
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

30 October 2014

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FINAL TEMPLATE FOR FARM EVALUATION AND WETLAND EVALUATION UNDER GENERAL ORDER R5-2014-0030

Waste Discharge Requirements for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-Party Group, General Order R5-2014-0030 requires that all third-party members (Members) complete a farm evaluation or wetland evaluation describing management practices implemented to protect surface water and groundwater quality. The final Farm Evaluation and Wetland Evaluation templates that must be used to comply with the requirements of the General Order are enclosed. Sub-watersheds of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) may attach additional requests for information and/or directions to the templates provided to Members, as they deem necessary. Members must submit completed farm or wetland evaluations to the Coalition by 1 March 2015.

The Coalition's Farm Evaluation template is based on the template circulated for public comments on 6 June 2014; the Wetlands Evaluation template was developed for use by the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. The final templates satisfy the requirements of the General Order and serve to collect information consistently across irrigated agricultural areas and commodities in a cost effective manner. The Central Valley Water Board recognizes that templates may require modifications and intends to re-evaluate the templates in one year.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Susan Fregien at Susan.Fregien@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 464-4813 or Lynn Coster at Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 224-2437

Original signed by,

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Approved Farm Evaluation Template and Wetlands Evaluation Template

Farm Evaluation Survey

Overall Instructions

There are four, one-page “parts” of the Farm Evaluation Survey to complete, and Farm Maps that will help you identify parcel numbers and field IDs and where you will mark the location of active and abandoned wells:

- Part A: Whole Farm Evaluation; complete only once (1 page).
- Part B: Field Specific Evaluation; complete *one page for each field or management unit*.
- Part C: Irrigation Well information; complete *one page for each membership or farm*.
- Part D: Sediment and Erosion Control Practices; complete *one page for each field or management unit*.
- Part E: Farm Map(s); identify the location of wells listed in Part C and *keep on farm*.

You may need to make copies of Parts B, C and D of the survey and complete separate surveys for each of your fields that are managed differently or have different crops. See detailed instructions on the following pages.

If all parcels/fields listed have the same practices, fill out one (1) survey for all enrolled parcels and return. Check the corresponding box(es) on the far left column to indicate the field(s) covered by the answers.

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

When copies are made, check the box next to the parcel(s) and Field ID(s) that the survey responses apply to.

For example, if a member has 3 parcels enrolled with one crop grown (Parcel A, B and C) and he manages Parcel A and B the same, he can fill out one survey for Parcels A and B. Another survey needs to be filled out for Parcel C to record the crops or practices that differ from A and B.

Step by Step Instructions

The Farm Evaluation has 5 components:

- Part A:** Whole Farm Evaluation
- Part B:** Specific Field Evaluation
- Part C:** Irrigation Well Information
- Part D:** Sediment & Erosion Control Practices
- Part E: Farm Map(s)**

Step 1: Part A: answer Questions 1 – 3 for all enrolled parcels.

Step 2: Part B, question 1: check the parcels that the survey applies to by putting a check in the left hand box. Use the attached farm map(s) to help identify parcel numbers including Field IDs. This information corresponds to the map(s) in Part E. Fill in any missing information. Remember to fill out a survey for each of your enrolled parcels.

Step 3: Part B: Answer questions 2 – 4 for parcels that **you identified** at the top of the page by checking the box next to the parcel. *If parcels or fields differ in their practices, you must make a copy of the page to answer questions for parcels/fields differently.*

Step 4: Part C: Answer Questions 1 and 2 pertaining to irrigation well information. Give each well a unique identifier (Well ID) and list that in column 1. Use the Well ID to link the well management practices to the wells identified on the map. Also identify the location of both active and abandoned wells on the map. Transfer that identifier to the Farm Map (Part E) and keep the map in your files (do not return to the Coalition). The map with well identifiers must be produced if you ever have a Regional Water Board compliance inspection.

Step 5: Part D: Answer questions as you did in Part B in reference to parcels that **you identify** at the top of the page by checking the box next to the parcel. *If parcels or fields differ in their practices you must make a copy of the page to answer questions for parcels/fields differently. Make sure you check off which parcels your answers apply to.*

Step 6: Review the Farm Map of your enrolled parcels (those that were checked in **Step 2**) and make any necessary changes to the boundaries. For example, a parcel may be enrolled and assigned to a member; however the acreage enrolled is only part of the entire parcel. If you need to update the parcel boundaries, return a copy of the updated map to the Coalition with your Farm Evaluation so the information is linked to the correct piece of land.

