

January 27, 2014

Mr. Samuel Unger
Executive Officer
State Regional Water Quality Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Subject: Nursery Growers Association
Los Angeles County Irrigated Lands Group
Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands
**ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT-YEAR TWO UNDER ORDER
R4-2010-0186 (MAY 15, 2012 THROUGH MAY 14, 2013)**

Dear Mr. Unger:

PW Environmental prepared this *Annual Monitoring Report* on behalf of Nursery Growers Association, Los Angeles County Irrigated Lands Group (LAILG). Monitoring and reporting was conducted in accordance with the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (CWIL; Order # R4-2010-0186), and the associated Quality Assurance Project Plan and Monitoring and Reporting Plan submitted by LAILG.

During the second sampling year under the CWIL (May 15, 2012 through May 14, 2013), two sampling events were conducted during the dry season and one sampling event was conducted during the wet season. Due to the low rainfall conditions throughout the sampling year, sufficient rain was not encountered to trigger a second wet season sampling event. No samples were collected in either the wet or dry season.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

Respectfully submitted,

Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group



Tara C. Herrera
Project Manager

**ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT-
YEAR TWO UNDER ORDER # R4-2010-0186
(MAY 15, 2012 THROUGH MAY 14, 2013)**

**NURSERY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
IRRIGATED LANDS GROUP**

January 27, 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.0 BACKGROUND	2
3.0 CURRENT EVENTS.....	4
4.0 SAMPLING EVENTS.....	7
5.0 DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION.....	9

TABLE OF CONTENTS, CONTINUED

TABLES:

Table 1	Sampling Schedule
Table 2	Fixed and Rotating Sampling Locations
Table 3	Sampling Timeline

APPENDICES:

Appendix A	Updated List of LAILG, as of November 2013
Appendix B	Updated Pages for WQMP
Appendix C	Photographs of Sampling Sites

ACRONYMS

ABC	Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Laboratories
ALB	Aquatic Life Benchmark
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
BMP	Best Management Practice
COC	Chain of Custody
CWIL	Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Order #R4-2010-0186)
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
GPS	Global Positioning System
LAILG	Los Angeles Irrigated Lands Group
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
MDL	Method Detection Limit
MRP	Monitoring and Reporting Plan
NGA	Nursery Growers Association
OC	Organochlorinated Pesticides
OP	Organophosphate Pesticides
PW	PW Environmental
PP	Pyrethroid Pesticides
QA	Quality Assurance
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RPD	Relative Percent Difference
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TIE	Toxicity Identification Evaluation
TUc	Toxicity concentration in toxicity units
WMA	Watershed Management Area
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan

**ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT-YEAR ONE UNDER
ORDER # R4-2010-0186 (MAY 15, 2012 THROUGH MAY 14, 2013)**

**NURSERY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY IRRIGATED LANDS GROUP**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The NGA is a non-profit association chartered in the late 1950s. The purpose of NGA is to foster and encourage the growth and development of quality stock and to promote all matters that pertain to the best interests of the wholesale nursery growers. NGA developed the LAILG for compliance with the CWIL, Order #R4-2010-0186. PW was contracted by NGA to manage the technical aspect of the LAILG.

The LARWQCB is a State of California Agency that regulates water quality within the coastal watershed of Ventura and Los Angeles Counties under the authorities of the Federal Clean Water Act and State Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The area under the jurisdiction of the LARWQCB is known as the Los Angeles Region.

In the Los Angeles Region, irrigated crops are the dominant agricultural land use. Water quality impacts associated with agriculture can be primarily traced to discharges resulting from irrigation or stormwater. These discharges typically contain pollutants that have been imported or introduced into the irrigation or stormwater; in addition, irrigation practices can mobilize and or concentrate some pollutants. In order to mitigate these potentially polluted discharges from impacting the beneficial uses of water bodies within the Los Angeles Region, the LARWQCB adopted a CWIL (Order No. R4-2005-0080) on November 3, 2005, as mandated by state law and policy.

