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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

8 January 2014

Mr. Joseph McGahan  
Watershed Coordinator  
Westside San Joaquin Watershed Coalition  
P.O. Box 2157  
Los Banos, CA 93635

### **WESTSIDE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION – FOCUSED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN IV – BLEWETT DRAIN AND MARSHALL ROAD DRAIN.**

Thank you for submitting the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (Coalition) 24 October 2013 (revised on 20 December 2013) Focused Watershed Management Plan IV (Plan). The Plan describes intensified efforts in the high-priority watersheds of Blewett Drain and Marshall Road Drain. The management plan implementation schedule for these subwatersheds is based on the approved 14 August 2013 schedule for future focused management plans.

Staff has determined that the Coalition's Plan and associated actions meet management plan requirements in Monitoring and Report Program Order Number R5-2008-0831 and the Coalition's approved October 2008 Management Plan General Approach. Based on the following information, I am granting approval of the Coalition's Plan.

The Coalition's Plan identifies actions and performance goals (including the eight requirements for Management Plans identified in Order Number R5-2008-0831) to reduce pesticide detections, aquatic toxicity, and sediment discharge in the high priority watersheds. Staff's review of the Plan is provided in the attached checklist.

The Coalition has already determined that agriculture is a significant contributor to the water quality concerns related to the observed water quality impairments. The Coalition is surveying its members to identify specific agricultural practices that may be contributing to these problems and an approach to implement additional management practices, including monitoring to determine management practice effectiveness. As stated in the Coalition's Plan, cooperation by growers to achieve water quality goals is a condition of Coalition membership.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Chris Jimmerson at (916) 464-4859, or by email at [cjimmerson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cjimmerson@waterboards.ca.gov).

*Original signed by*

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer  
Enclosures: Management Plan Check List

**Westside Focused Management Plan IV Checklist  
Blewett Drain and Marshall Road Drain**

Report Name: Westside Focused Watershed Management Plan IV Blewett Drain and Marshall Road Drain		Reviewer Name: Chris Jimmerson				
Submittal Date: 20 December 2013		Review Date: 10/24 - 12/20/13				
Item No.	Management Plan Components Westside Focused Watershed Management Plan IV	Review			Document(s) Page No. (Section No.)	Comments
		Acceptable	Unacceptable	Incomplete		
1.0	Source Identification - Identify parcels	X			4,5	Coalition identified water toxicity linked to chlorpyrifos, diuron, and malathion, as well as legacy insecticides (DDE and DDT) and will continue to source exceedances. Sediment toxicity linked to pyrethroids and chlorpyrifos. Source of EC/TDS exceedances managed under general approach b/c of lower priority. Aerial applications will be prioritized as part of potential source.
1.1	Detailed subwatershed maps	X			Figure 1, 2, 3	Maps included identify geographic areas. Circulation of BMP surveys to growers began in Fall 2013.
1.2	Identify parcels	X				Identified Blewett Drain and Marshall Road Drain as Management Plan areas. Crops include almonds, alfalfa, and field crops.
2.0	Identification of management practices to be implemented	X			5, 6	Generally includes: tailwater management and reduction which could include improved irrigation systems, tailwater ponds, tailwater return systems, and regional drainage return systems. More BMP's to be identified as results from BMP surveys (baseline) and drive-through reconnaissance are analyzed.
2.1	Development of survey document	X			Attachment	Copy of the BMP Survey included in Focus Mgt. Plan
2.2	Determination of pesticide use baseline	X			5,6	PURs obtained from Stanislaus Ag. Commissioner/DPR and grower interviews. Baseline will be reported in the MP SAMR.
2.3	Completion of grower survey	X			6	Distribution of surveys began in fall 2013. Return of surveys will be completed incrementally: 50% by 1/31/14, 75% by 6/15/14, and 100% by 9/30/14.
2.4	Finalize management practice survey findings, develop baseline MP inventory	X			9,10	Survey findings will be provided in SAMRs.
2.5	Determine effective MPs and develop next steps	X			5,6,10	An inventory of management practices will be collected through grower surveys. 100% return rate is required. Coalition will first determine what MPs are in place then determine additional MPs needed.
2.6	E. coli watershed-specific field surveys to identify potential agricultural contributions	X			General approach	The Executive Officer will be requesting that a work plan be submitted jointly by Coalitions to develop a region-wide conceptual approach to address E.coli. Therefore, the Coalition should anticipate that E.coli management plan tasks will become a higher priority and managed through the Focused Plan approach rather than the General Management Plan.
3.0	Develop a management practice implementation schedule	X			8	Mgt. practices are implemented on an ongoing basis as information from surveys, site reconnaissance are received. Implementation of circulation and sediment pond systems require funding and may extend through 2016.
3.1	Determination of management practice implementation	X			8	BMP implementation inventoried through surveys and site visits. Surveys distributed at meetings and households, or hand delivered.
4.0	Develop specific performance goals and a schedule	X			9, 10, Attachment 2	Performance goals provided on pages 9-10 and attachment 2.

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4.1	Intensified outreach to growers	X			7,8	Outreach includes group meetings, individual field meetings, mailers.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Develop a waste-specific monitoring schedule</b>	X			General approach	Monitoring schedule previously determined as part of the General approach and MRP Order.
5.1	Surveillance-level monitoring	X			General approach	Monthly monitoring
5.2	Constituent-specific monitoring	X			4	Table 1 lists constituents requiring management plan. Monitoring schedule previously determined as part of the General approach and MRP Order.
5.3	Approach to implement additional management practices	X			6,7,8	Steps for approach: Determine current BMPs and pesticide use through surveys and site recon; evaluate crops/exceedances; Determine additional BMP to implement; communicate to grower; document implementation; report in SAMR.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Develop a process &amp; schedule for evaluating management practice effectiveness</b>	X			10, Attachment	The process for evaluating BMPs includes evaluating water quality results and BMP implementation. See performance goal schedule.
6.1	Monitoring to determine management practice effectiveness	X			10, Attachment	Monitoring results will be discussed in the SAMR. Monitoring schedule monthly based on approved MRP Plan.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Identify the participants and coalition group(s) that will implement the Management Plan</b>	X			10, 11	Participants include the Coalition's consultant, growers, and irrigation districts.
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Identify a routine schedule of reporting to the Regional Water Board</b>	X			11	Mgt Plan reporting will occur in SAMRs, quarterly mtgs.

**Footnotes:** Bolded item numbers are the general approach, and the sub-item numbers are the focused plan efforts to address the general approach items at a more detailed level.