Step 8: Sign the bottom of Part A to certify that all of the information provided is current and accurate. Return to the Coalition the signed Farm Evaluation (Part A – Part D) and map(s) (Part E, if updated with parcel / field ID information).

Part A – Whole Farm Evaluation

Member Name: _____ Coalition Member ID#: _____

1. Pesticide Application Practices (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Permit Followed | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor Wind Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow Label Restrictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Appropriate Buffer Zones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive Areas Mapped | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Vegetated Drain Ditches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Trainings | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor Rain Forecasts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> End of Row Shutoff When Spraying | <input type="checkbox"/> Use PCA Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid Surface Water When Spraying | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reapply Rinsate to Treated Field | <input type="checkbox"/> No Pesticides Applied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Sensing Sprayer used | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use Drift Control Agents | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

2. Who do you have help develop your crop nutrient application plan? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Independently Prepared by Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control Advisor (PCA) | <input type="checkbox"/> UC Farm Advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Technical Service Providers by NRCS | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Soil Scientist | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Agronomist | |

3. Does your farm have the potential to discharge sediment to off-farm surface waters?

(Circle one) Yes No

4. Complete Part D on sediment and erosion control practices used on farm field(s).

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel or represented Members properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for violations.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Part B – Field Specific Evaluation

Member Name: _____ Coalition Member ID#: _____

1. Identify the Parcels and Fields that this survey applies to by checking the box in the first column below. **Fill out a separate survey for parcels/fields with different practices.**

- SW High Vulnerability is when a parcel is within an area covered by a Surface Water Management Plan.
- GW High Vulnerability is areas having potential for groundwater contamination.
See enclosed material for more information on vulnerability.

	High Vulnerability		Parcel (APN)	Field ID	Acres	Crop
	SW	GW				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Irrigation Practices (A secondary system could be used for crop germination, frost protection, crop cooling, etc.)

Primary (check one)

- Drip
- Micro Sprinkler
- Furrow
- Sprinkler
- Border Strip
- Flood

Secondary (if applicable, check one)

- Drip
- Micro Sprinkler
- Furrow
- Sprinkler
- Border Strip
- Flood

3. Irrigation Efficiency Practices (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Leveling | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Moisture Neutron Probe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of E _T in scheduling irrigations | <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure Bomb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water application scheduled to need | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of moisture probe | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

4. Nitrogen Management Methods to Minimize Leaching Past the Root Zone (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover Crops | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water N Testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Split Fertilizer Applications | <input type="checkbox"/> Fertigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Testing | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not apply nitrogen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tissue/Petiole Testing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variable Rate Applications using GPS | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foliar N Application | |

Part D – Sediment and Erosion Control Practices

Member Name: _____ Coalition Member ID#: _____

1. Identify the Parcels and Fields that this survey applies to by checking the box in the first column below. Fill out a separate survey for parcels/fields with different practices.

	High Vulnerability		Parcel (APN)	Field ID	Acres	Crop
	SW	GW				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Irrigation Practices for Managing Sediment and Erosion (check all that apply)

- In-furrow dams are used to increase infiltration and settling out of sediment prior to entering the tail ditch.
- The time between pesticide applications and the next irrigation is lengthened as much as possible to mitigate runoff of sediment bound pesticide residue.
- Shorter irrigation runs are used with checks to manage and capture flows.
- PAM (polyacrylamide) used in furrow and flood irrigated fields to help bind sediment and increase infiltration.
- Use drip or micro-irrigation to eliminate irrigation drainage.
- Use of flow dissipaters to minimize erosion at discharge point.
- Tailwater Return System.
- Catchment Basin.
- No irrigation drainage due to field or soil conditions.
- Other _____

3. Cultural Practices for Managing Sediment and Erosion (check all that apply)

- Storm water is captured using field borders.
- Vegetated ditches are used to remove sediment as well as water soluble pesticides, phosphate fertilizers and some forms of nitrogen.
- Vegetative filter strips and buffers are used to capture flows.
- Sediment basins / holding ponds are used to settle out sediment and hydrophobic pesticides such as pyrethroids from irrigation and storm runoff.
- Cover crops or native vegetation are used to reduce erosion.
- Hedgerows or trees are used to help stabilize soils and trap sediment movement.
- Soil water penetration has been increased through the use of amendments, deep ripping and/or aeration.
- Crop rows are graded, directed and at a length that will optimize the use of rain and irrigation water.
- Creek banks and stream banks have been stabilized.
- Subsurface pipelines are used to channel runoff water.
- Berms are constructed at low ends of fields to capture runoff and trap sediment.
- Minimum tillage incorporated to minimize erosion.
- Field is lower than surrounding terrain.
- No storm drainage due to field or soil conditions.
- Other _____

