Concentration Rating

- 1 – Nitrate concentration 0 to 45 mg/liter Nitrate NO₃
- 2 - Nitrate concentration 46 to 60 mg/liter Nitrate NO₃
- 3 - Nitrate concentration 61 to 100 mg/liter Nitrate NO₃
- 4 - Nitrate concentration > 100 mg/l Nitrate NO₃

D. Nitrate Loading Risk Level Calculation = A x B x C

- LOW - Nitrate loading risk is less than 10;
- MODERATE – Nitrate loading risk is between 10 and 15;
- HIGH – Nitrate loading risk is more than 15;

Note: Dischargers must determine the nitrate loading risk factor for each ranch/farm, based on the criteria associated with the highest risk activity existing at each ranch/farm. For example, the ranch/farm is assigned the highest risk factor, based on the single highest risk crop in the rotation, on one block under furrow irrigation, or on one well with high nitrate concentration. As an alternative to the nitrate loading risk level calculation described in Table 4, Dischargers may use the Groundwater Pollution Nitrate Hazard Index developed by UCANR, where a resulting Nitrate Hazard Index score equal or greater or equal to 20 indicates a HIGH nitrate loading risk to groundwater.

Table 5. Tier 2 - Time Schedule for Key Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

REQUIREMENT	TIME SCHEDULE ¹
Submit Quality Assurance Project Plan and Sampling And Analysis Plan for Surface Receiving Water Quality Monitoring (individually or through cooperative monitoring program)	Within three months
Initiate surface receiving water quality monitoring (individually or through cooperative monitoring program)	Within six months

Submit surface receiving water quality monitoring data (individually or through cooperative monitoring program)	Within nine months, quarterly thereafter (January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1)
Submit surface receiving water quality Annual Monitoring Report (individually or through cooperative monitoring program)	By July 1 2014: annually thereafter by July 1
Initiate monitoring of groundwater wells	See PART 2 of this MRP
Tier 2 Dischargers with farms/ranches that contain or are adjacent to a waterbody impaired for temperature, turbidity or sediment: Conduct photo monitoring of riparian or wetland area habitat	June 1, 2014. June 1, 2017 and every four years thereafter by June 1.
Submit electronic Annual Compliance Form	October 1, 2012, and updated annually thereafter by October 1
Submit groundwater monitoring results	See PART 2 of this MRP
Tier 2 Dischargers with farms/ranches that have High Nitrate Loading Risk: Report total nitrogen applied per acre to each field or management block or nitrate loading risk in electronic Annual Compliance Form	October 1, 2014, and annually thereafter by October 1.

¹ Dates are relative to adoption of this Order or enrollment date for Dischargers enrolled after the adoption of this Order, unless otherwise specified.