The LAILG has members within the Dominguez Channel LA/Long Beach Harbors WMA, the Los Angeles River Watershed, the San Gabriel River Watershed, the Santa Monica Bay WMA, and the eastern portion of the Santa Clara River Watershed. AMRs submitted by the LAILG during the original CWIL term reported runoff water quality that exceeded established water quality benchmarks. All five Watersheds and WMAs have impacted waterbodies that appear on the Federal 303(d) list, and listed contaminants include constituents that could be related to agricultural uses.

On October 7, 2010, the LARWQCB adopted a second CWIL for the Los Angeles Region (Order No. R4-2010-0186). Under the second CWIL, water quality monitoring is to be continued throughout the Los Angeles Region. Exceedances are to be dealt with by implementing a WQMP that establishes procedures to reduce or eliminate pollutant loading into receiving waters. The goal of this program is to protect and improve water quality, and to attain water quality objectives in the receiving water bodies. As a condition of the CWIL program, dischargers are required to implement monitoring programs to assess the impacts of discharges from irrigated lands.

The objective of this AMR is to evaluate compliance with water quality benchmarks established in the CWIL during the first year of the new program, and to report findings to the LARWQCB as specified in the MRP. This AMR describes the monitoring efforts and results that have been undertaken by the NGA for compliance with the CWIL.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The LAILG was comprised of 202 sites and 1675.49 irrigated acres as of November 2013. A complete list of current group members is included in Appendix A.

As outlined in the MRP, dated April 7, 2011, the LAILG collects water quality data at 20 sampling sites throughout each year. All enrolled growers are segregated into four distinct sampling regions (Group 1 - Group 4) based on their geographic location. The majority of the sampling sites were continued from the last CWIL period and the sampling region boundaries were established to ensure that each group contained 4 of the 16 established fixed sampling sites and approximately the same number of total enrolled growers. Refer to Appendix A for all LAILG enrolled growers and sampling regions. An updated map of enrolled members is currently being prepared, and will be submitted to the LARWQCB upon completion.

A rotating sampling schedule was implemented for the 16 fixed sampling sites; 4 sites are sampled during each distinct sampling event. The sampling groups are cycled throughout the year, ensuring that each fixed sample site is visited at least once per year (Table 1). The approved sampling schedule ensures each sampling group collects a sample during each possible event (first or second, wet and dry) throughout the CWIL period.

Table 1 Sampling Schedule

YEAR	DRY SEASON MAY 15-OCTOBER 14		WET SEASON OCTOBER 15-MAY 14	
	EVENT #1	EVENT #2	EVENT #1	EVENT #2
1 (MAY 15, 2011- MAY 14, 2012)	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
2 (MAY 15, 2012- MAY 14, 2013)	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 1
3 (MAY 15, 2013- MAY 14, 2014)	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 1	GROUP 2
4 (MAY 15, 2014- MAY 14, 2015)	GROUP 4	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3

A single revolving sampling site was added to the four fixed sampling sites for each sampling event. Five sites were chosen for each sampling group region to serve as potential revolving sampling sites. Revolving sampling sites have been chosen using the criteria listed above. Fixed and revolving sampling sites are presented on Table 2 in Section 3.

For each sampling event, the revolving sampling site is selected from the list of potential revolving sampling sites for each sampling group region. The revolving site sampled is selected from the sampling group region scheduled for a particular sampling event.

If an exceedance is detected in a revolving sampling site, that site will be re-visited and re-sampled when the particular sampling group region is scheduled for the following years sampling event. If no exceedance is detected, or samples are not collected, a new revolving site is selected for the following years sampling event.

3.0 CURRENT EVENTS

Fifteen of the sampling locations established by LAILG and the LARWQCB during Order No. R4-2005-0080 were utilized as sampling locations during the first two years of Order R4-2010-0186. One additional sampling site had been added, totaling sixteen sites originally selected to be fixed for the duration of the CWIL period. Five additional sites were originally chosen for each group to serve as rotating sampling sites, totaling 20 original rotating locations.

