
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM

RESOURCES FOR GROWERS INDIVIDUAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING (Updated August 8, 2013)

This is a general overview of the groundwater sampling and reporting requirements that apply to operations enrolled in the Agricultural Regulatory Program, who have chosen to comply with the groundwater monitoring requirement on an individual basis. Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011 and the related Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRPs) require growers to conduct groundwater monitoring and reporting. To review the requirements in detail, go to the Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

Which wells must a grower sample?

All growers must have a third party sample at least one groundwater well located inside the boundaries of each farm/ranch enrolled under their operation (unless one of the Alternatives described below applies). For farms/ranches with multiple groundwater wells, the primary irrigation well and **ALL** the wells that are used for drinking water purposes, must be sampled. If there is no well on the farm/ranch, then monitoring is NOT requirement.

Which parameters must the well(s) be sampled for?

The well(s) must be sampled for the Sampling Parameters listed in Table 3 of the Monitoring and Reporting Program, which can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

How often must a well(s) be sampled?

ALL Wells must be sampled twice; one sample collected during the fall of 2012 (**September - December**) and the second during the spring of 2013 (**March - June**).

- Growers with ranches in Tiers 1 and 2 must repeat the above mentioned two rounds of sampling every 5 years.
- Growers with ranches in Tier 3 must sample the well/s annually thereafter, and the sample must be collected during the sampling period when the nitrate concentration was at its maximum.

Who must take the sample(s)?

Groundwater samples must be collected by a "**Qualified Third Party**". A "Qualified Third Party" means any individual, other than the owner, operator, and person who filed, signed or is named on the eNOI, with the "knowledge and training in proper sampling methods, chain of custody, and QA/QC protocols." In the Agricultural Program, the well samples are typically collected by personnel from qualified laboratories.

IMPORTANT: Growers who want to have their samples collected by an individual, other than personnel from an approved laboratory, should consult with the lab selected to run the analysis to ensure that the “third party” sampler clearly understands and follows the proper sampling collection procedures and protocols. Many laboratories provide groundwater sampling kits, including specific sample collection instructions and all necessary forms, containers, preservatives, etc. The Water Board will **REJECT** groundwater sampling results that do not include a properly completed chain of custody form, appropriate sampling containers, or follow the appropriate quality assurance procedures, etc.

Do I have to report the location of my groundwater well?

Yes, you must report the location of your groundwater well. As part of your groundwater monitoring reporting, you (or a third-party or laboratory on your behalf) must report the latitude and longitude location of the groundwater well. The latitude and longitude can be obtained using a global positioning system device (GPS), Google maps, or a smart phone. The exact location of the groundwater well is not disclosed to the public.

Which laboratories must perform the analyses?

To ensure the highest water quality data possible, Central Coast Water Board requires that all the groundwater analyses (wells sampled) be conducted by a laboratory certified by the State Department of Public Health (CDPH) or by a laboratory approved by the Executive Officer (the approved laboratories must submit the results to the Water Board GeoTracker database). Below is a list of laboratories that have been approved to perform the required analyses and to report the result electronically on behalf of growers for the Agricultural Regulatory Program.

How are the sampling results reported and when?

In the Agricultural Regulatory Program, an approved laboratory is responsible for uploading the analytical results directly onto the GeoTracker database in the required Electronic Deliverable Format (EDF). Growers must also provide specific information to the laboratory regarding the groundwater well (such as latitude and longitude, well use, well construction information). Approved laboratories must upload the sampling data onto the grower’s eNOI account in GeoTracker. All results must be uploaded by October 1st, 2013.

Are there any alternatives to sampling of the wells?

Yes, two alternatives are available for growers with farm/ranches in Tiers 1 and 2 ONLY:

Alternative 1:

Growers can satisfy the sampling requirements by submitting existing water well analysis data if the following are true:

- 1) You have data for at least one groundwater well for an individual farm/ranch,
- 2) You have a minimum of two samples collected within the last five years,
- 3) The samples were analyzed for nitrate using U.S. EPA approved analytical methods.
- 4) You submit the data to us by October 1, 2013.

The submittal must include the ranch name, well location (latitude/longitude), well type, construction information (if available), and must have laboratory analytical results attached.

How are results of existing groundwater data reported?

