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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 January 2015

Mr. Tim Johnson, CEO  
California Rice Commission  
1231 I Street, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2933

### ***PROPOSED CALIFORNIA RICE COMMISSION FARM EVALUATION***

Waste Discharge Requirements for Sacramento Valley Rice Growers, General Order R5-2014-0032 (General Order), requires rice growers to complete a farm evaluation describing management practices implemented to protect surface water and groundwater quality. Farm Evaluations must be completed and submitted to the California Rice Commission (CRC) by 1 March 2015.

The proposed Farm Evaluation template is specific to rice operations. The CRC proposes the use of a web-based information system to assist rice growers in completing the Farm Evaluation.

As required by the General Order, the template for the Farm Evaluation will be posted for public review and comment. Comments on the proposed Farm Evaluation template must be submitted by **23 January 2015** to be considered prior to the Executive Officer decision on the proposed template.

Comments are to be submitted to [Margaret.Wong@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Margaret.Wong@waterboards.ca.gov) or hard copy to Central Valley Regional Quality Control Board, Attn: Margaret Wong, 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Margaret Wong at (916) 464-4857, or by email.

*Original signed by Adam Laputz, for*

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

CC: Ms. Roberta Firoved, CRC

Enclosure: Proposed Farm Evaluation template

# Rice WDR

## Proposed Template for Farm Evaluation

### Background Information

The Farm Evaluation is a mandatory requirement of the Rice Waste Discharge Requirement (Rice WDR) Order and regulated by the Central Valley Water Board. The Farm Evaluation is completed once a year by 1 March 2015. Rice Growers must submit a completed Farm Evaluation to the California Rice Commission (CRC) using a web-based information system provided by the CRC.

A copy of the rice-specific farm evaluation shall be maintained on site or be available electronically at the Rice Grower's farming headquarters or primary place of business. A hard copy of the Farm Evaluation must be produced, if requested, should Central Valley Water Board staff conduct an inspection of the rice operation. Note: Our reporting from growers will be electronic with the option to print a hard copy for the files and to share with the landowner.

By 1 March 2016, and annually thereafter, Rice Growers must update their Farm Evaluation and submit it to the California Rice Commission.

The Farm Evaluation template must include confirmation by the Rice Grower (if not the landowner) that the landowner has received notice of the Rice WDR Order and its provisions.

The farm evaluation is intended to provide the CRC and the Central Valley Water Board with information regarding the Rice Grower implementation of the Rice WDR Order's requirements.

Information from each Farm Evaluation will be maintained by the CRC to summarize in a report to the Central Valley Water Board. The summary will provide an overview of rice farming practices and not be reported at the individual farm, grower, or owner level. Discrete data records are submitted at the township level and do not identify the farm or the grower.

### Overall Instructions

Please provide the requested information in the web-based template for compliance with the Rice WDR. You only need to provide the Farm Evaluation to the CRC once a year on 1 March. **Note:** The detailed instructions will be in the database.

You must complete all parts of the Farm Evaluation Survey. You can use the Meridian/ Township/ Range/Section (MTRS) from the pesticide use reporting you provide to the county agricultural commissioner.

If all parcels/fields listed have the same practices, fill out one (1) survey for all enrolled parcels/field and return.

If parcels/fields have different practices, fill out one (1) survey for each parcel/field with different practices.

## Farm Evaluation

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Location of the Farm

**Note:** Fill in the Grower ID, and the remainder of the information will be auto-populated in the CRC database.

Grower ID: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgement by the Grower, that the landowner (if different from Grower) has been notified of the provisions in the Order and of the joint responsibility for complying with the terms and conditions of the Order.**

**Is the landowner aware of the provisions of the Rice WDR Order?**

Yes                       No

**Does the landowner have a copy of the Rice WDR Order?**

Yes                       No

**A copy of the Rice WDR Order can be downloaded here:**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands/new\\_waste\\_discharge\\_requirements/rice\\_growers\\_sacvalley\\_wdrs/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/new_waste_discharge_requirements/rice_growers_sacvalley_wdrs/index.shtml)

**It is required that the landowner and the grower, if not the same person, keep a copy of the Rice WDR Order on file.**

### Identification of rice acreage

Rice acreage grown: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you rotate your rice crop with other crops?**

Yes                       No

If yes, what other crop(s) are grown on your field: \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of farm planted with another crop: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency of rotation into or out of rice: \_\_\_\_\_

Land taken out of productions (permanent crop): \_\_\_\_\_

**Identification of on-farm management practices implemented to achieve the Order's farm management performance standards. The Rice WDR Order does not have any mandated on-farm management practices. From almost 30 years of managing water quality programs the following list of practices result from permit conditions and label requirements regulated by the county agricultural commissioners through the Department of Pesticide Regulation.**

**Regulatory Farm Management Practices (check all that apply)**

- Follow Label Restrictions
- Follow County Permit Conditions
- Waterholding Requirements
- Monitor Wind Conditions
- Use Appropriate Buffer Zones
- Attend Mandatory Trainings
- Use Low Drift Nozzles
- Use PCA Recommendations
- End of Row Shutoff When Spraying
- Avoid Surface Water When Spraying
- Compliance with PPE
- Use Drift Control Agents
- Provide Employee Safety Training

**Voluntary Farm Management Practices (check all that apply)**

- Land Leveling/ Precision Technology
- Utilize Tailwater Return
- Utilize Peripheral Drains
- Monitor Rain Forecasts
- Crop Rotation (organic)
- Cover Cropping (organic)
- Strip Cropping (organic)
- Compacting Levees
- Variable timing of water release
  - Pre-field prep
  - Pre-harvest
- Slow release of water from fields
- Crop Rotation (non-organic)
- Voluntary Trainings (Spray Safe, etc.)

