
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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SUBJECT: OIL FIELD PRODUCED WATER SUMP STATUS REPORT #1

The Central Valley Water Board has undertaken a significant effort to address issues associated with unlined impoundments used to dispose of water produced as a by-product of oil production. There are an estimated 927 of these ponds within the Central Valley. 544 of the 927 ponds are covered under waste discharge requirements (WDRs). However, many of these WDRs need to be updated. The remaining ponds are currently unregulated. A work plan was prepared by CVWB staff in November of 2014 identifying work needed to be completed and an implementation schedule for completion of this program by the end of 2016. This status report identifies where we are in the process and what impediments have been encountered and whether the schedule is being maintained.

Inventory

The inventory of produced water sumps has nearly been completed. Aerial photo reconnaissance has identified potential areas where previously unknown sumps may be located. Field verification has confirmed the presence of 55 previously unknown sumps so far. Field verification is continuing in conjunction with inspection of the sumps.

Field Inspections

As of 16 January, 741 sumps (including the previously unknown sumps) on 140 facilities have been inspected. Inspections scheduled for the week of 20 to 24 January will include approximately 50 sumps on 15 facilities. After the end of January, we will have approximately 150 sumps on approximately 100 facilities left to inspect. We are on track to be finished by 28 February.

Enforcement Orders

A draft template for Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO) to be adopted for operators of unregulated sumps has been completed and is under review. We anticipate CAOs beginning to

be issued by the end of February. Up to 200 CAOs are expected and this process will take several months.

Permitting Activities

Permitting activities will begin this spring.