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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 April 2012

Mr. Parry Klassen  
Executive Director  
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition  
1201 L Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

Mr. Mike Johnson  
Technical Program Manager  
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition  
632 Cantrill Rd  
Davis, CA 95618

### **REMOVAL OF DUCK SLOUGH AT HIGHWAY 99 AND AMENDMENT OF THE EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION MONITORING SCHEDULE**

Thank you for submitting the 12 April 2012 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 Duck Slough at Highway 99 from the Coalition's monitoring program.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has reviewed the proposed monitoring site removal. Staff agrees that the water quality in Duck Slough will be represented adequately by monitoring at the downstream Core Monitoring location.

Based on the information provided in your letter and staff's attached memorandum, I approve the Coalition's request effective immediately. To effectively complete this transition, please submit the following documents by **15 May 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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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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: 20 April 2012

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE DUCK SLOUGH AT HIGHWAY 99 MONITORING  
SITE – 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 12 April 2012 to modify its Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Plan. The Coalition proposes to remove the current monitoring site Duck Slough at Highway 99 from the MRP Plan.

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

- 1) A project to expand Highway 99, beginning in May 2012, will render the Duck Slough at Highway 99 site inaccessible during construction. It is unknown whether access to the current site will be restored upon completion of the project
- 2) During construction, the site may be affected by construction discharge and runoff and therefore may not be representative of agriculture discharge
- 3) Monitoring will continue at the downstream Core Monitoring location Duck Slough at Gurr Road which undergoes Assessment Monitoring every third year.

Duck Slough at Highway 99 is scheduled for Assessment Monitoring in 2013 and 2014. The Coalition Zone in which Duck Slough at Highway 99 is located (Zone 5) is also characterized by three other rotating Assessment Monitoring locations identified in the Coalition's MRP Plan. The Coalition also monitors at Duck Slough at Gurr Road, which is downstream of the site requested for removal.

Based on the site information in the MRP Plan, the Duck Slough at Highway 99 subwatershed represents 15,622 irrigated acres; the land use includes deciduous nuts, truck crops and irrigated pasture. Duck Slough at Gurr Road is located downstream from the Duck Slough at Highway 99 monitoring location. The subwatershed at the downstream location encompasses 28,636 irrigated acres draining field crops, deciduous nuts and irrigated pasture, and treated water from the city of Merced, and includes drainage from the upstream monitoring location that is proposed for removal.

Constituents that exceeded water quality objective in Duck Slough at Highway 99 include dissolved oxygen (DO), electric conductance, pH, *E. coli*, copper, lead, chlorpyrifos, and aquatic toxicity to *Selenastrum capricornutum* (Table 1). The Coalition submitted a request on 6 January 2012 to complete monitoring and remove DO, chlorpyrifos, and *S. capricornutum* from the management plan at Duck Slough at Gurr Road. Constituents that require management plan monitoring at Duck Slough at Highway 99 will be monitored at Duck Slough at Gurr Road during months of past exceedances, including the eight constituents listed in Table 1. The Coalition is currently approved to suspend management plan monitoring for the remainder of 2012, and monitoring for management plan constituents is expected to resume in 2013.

Table 1. Summary of exceedances at Duck Slough monitoring locations. Only constituents with more than one exceedance in the Duck Slough at Highway 99 subwatershed are included.

Site Name	Dissolved Oxygen	Electric Conductance	pH	<i>E. coli</i>	Copper	Lead	Chlorpyrifos	<i>S. capricornutum</i>
Duck Slough at Gurr Rd	4	2	6	21	10	4	1	2
Duck Slough at Hwy 99	2	9	3	12	11	11	4	3

In addition to the Coalition's letter, staff received information in a 20 April 2012 Coalition e-mail. Sampling at sites upstream of the Duck Slough at Highway 99 monitoring location would not capture discharge from the main irrigation drainage that spills into Duck Slough just upstream from the current monitoring location. The amount of agriculture that the potential upstream sites would represent is small.

The downstream site Duck Slough at Gurr Road is representative of all agricultural drainage upstream, including the Duck Slough at Highway 99 site subwatershed. Impact to water quality in Duck Slough due to construction activities to expand Highway 99 is expected to be none or minimal due to requirements to implement measures to prevent construction discharges and runoff. Any potential increases in total suspended solids or constituents that might be due to construction would be reported to the Central Valley Water Board.