



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

**Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair**

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**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
*Governor*

**Matthew Rodriguez**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental Protection*

7 February 2012

Mr. Parry Klassen  
Executive Director  
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1201 L Street  
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## **REMOVAL OF YORI GROVE DRAIN AT EAST TAYLOR ROAD AND AMENDMENT OF THE EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION MONITORING SCHEDULE**

Thank you for submitting the 28 December 2011 request to modify the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (MRP Plan). The request proposes to remove the monitoring site Yori Grove Drain at East Taylor Road from the Coalition's monitoring program and to amend the monitoring schedule to monitor Levee Drain at Carpenter Road from 2012 through 2013.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has reviewed the proposed monitoring site removal. Staff agrees that the TID Lateral #3 at Taylor Road (previously reported as Yori Grove Drain) is not an appropriate location to evaluate the effects of irrigated agriculture on water quality. Levee Drain at Carpenter Road subwatershed is deemed representative of the agriculture in the area and is an appropriate replacement for the Yori Grove Drain site.

Based on the information provided in your letter and staff's attached memorandum, I approve the Coalition's request. Development of Management Plans based on the previous monitoring results from TID Lateral #3 will not be required, since TID Lateral #3 receives significant urban inputs.

To effectively complete this transition, please submit the following documents by **15 March 2012** to revise the MRP Plan:

- Updated amendment table, Table A, which summarizes all changes to the Coalition's MRP Plan
- Revisions to Tables 4, 5, 7, and 10 of the MRP Plan.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Jelena Hartman at (916) 464-4628, or by e-mail at [jhartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jhartman@waterboards.ca.gov).

Original signed by

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer



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Governor

TO: Susan Fregien  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Monitoring and Implementation Unit  
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

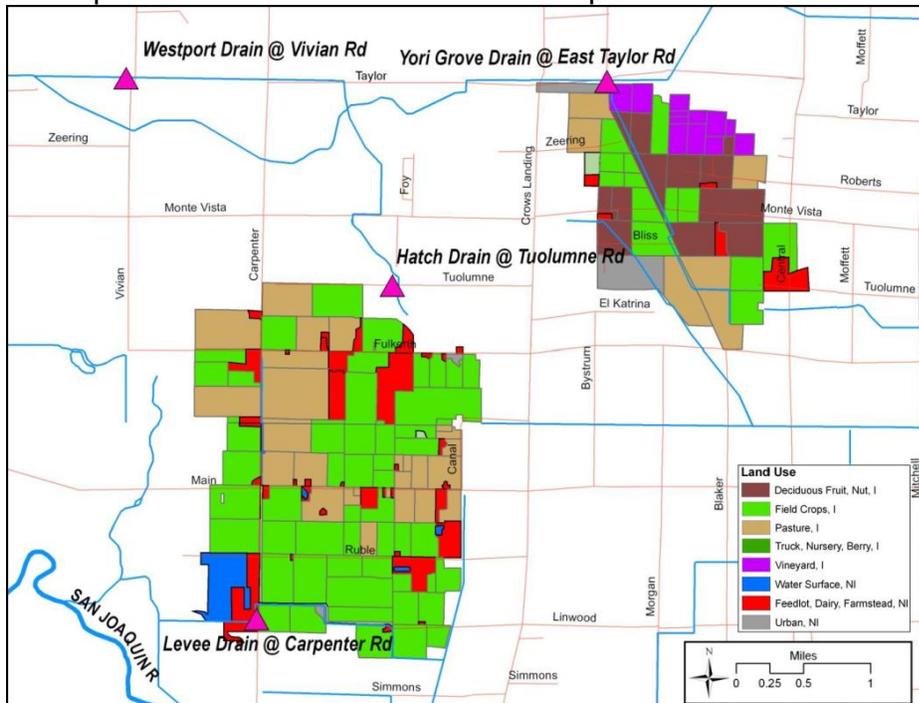
FROM: Jelena Hartman  
Environmental Scientist  
Monitoring and Implementation Unit  
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

DATE: 6 February 2012

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE YORI GROVE DRAIN MONITORING SITE AND AMEND MONITORING SCHEDULE FOR LEVEE DRAIN – EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region received a request from the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) on 28 December 2011 to modify its Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (MRP Plan). The Coalition proposes to remove the current monitoring site Yori Grove Drain at East Taylor Road from the MRP Plan, and to monitor Levee Drain at Carpenter Road instead (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Yori Grove Drain at East Taylor Road, and Levee Drain at Carpenter Road site subwatershed map.



California Environmental Protection Agency

The Coalition's letter provides the following rationale for the request:

- 1) The monitoring originally intended for Yori Grove Drain at Taylor Road is actually being conducted on TID Lateral #3, not on Yori Grove Drain
- 2) TID Lateral #3 receives significant urban inputs and represents uses other than agriculture
- 3) Yori Grove Drain itself is not an appropriate monitoring location due to issues with access, limited irrigation and storm runoff
- 4) Levee Drain at Carpenter Road is more representative of the irrigated agriculture discharges of the area with minimal urban influence.

TID Lateral #3 was mistakenly sampled instead of Yori Grove Drain at East Taylor Road. In 2011, the water quality objective for pH was exceeded three times at TID Lateral #3. Additionally, there was one instance of sediment toxicity to *Hyallela azteca*, and two instances of water column toxicity to *Selenastrum capricornutum* at the monitored site in 2011. However, because TID Lateral #3 receives significant urban inputs and represents land uses other than agriculture, monitoring results from the site do not allow the Coalition to successfully identify sources of exceedances or evaluate the effects of irrigated agriculture on waters of the State.

The Coalition Zone in which Yori Grove Drain is located (Zone 2) will be characterized by nine other Assessment Monitoring locations identified in the Coalition's MRP Plan that are scheduled to be sampled based on a rotation schedule. Based on the site information in the MRP Plan, Yori Grove Drain subwatershed represents 1,226 irrigated acres; the land use includes deciduous fruits/nuts, vineyard, field crops, pasture and dairy (urban land is also found within the site subwatershed). Levee Drain at Carpenter Road is located to the south and west of the TID Lateral #3 monitoring location, and discharges directly to the San Joaquin River. Levee Drain subwatershed encompasses 2,500 irrigated acres, and the land use upstream of the sample site to the north and east includes truck/nursery/berry crops, pasture and dairy.

In addition to the Coalition's letter, staff received additional information in a 20 January Coalition phone call and a 27 January e-mail. Most of the water in the Levee Drain comes from surface runoff and tile drains. Some groundwater may also contribute to flows because the watertable is very shallow. In response to Staff's request for clarification regarding Lower Lateral #4, the Coalition contacted Turlock Irrigation District (TID) about the potential for spills from Lower Lateral #4 to the Levee Drain. TID stated that there are no potential inputs from Lower Lateral #4.

Monitoring at Levee Drain at Carpenter Road was initiated in January 2012. Per the Coalition's approved MRP plan, any findings at the Levee Drain site will apply to the site subwatershed only, and not to the Yori Grove Drain subwatershed.