Part E – 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

Managed Wetland Evaluation Survey

Overall Instructions

There are five pages of the Managed Wetland Evaluation Survey to complete. Included are Property Maps that will help you identify parcel numbers and where you will mark the location of active and abandoned wells. You will need to fill out a separate evaluation for each property or management unit you own. If you need to complete separate surveys for each of your management units, please make copies of the blank form prior to filling out. Once completed, submit the signed survey and make copies of your surveys and maps to keep at your facility.

Step by Step Instructions

1. Enter each parcel number of the property or management unit that is enrolled; remember that this only includes irrigated lands (i.e., land flooded or irrigated to create/maintain wetland habitat or for crop production). Note that a property or management unit can encompass multiple parcel numbers or, conversely, a single parcel could contain more than one management unit. Use map(s) to help identify parcel numbers. You may attach additional sheets if you need more lines. Types of management units are as follows:
 - a. Property that is seasonal wetland, brood pond, or permanent wetland can be included in one evaluation form.
 - b. Property that has irrigated pasture should have a separate evaluation form.
 - c. Property that has irrigated crops should have a separate evaluation form.
 - d. USFWS and CDFW defined management units may be used as the basis for determining which properties should have separate survey forms.
 - e. Noncontiguous properties that have the same management practices do not require separate evaluation forms, but separate maps are needed.
2. Check all of the boxes that apply to the management unit being surveyed. For each habitat type, estimate to the best of your ability the total number of acres. Do not include any non-irrigated upland habitat. Seasonal wetlands are initially flooded up between August and October, remain flooded throughout the winter, and are drawn down in the spring, between March and May. Semi-permanent wetlands are typically flooded a minimum of 8 months, from September through July, and permanent wetlands are flooded year-round. Brood ponds (reverse cycle wetlands) are typically flooded from March through August to provide summer water primarily for locally breeding waterfowl. Irrigated pastures typically consist of tall, dense nesting habitat during the spring months and short green grazing and loafing habitat during the winter for wildlife. Management of irrigated pastures includes controlled haying and/or livestock grazing. Irrigated uplands are typically native upland habitat that provides nesting cover for waterfowl or other ground nesting birds. Irrigated crops are grown to provide food and cover for wildlife and typically include corn or small grain crops.

3. Irrigation Practices – For each habitat type you have on your property or management unit, fill out all the irrigation practices you use. Because timing of wetland habitat management can vary from year to year, please use the practices that were used from March 2013 – February 2014. For the timing of your irrigations, please enter a range of months in which you applied water to the habitats. For example, if you started irrigating your seasonal wetlands in March, but started irrigating your last seasonal wetland in June, you may put “**From March To June**” rather than putting down each month you irrigated a seasonal wetland. An "irrigation" is a relatively small amount of water that is applied in order to irrigate the vegetation. A flood-up is when the unit is flooded up to the desired depth and water is kept on it for months to provide habitat for wildlife.
4. Management Practices – Check the boxes of all the management practices used on your property or management unit. Remember to use practices from March 2013 – February 2014. If herbicides were applied during this time period, proceed to Question 5, otherwise go to Question 6.
5. Herbicide Practices – If any herbicides were applied, list all the types that were used. Then check all the practices used during herbicide application.
6. Irrigation Wells – If there are any active or abandoned wells on your property fill out the table. Give each well a unique identifier (Well ID) and list that in column 1. Use the Well ID to link the well management practices to the wells identified on the Property Map. Keep a copy of this map in your files as this must be produced in the event of a Regional Water Board compliance inspection.
7. Sediment Control Practices – Check all practices that are used to prevent sediment from being discharged from the property.
8. Review the Property Map of your enrolled parcels and make any necessary changes to the boundaries. For example, a parcel may be enrolled and assigned to a member; however the acreage enrolled is only part of the entire parcel. If you need to update the parcel boundaries, return a copy of the updated map to the Coalition with your Managed Wetland Evaluation so the information is linked to the correct piece of land.
9. Sign the bottom of page 2 to certify that all of the information provided is current and accurate. Return to the Coalition the signed Managed Wetland Evaluation and map(s) (page 4, if updated with parcel information).