Since the onset of Order R4-2010-0186, a number of growers that were originally selected as sampling locations (fixed and rotating) have abandoned operations and are no longer enrolled in the group. In group two, one fixed sampling location was lost and two rotating sampling locations were lost, and in group three one fixed sampling location was lost and one rotating sampling location was lost. Groups one and four remain the same. In order to compensate the losses, NGA turned rotating sampling sites into fixed locations, and added additional rotating sites as necessary.

The fixed sampling location that was lost from group two was replaced by a parcel operated by the same grower, and should be roughly equivalent. The fixed sampling location lost from group three was from a large grower, and was replaced by a medium sized grower that was previously a rotating site.

The updated site list is presented on Table 2. Sites that are no longer enrolled are crossed out in red. Appendix A presents the most recent list of enrolled members, and the remapping of all the sites is currently in progress. Updated maps will be sent to the LARWQCB upon completion.

A WQMP was submitted to the LARWQCB on July 26, 2013, and was conditionally approved in a letter dated November 26, 2013. Based on comments from the LARWQCB, minor edits were made to the original WQMP. Pages with the edits made are included in Appendix B, and are to replace the original pages in the document. Implementation of the WQMP is set to commence in 2014.

Table 2 – Fixed Sampling Locations

NAME	SITE#	APPROXIMATE GPS LOCATION	ADDRESS	ACRES IRRIGATED	CROP TYPE
GROUP 1					
Boething Treeland Farms, Inc.	19	N 34° 09' 51.1" W 118° 38' 20.7"	23475 Long Valley Road Woodland Hills, CA	14.68	General Ornamentials
Norman's Nursery	125	N 34° 05' 42.3" W 118° 04' 53.5"	8550 E Broadway San Gabriel, CA	7.00	General Ornamentials
Ultra Greens Nursery	178	N 34° 17' 57.4" W 118° 25' 06.5"	13102 Maclay Street Sylmar, CA	8.50	General Ornamentials
Valley Sod Farms, Inc.	184	N 34° 13' 23.1" W 118° 29' 34.5"	16405 Chase Street North Hills, CA	36.00	Sod Farms
GROUP 2					
Acosta Growers, Inc.	43	N 33° 59' 50.9" W 117° 56' 56.9"	16412 Wedgeworth Drive Hacienda Heights, CA	4.50	General Ornamentials
Acosta Growers, Inc.	11	N 34° 06' 38.0" W 117° 54' 19.9"	669 S. Azusa Ave Azusa, CA	7.50	General Ornamentials
Rainbow Garden Nursery	110	N 34° 07' 05.5" W 117° 52' 19.8"	1132 S Grand Avenue Glendora, CA	3.75	Retail / Multiple
Colorama Wholesale Nursery	150	N 34° 08' 27.5" W 117° 55' 35.9"	1025 N. Todd Ave. Asuza, CA	15.30	Color Plants
West Covina Wholesale	189	N 34° 06' 58.1" W 117° 47' 05.1"	3425 Damien Ave La Verne, CA	1.25	General Ornamentials
GROUP 3					
Coiner Nursery	31	N 34° 02' 19.1" W 118° 01' 28.4"	285 San Fidel La Puente, CA	48.00	General Ornamentials
H&H Nursery	64	N 33° 52' 07.1" W 118° 08' 32.4"	6220 Lakewood Boulevard Lakewood, CA	2.50	Retail / Multiple
Centeno's Nursery and Landscaping	81	N 33° 52' 46.9" W 118° 09' 20.7"	6850 Paramount Blvd Long Beach, CA	3.00	General Ornamentials
Norman's Nursery	122	N 34° 04' 12.2" W 118° 00' 02.9"	12500 Ramona Blvd Baldwin Park, CA	39.93	Multiple Crop
SY Nursery Inc.	168	N 33° 50' 59.2" W 118° 04' 36.0"	19900 S Pioneer Blvd Cerritos, CA	4.75	General Ornamentials
GROUP 4					
ABC Nursery, Inc.	4	N 33° 52' 55.7" W 118° 16' 06.0"	424 E. Gardena Boulevard Gardina, CA	11.51	General Ornamentials
New West Growers	53	N 33° 52' 51.1" W 118° 12' 56.3"	1601 S. Santa Fe Ave Compton, CA	1.70	General Ornamentials
T-Y Nursery	176	N 33° 51' 18.7" W 118° 23' 10.9"	Between Flagler/Paulina Redondo Beach, CA	7.50	General Ornamentials
Church Estate Vineyards	210	N 34° 01' 10.0" W 118° 49' 05.6"	6415 Busch Drive Malibu, CA	2.75	Vineyard