Existing data, that meets the above criteria, MUST be uploaded to the grower's GeoTracker account in PDF Format, as follows:

GEOTRACKER UPLOAD GUIDE FOR PDF FILES

Step 1: Using your "Username" and "Password", log unto your GeoTracker account at:

<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/login.asp>

Step 2: From the "TOOLS" menu, Click "Upload EDD" and Select "GEO_REPORT"

Step 3: Select your Facility from the list.

*Step 4: Follow the GEO_REPORT UPLOAD INSTRUCTIONS by filling-in the blanks and Select "Browse". **Note:** in the drop down menu under "report type" choose Monitoring report- other.*

Step 5: Find the file(s) that you want to upload and Click "Upload File"

Alternative 2:

Growers can satisfy the sampling requirements by submitting a reference or citation of local groundwater quality monitoring study that includes data collected within the last 5 years and documents that local groundwater quality in the uppermost aquifer does not exceed drinking water standards.

How do I log onto my GeoTracker eNOI account?

To login to GeoTracker with your secure username and password, go to: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi>.

What if I forgot my eNOI login information?

If you do not remember your GeoTracker login account information (username or password), contact the GeoTracker Help Desk directly at Geotracker@waterboards.ca.gov or 1-(866) 480-1028.

If you have questions regarding the groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements, please contact **Hector Hernandez** at (805) 542-4641 or hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov

List of Laboratories for Agricultural Order R3-2012-0011 (Updated December 20, 2012)

The following is a list of **laboratories**¹ that provide electronic submittal of groundwater analytical data to the Water Board's GeoTracker data management over the Internet. Laboratory data must be provided in Electronic Deliverable Format (EDF) pursuant to the SWRCB Policy Statement-Electronic Reporting Requirements found on web page: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/electronic_submittal/

1. **Abalone Coast Analytical**, 141 Suburban Rd., Suite C-1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, Phone: (805) 595-1080, Cell: (805) 235-2330, Fax: (805) 595-1075, <http://www.abalonecoastanalytical.com/>
2. **Soil Control Lab**, 42 Hangar Way, Watsonville, CA 95076, Direct 831-761-7272, Front Office: (831) 724-5422, Direct: (831) 761-7272, Fax: (831) 724-3188, mike@controllabs.com
3. **Dellavalle Laboratory, Inc.**, 1910 W. McKinley, Suite # 110, Fresno, CA 93728-1298, Office: (800) 228-9896, Cell: (559) 647-5330, (831) 750-4509, www.dellavallelab.com
4. **Fruit Growers Laboratory (FGL)**, Locations: Santa Paula, Visalia, San Luis Obispo, Stockton, and Chico; Contacts: Denis Barry, (805) 392 2032, denisb@fglinc.com; General Inquiries (Debi Skelton), (805) 783 2940, debis@fglinc.com and (Vickie Taylor), (805) 392 2010, vikiet@fglinc.com; Yee Ren (Chinese Translation), (805) 392 2015, yren@fglinc.com; Ricardo Sandoval (Spanish Translation), (805) 392 2034 ricardos@fglinc.com; www.fglinc.com
5. **Monterey Bay Analytical Services (MBAS)**, 4 Justin Court, Suite D, Monterey, CA 93940, (831) 375-6227, (831) 238-6876, www.mbasinc.com, montereybayanalytical@usa.net
6. **Perry Laboratory**, 424 Airport Blvd., Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 722-7606, Fax: (831) 722-5053, Cliff@perrylaboratory.com
7. **Monterey County Consolidated Laboratory**, 1270 Natividad Road, Room 118, Salinas, CA 93906, Office: (831) 755-4516, Fax: (831) 755-4652, lamtt@co.monterey.ca.us
8. **Deerpoint Group, Inc.**, 4339 N. Selland Ave., Fresno, CA 93722, Office: (559) 224-4000, Fax: (559) 431-0014, www.thedeerpointgroup.com

Laboratories Pending Water Board Approval

9. **Oilfield Environmental and Compliance, Inc. (OEC)**, 307 Roemer Way, Suite 300, Santa Maria, CA 93454, (805) 922-4772, (805) 925-3376 (fax), jhatzman@oecusa.com

¹ Water Board staff has evaluated these laboratories to determine that they are certified by the State Department of Public Health (CDPH) to conduct the required groundwater analyses and has complied with the criteria outlined in ***Procedures for Laboratories to Obtain GeoTracker Upload Authorization from GeoTracker Helpdesk***, updated September 19, 2012. Growers choose their laboratories and should confirm that the laboratory has the required capabilities to ensure compliance with the Agricultural Order.