Managed Wetland Evaluation

Property Name: _____ Agency/District: _____

1. Identify all the Parcels that this survey applies to, you may attach a separate sheet if you need additional lines.

Parcel (APN): _____

2. Check the boxes of all the habitat types found on your property.

- Seasonal Wetland (Flooded August – April) _____ acres
- Semi-permanent (Flooded September – July) _____ acres
- Permanent Wetland (Flooded Year round) _____ acres
- Brood Pond/Reverse Cycle (Flooded March – August) _____ acres
- Irrigated Pasture (Grazing) _____ acres
- Irrigated Upland _____ acres
- Irrigated Crop _____ acres

3. Irrigation Practices (Report practices used from March 2013 – February 2014)

Seasonal Wetland (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Do you release / drain your irrigation water? ___ Yes ___ No
- Flood Up From _____ To _____
Do you receive maintenance flows during the winter? ___ Yes ___ No
- Drawdown From _____ To _____
How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Semi-permanent (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Do you release / drain your irrigation water? ___ Yes ___ No
- Flood Up From _____ To _____
Do you receive maintenance flows? ___ Yes ___ No
- Drawdown From _____ To _____
How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Permanent Wetland (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

- Flood Up From _____ To _____
Do you receive maintenance flows? ___ Yes ___ No
- Drawdown From _____ To _____
How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Brood Pond (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Do you release / drain your irrigation water? ___ Yes ___ No
- Flood Up From _____ To _____
Do you receive maintenance flows during the summer? ___ Yes ___ No
- Drawdown From _____ To _____
How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Irrigated Pasture

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Does the irrigation water leave the field? ___ Yes ___ No
Do you apply fertilizer? ___ Yes ___ No

Irrigated Upland

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Does the irrigation water leave the field? ___ Yes ___ No
Do you apply fertilizer? ___ Yes ___ No

Irrigated Crop _____ Please list crop(s) grown

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Type of irrigation used: ___ Furrow ___ Sprinkler ___ Flood ___ Border Strip
Does the irrigation water leave the field? ___ Yes ___ No
Do you apply fertilizer ___ Yes* ___ No
Do you apply insecticides ___ Yes* ___ No

* If yes fill out separate Farm Evaluation Plan.

4. Management Practices (Report practices used from March 2013 – February 2014)

Check all the practices used on your irrigated lands.

- Grazing
- Mowing
- Disking
- Burning
- Herbicide Application (if yes, go to 5., if no, go to 6.)

5. Herbicide Practices

List any herbicides used: _____

Check all practices used during application:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Permit Followed | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor Wind Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow Label Restrictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor Rain Forecasts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive Areas Mapped | <input type="checkbox"/> Use PCA Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Trainings | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid Surface Water When Spraying | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

6. Irrigation Well Information

- Do you have any wells on your property? ___ Yes ___ No
- Are you aware of any known abandoned wells on your property? ___ Yes ___ No
- For each well, mark the location on the attached map(s) or your own property map with a unique Well ID of your choice and fill in the following table. Be sure to fill in the table with the Well ID that corresponds to the map and put an "X" next to the practices that apply to the individual well. For abandoned wells, indicate the year the well was abandoned (write "Unk" if the year is unknown; approximation is ok) and mark how the well was abandoned.

7. Sediment Control Practices

Do water releases or storm runoff from your property have the potential to discharge sediment to off-site surface waters?

(Circle one) Yes No

Check all practices that apply:

- Vegetation prevents suspension of sediment.
- Vegetation prevents discharge of sediment.
- Storm water is captured on wetland areas before discharge.
- Ditches and conveyances vegetated and prevent suspension and discharge of sediment.
- Vegetative filter strips and buffers are used to capture flows.
- Sediment basins / holding ponds are used to settle out sediment from irrigation and storm runoff.
- Native vegetation are used to reduce erosion.
- Hedgerows or trees are used to help stabilize soils and trap sediment movement.
- Creek banks and stream banks have been stabilized.
- Field is lower than surrounding terrain.
- No storm drainage due to field or soil conditions.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel or represented members properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for violations.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Property 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 Property Surface Water Discharge Points