
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

25 November 2015

Joseph C. McGahan
Watershed Coordinator
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
PO Box 2157
Los Banos, CA 93635

WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION – APPROVAL OF THE 2015 MONITORING PLAN UPDATE

Thank you for submittal of the Targeted Monitoring Plan Update (MPU) for the Western San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (Coalition), which was last revised and submitted on 12 August 2015. This schedule provides detailed plans for monitoring water quality constituents in all of the discharge and source water sites representing the water bodies in all subwatersheds covered by the Coalition, as required under Monitoring and Reporting Program Order R5-2014-0002-R2 (Order) for the period from March 2015 through February 2017.

Central Valley Water Board staff has reviewed the monitoring plan and supporting documentation, including the analysis of pesticide use report data, relevant pesticide characteristics, and analysis of past monitoring. Based on the information in the submitted documents and the attached staff memorandum, I approve the Coalition's revised Monitoring Plan for the period of March 2015 through February 2017.

As required by the Order, the Coalition will submit an MPU by 15 January 2016 indicating any adjustments in this plan during the second year of Targeted Monitoring. Executive Officer approval will be required prior to the implementation of any such changes. If you have any questions or comments, you may contact Gurbinder Dhaliwal at (916) 464-4601, or by email at gurbinder.dhaliwal@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Staff Review of Monitoring Plan Update for the period from March 2015 through February 2017

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Susan Fregien
Senior Environmental Scientist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FROM: Gurbinder Dhaliwal
Environmental Scientist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

DATE: 23 November 2015

SUBJECT: MONITORING PLAN UPDATE FOR MARCH 2015 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2017– WESTERN SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

The Central Valley Water Board received a Monitoring Plan Update (MPU) from the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (Coalition) on 15 January 2015, as required by the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) of the General Order No. R5-2014-0002-R2 (Order). Staff and the Coalition held multiple conference calls to discuss and clarify details presented in the monitoring plan. On 12 August 2015, the Coalition submitted a revised MPU with additional information and corrections. The MPU report provides the proposed surface water monitoring schedule for the period from March 2015 through February 2017 (targeted monitoring period). The MPU consists of a Monitoring Plan Report and an Excel workbook, including a series of worksheets providing site-specific and season specific monitoring details, to support the Coalition's evaluation process. The Order requires the Coalition to submit a yearly update to its monitoring plan by 15 January, including any requested changes, for approval by the Executive Officer.

Staff reviewed the 2015 water year MPU to determine compliance with requirements pursuant to the Monitoring and Reporting Program. An overview of the main elements of the proposed monitoring plan is presented below, followed by staff recommendations.

Surface Water Monitoring

The Coalition monitors all discharge sites and source water sites according to a continuous three-year cycle (one year of Assessment followed by two years of Targeted monitoring). The Assessment monitoring consists of the general water quality parameters, nutrients, pathogen indicators, water column and sediment toxicity, pesticides, and metals identified in section III.C.3 of the MRP. The monitoring conducted from March 2014 through February 2015 was under the assessment monitoring category. The period from March 2015 through February 2017 comes under targeted monitoring. All monitoring is done on a monthly basis and is divided into irrigation season (March through August), non-irrigation season (September through February) and rain-event monitoring (twice per year).

This monitoring plan update is consistent with the requirements of the new Order. The monitoring schedule for the period from March 2015 through February 2017 includes the required surface water monitoring on 18 discharge water sites and 3 source water sites. To comply with the Order, targeted monitoring at discharge sites should be conducted when the

parameters of interest are expected to be present, and includes specific parameters associated with implementation of a TMDL, or for implementation of a Management Plan, and typically includes pesticide and toxicity analyses. Targeted monitoring will also include parameters not under a management plan that had a single water quality objective or trigger limit exceedance during the most recent assessment monitoring period (March 2014 through February 2015); parameters that will allow for evaluation of trends; and parameters that will allow for evaluation of effectiveness of implemented management practices. The MPU covers all the required monitoring constituents to be tested during the targeted monitoring cycle.

Source water sites are selected to evaluate the baseline data of the source water that is used for irrigation in the third party area. To identify the source of a problem, and to monitor the status of an identified water quality problem, 3 source water sites are monitored for specific constituents. The March 2015 to February 2017 monitoring schedule includes the required monitoring for 3 source water sites.

Per section III.C.1.c of the MRP, sampling events must be scheduled to capture at least two storm runoff events per year. As part of the Monitoring Plan Update, the Coalition identified storm runoff monitoring criteria. The Coalition will conduct the storm runoff monitoring (twice per year) as required by the Order.

Delta-Regional Monitoring Program

Per section III of the MRP, the Coalition elected to participate in the Delta Regional Monitoring Program. On 5 October 2015, the Executive Officer approved the Coalition's proposed monitoring reductions for participation in the Regional Monitoring Program. The approved reductions allow the Coalition to suspend their regular monitoring for the non-irrigation months of November and December in the years 2015 and 2016. However, rain event monitoring will not be reduced. Non-irrigation season monitoring will be limited to the months of September, October, January and February.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends an approval of the Coalition's monitoring plan update covering the targeted monitoring for the period of March 2015 through February 2017.