Table 2 – Rotating Sampling Locations

NAME	SITE#	APPROXIMATE GPS LOCATION	ADDRESS	ACRES IRRIGATED	CROP TYPE
GROUP 1					
Canyon Way Nursery	26	N 34° 12' 04.9" W 118° 13' 22.3"	11745 Sherman Way Studio City, CA	4.25	General Ornamentials
Live Art Plantscapes, Inc.	105	N 34° 14' 34.3" W 118° 32' 36.1"	18809 Plummer St Northridge, CA	1.80	Greenhouse
Green Landscape Nursery	143	N 34° 23' 01.2" W 118° 31' 34.1"	22216 1/2 Placerita Canyon Rd Newhall, CA	4.00	General Ornamentials
Sakaida Nursery, Inc.	158	N 34° 06' 49.0" W 118° 04' 54.8"	8538-8601 Longden Ave San Gabriel, CA	6.89	General Ornamentials
Worldwide Exotics Inc	204	N 34° 16' 23.8" W 118° 22' 06.1"	11157 Orcas Avenue Lake Terrace, CA	2.00	General Ornamentials
GROUP 2					
Brothers Nursery, Inc.	20	N 34° 06' 37.9" W 117° 53' 55.8"	Cerritos & Newburgh St Azusa, CA	2.98	Multiple-Crop
Brothers Nursery, Inc.	22	N 34° 7' 24.5" W 117° 48' 10.3"	Foothill Blvd and Walnut Ave San Dimas, CA	1.00	Multiple-Crop
Coiner Nursery	32	N 34° 6' 25.9" W 117° 46' 19.7"	3000 B Street La Verne, CA	15.00	General Ornamentials
West Covina Wholesale	188	N 34° 05' 38.0" W 117° 47' 31.3"	West end of Puddingstone La Verne, CA	15.25	General Ornamentials
El Nativo Growers, Inc.	202	N 34° 06' 34.8" W 117° 56' 29.8"	200 S. Peckham Azusa, CA	7.00	General Ornamentials
Choji Matsushita	226	N 34° 06' 52.9" W 117° 48' 41.1"	724 N. Cataract Avenue San Dimas, CA	1.70	Cutflower
Organicado	255	N 34° 08' 55.0" W 117° 58' 24.4"	460 Old ranch Road Bradbury, CA	1.00	Orchard
GROUP 3					
Carreon Nursery	50	N 34° 03' 10.6" W 118° 05' 48.5"	7900 La Merced Road Rosemead, CA	6.00	General Ornamentials
Humedo Nursery	70	N 33° 55' 00.5" W 118° 06' 44.3"	10040 Imperial Highway Downey, CA	2.20	General Ornamentials
Jauregui Nursery, LLC	402	N 33° 49' 07.3" W 118° 05' 31.5"	7200 E. Wardlow Road Long Beach, CA	13.00	General Ornamentials
San Gabriel Nursery & Florist	162	N 34° 02' 27.4" W 118° 06' 20.5"	2015 Potrero Grande Monterey Park, CA	6.00	General Ornamentials
Lam Farms	212	N 33° 53' 34.5" W 118° 08' 49.9"	8600 Jefferson Street Paramount, CA	1.00	Row Crop
ABC Rhubarb Farms	261	N 33° 57' 44.0" W 118° 09' 19.3"	6208 Clara Street Bell Gardens, CA	5.00	Row Crop
GROUP 4					
Color Spot Nurseries, Inc.	33	N 33° 48' 28.6" W 118° 16' 59.9"	321 W. Sepulveda Blvd Carson, CA	18.50	Color Plants
International Plant Growers, Inc.	73	N 33° 47' 55.4" W 118° 17' 26.0"	24500 Vermont Ave Harbor City, CA	5.00	Color Plants
Toro Nursery Inc.	170	N 33° 52' 15.3" W 118° 19' 35.9"	17585 Crenshaw Blvd Torrance, CA	15.78	Color Plants
The Malibu Vineyard	221	N 34° 02' 36.5" W 118° 38' 47.5"	3222 Rambla Pacifico Malibu, CA	2.00	Vineyards
Schoelkopf Vineyard	224	N 34° 02' 19.6" W 118° 51' 36.9"	31499 Pacific Coast Hwy Malibu, CA	0.80	Vineyards

