

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

FILE

4 February 2014

Mr. David Gisler
Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition
2904 West Main Street
Visalia, California 93291

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA) ISSUED TO THE TULE BASIN WATER QUALITY COALITION (COALITION) TO SERVE AS THE THIRD-PARTY UNDER GENERAL ORDER R5-2013-0120

On 17 October 2013, the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted an application to serve as the third-party entity to represent owners and operators of irrigated lands located within the Coalition boundary subject to Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120 for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area that are Members of a Third-Party Group (General Order). Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff (Staff) reviewed the application and concluded that the proposed boundary of the Coalitions coverage area was insufficient and that modifications were needed prior to the approval of the Coalitions application. On 13 December 2013, Staff met with you to discuss the boundary issues and propose a more inclusive alternative boundary.

On 22 January 2014, you submitted an addendum to your October 2013 application that provides an opportunity for all owners and/or operators of irrigated lands to fulfill their regulatory obligations through membership in a third-party group by allowing parcels outside the Coalitions boundary (see supplemental coverage area in enclosed Figure 1, Boundary Map) to enroll in the Coalition.

Based on staff review of your application and your record of representing growers under the Conditional Waiver, your Coalition meets the requirements of the General Order to serve as a third-party entity, provided that all enrolled irrigated agricultural lands within the boundaries identified in Figure 1 are considered by the third-party when meeting the requirements of the General Order.



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Tule Basin Water
Quality Coalition

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This letter serves as the Notice of Applicability and approval of the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition to serve as a third-party entity under General Order. We believe your Coalition is well suited to meet the requirements of a third-party and to assist your members in complying with the General Order. We look forward to working with you and your members to protect water quality.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Sholes at (559) 445-6279 or dsholes@waterboards.ca.gov.



for Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Figure 1, Boundary Map
Table of Compliance Dates

cc: Joe Karkoski, Supervising Engineer, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FIGURE 1, MAP OF THE TULE BASIN WATER QUALITY COALITION BOUNDARY

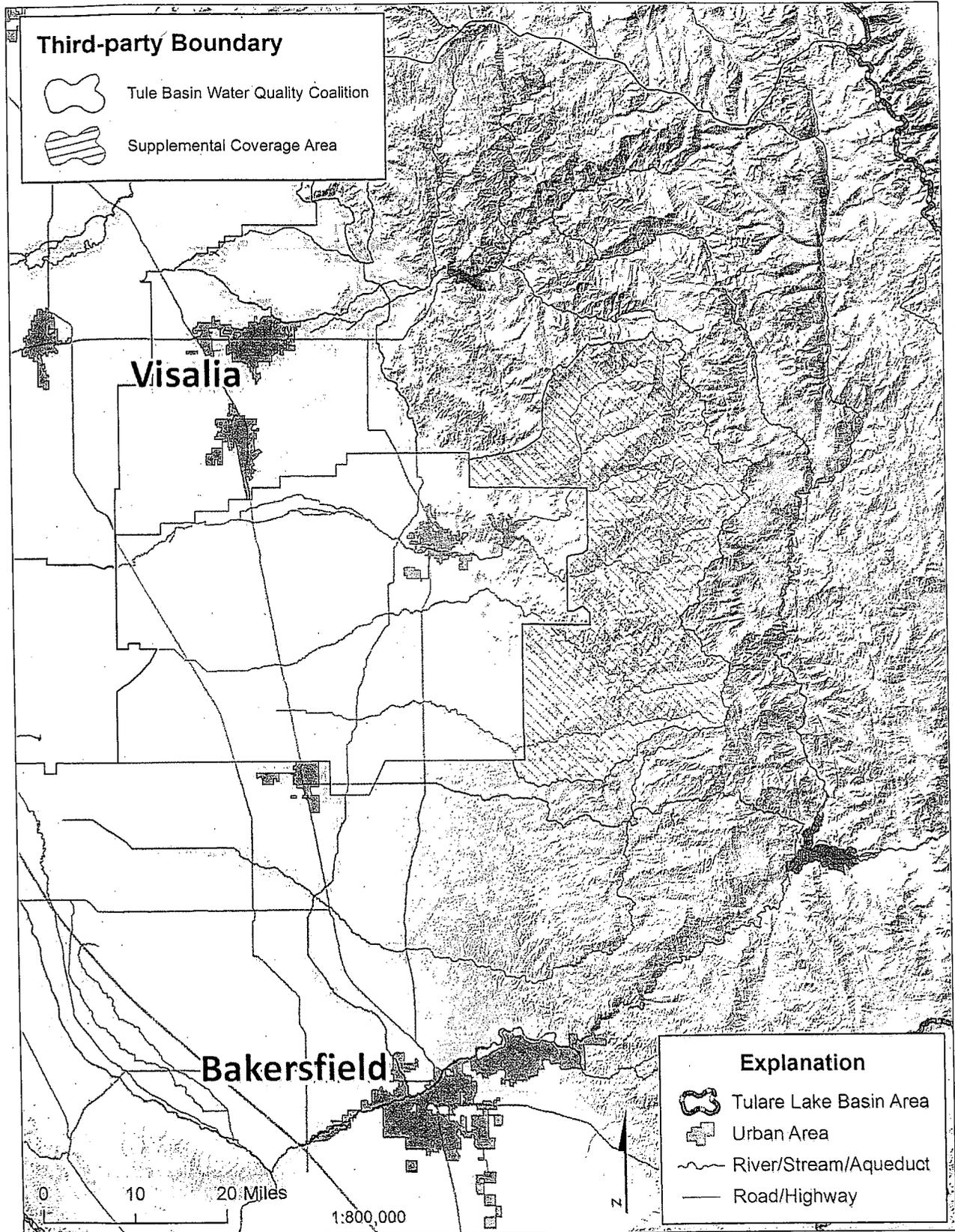


TABLE OF COMPLIANCE DATES ASSOCIATED WITH ISSUANCE OF THE NOA

Due Date*	Requirements
6 March 2014	Provide Notice of Confirmation to Members
5 May 2014	Outline for Groundwater Assessment Report
4 August 2014	Notice of Confirmation Received from Current Members Surface Water Monitoring Plan
5 August 2014	Non-enrolled growers apply directly to Regional Board and Third-party
2 September 2014	Membership List
4 February 2015	Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR)
1 Year from approval of GAR	Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Workplan Management Practice Evaluation Workplan (third-party only option)
1 March 2015	Farm Evaluation Template (All High Vulnerability areas) Nitrogen Management Plan Template (Large Farms in High Vulnerability areas)
180 Days from approval of SDEAR	Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Template (Large Farms)
2 Years from approval of GAR	Management Practice Evaluation Workplan (group option)
1 Year from approval of SDEAR	Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Template (Small Farms)
1 March 2016	Farm Evaluation Template (Large Farms in Low Vulnerability areas)
1 March 2017	Nitrogen Management Plan Template (Small Farms in High Vulnerability areas and all farms in low vulnerability areas)
1 March 2018	Farm Evaluation Template (Small Farms in Low Vulnerability areas)

*Based on the effective dates following the issuance of NOA as specified in the Order. The NOA issue date is 4 February 2014.