**Identification of whether or not water leaves the property, and where water leaves the property as well as identifying drainage ditches where water is discharged.**

**Does water leave the property?**

- Yes       No

If yes, where (show on the farm map below)? Note: the maps will be part of the auto-populated information in the database. Growers can provide feedback on accuracy.

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What is the drain(s) name or number (the identifier) where the water is discharged?

**Note:** The grower will identify the drain on the map.

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**Note:** Identification might be by water district

**Well Information (Note: We will tie this information to the table and map)**

The location of in-service agricultural wells and abandoned wells may be provided in a Farm Map that remains on-site and is made available for the Central Valley Water Board inspection. Identification of whether wellhead protection and backflow prevention practices have been implemented.

Does the property have one or several wells for agricultural irrigation?

- Yes       No

How many agricultural irrigation wells are abandoned: \_\_\_\_\_

How many agricultural irrigation wells are functioning/active: \_\_\_\_\_

Are active agricultural irrigation wells fitted with wellhead protection devices?

- Yes       No

Are active agricultural irrigation wells fitted with backflow prevention devices?

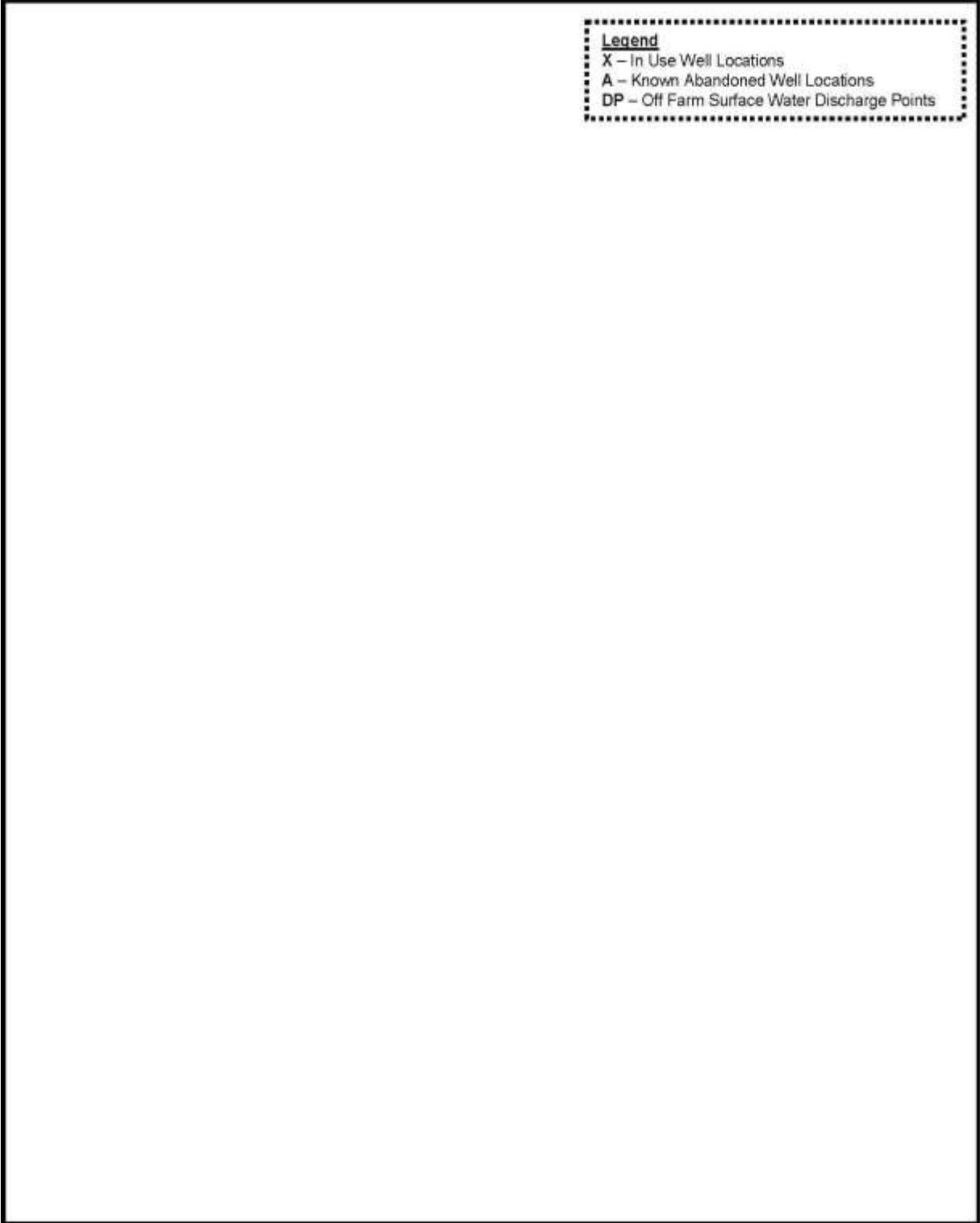
- Yes       No



# Farm Map

(Keep Onsite-For Inspection Purposes Only)

Update map with well locations and surface water discharge points.



Legend  
X – In Use Well Locations  
A – Known Abandoned Well Locations  
DP – Off Farm Surface Water Discharge Points