4.0 SAMPLING EVENTS

During the dry season of the second year of the program, which lasted from May 15, 2012 through October 14, 2012, fixed and rotating sampling sites from Group #2 and Group #3 were visited on August 28, 2012 and September 26, 2012, respectively. All sampling sites were visited during normal operating hours with visits lasting for one hour or for a complete watering cycle, whichever was greater. During the visits, irrigation watering practices were observed and noted. Inspections included communicating with site operators regarding recently implemented BMPs at each site and verifying BMPs that had been implemented in the past. Irrigation runoff was not observed and samples were not collected at any of the selected sites visited during the dry season. Photographs were taken at each site and are included in Appendix C.

During the wet season of the second year of the program, which lasted from October 15, 2012 through May 14, 2013, fixed and rotating sampling sites from Group #4 were visited on January 25, 2013. Due to a lack of qualifying storm events during daylight hours, a second sampling event was not conducted during the wet season. During the sampling event on January 25, 2013, three of the sites were visited in Group #4 before the event was aborted due to lack of runoff and the storm abruptly ending. No wet season samples were collected during the wet season during the second year of the program.

Photographs are included in Appendix C, and historically collected samples are presented on Table 3.

Table 3- Sampling Timeline

	CWIL Order # R4-2005-0080												Total
	YEAR 1 ¹				YEAR 2 ²				YEAR 3		YEAR 4		
	Dry Season		Wet Season		Dry Season		Wet Season		Dry Season	Wet Season	Dry Season	Wet Season	
	Event #1	Event #2	Event #1	Event #2	Event #1	Event #2	Event #1	Event #2	Event #1	Event #1	Event #1	Event #1	
Number of Samples Collected	5	3	14	8	2	1	8	11	0	ns*	0	ns*	52
Total Number of Sites Visited	16	16	16	16	14	14	18	18	18	N/A	18	N/A	164

1 Wet Season sampling events took place over five storms due to localized rain patterns and a general lack of uniform storm intensity and duration.

2 Wet Season sampling events took place during two storm days where all sites were visited.

	CWIL Order # R4-2010-0186						Total
	Interim Sampling Event ³	YEAR 1					
		Dry Season		Wet Season			
		Event #1	Event #2	Event #1	Event #2		
Number of Samples Collected	4	0	0	4	4	12	
Total Number of Sites Visited	4	5	5	5	5	24	

3 The previous CWIL (Order R4-2005-0080) was replaced on October 7, 2010 with the adoption of a new Waiver (Order R4-2010-0186). As a good faith measure, the LAILG conducted a sampling event during the wet season between the execution of the new CWIL and the required submittal date of an MRP on April 7, 2011.

5.0 DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION

During the first second year under the CWIL (May 15, 2012 through May 14, 2013), drought like conditions were encountered in Los Angeles County, and no samples were able to be collected. A total of two sampling event were conducted during the dry season and one sampling events were conducted during the wet season. The currently approved version of the WQMP will begin implementation in 2014.

APPENDIX A

**UPDATED LIST OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY IRRIGATED LANDS
GROUP AS OF NOVEMBER 2013**

APPENDIX B
UPDATED PAGES FOR WQMP

APPENDIX C

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SAMPLING SITES