

**Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

**RESOURCES FOR GROWERS**

**INDIVIDUAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING GUIDANCE**

(Updated June 6, 2014)

This is a general overview of the groundwater sampling and reporting requirements that apply to operations enrolled in the Irrigated Lands 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/owners 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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers)

***Which wells must a grower sample?***

Farms with groundwater wells must sample the primary irrigation well and **ALL** wells used for drinking water purposes.

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

The well(s) must be sampled for the groundwater monitoring parameters listed in Table 3 of the Monitoring and Reporting Program, and shown below:

Parameter	Reporting Limit	Analytical Method	Units
pH	0.1	Field or Laboratory Measurement EPA General Methods	pH Units
Specific Conductance	2.5		µS/cm
Total Dissolved Solids	10		
Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	EPA Method 310.1 or 310.2	mg/L
Calcium	0.05	General Cations EPA 200.7, 200.8, 200.9	
Magnesium	0.02		
Sodium	0.1		
Potassium	0.1		
Sulfate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	1.0		
Chloride	0.1	General Anions EPA Method 300 or EPA Method 353.2	
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N) or Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub>	0.1		

### ***How often must the well(s) be sampled?***

Growers/owners with farms in Tiers 1 and 2 must sample their well(s) twice during the first year of enrollment in the Agricultural Order; one sample collected during the spring (**March - June**) and one sample during the fall (**September - December**), reporting results by October 1. No other groundwater monitoring/sampling is required during the course of the five-year term of the Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011, which expires on March 14, 2017.

Growers/owners with farms in Tier 3 must also sample their well(s) twice (spring and fall) during the first year of enrollment and annually thereafter, reporting results by October 1. The subsequent annual monitoring of well(s) must be conducted during the quarter when nitrate concentration is at its maximum, based on initial groundwater monitoring.

### ***Who must collect the sample(s)?***

Groundwater samples must be collected by a qualified third party with the knowledge and training in proper sampling methods, chain of custody, and quality assurance/quality control protocols.

### ***Where should the sample(s) be collected?***

Groundwater samples must be collected at or near the wellhead, before the pressure tank, and prior to any treatment. If a sample point is not available before the pressure tank, the sample must be collected as close to the pressure tank as possible, and before any filters or water treatment systems.

### ***Do I have to report the location of my groundwater well(s)?***

Yes, you must report the location of your groundwater well. As part of your groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements, a third-party or laboratory on your behalf must report to the GeoTracker database the accurate latitude and longitude (Lat/Long) location of the groundwater well(s) sampled.

In the interest of public health and safety the precise location of the groundwater wells, monitored in compliance with this Order, will only be referenced within a one-half mile radius of the actual well location.

### ***How is the location of my well(s) identified?***

The latitude and longitude (Lat/Long) of each well is required and can be obtained using a global positioning system device (GPS), Google maps, or a smart phone. NAD 83 (North American Datum 1983) is the horizontal datum (reference) for Lat/Long values. There are many datum (NAD27, WGS84, and etc.) and the exact same Lat/Long coordinates will plot at different locations for each datum.

### ***Which laboratories must perform the analyses?***

Groundwater sample analyses must be conducted by a State certified laboratory or by a laboratory approved by the Executive Officer, and results reported electronically to the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database on behalf of the grower/owner. A list of laboratories, **Individual Groundwater Monitoring – List of Labs**, approved to perform the required analyses can be found on the Water Board's website on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program page, under Grower Workshops and Resources.

### ***How are the sampling results reported?***

An approved laboratory is responsible for uploading the analytical results directly to the GeoTracker database in the required Electronic Deliverable Format (EDF). Growers/owners must also provide specific information to the laboratory regarding the groundwater well construction, i.e. well screen interval depths; groundwater well use, i.e. domestic, irrigation, or used for both purposes; and well location information, i.e. Lat/Long.

### ***Can I submit existing (historic) groundwater monitoring data?***

Yes, when existing groundwater quality data is available and that data meets criteria established in the Agricultural Order and MRPs, and after approval by the Executive Officer. Alternative existing groundwater quality data must be submitted with a completed **Alternative to Individual Groundwater Monitoring form** found on the Water Board's website on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program page, under Grower Workshops and Resources.

### ***Can I still enroll in a Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring effort?***

Yes, if you are a “**new grower/owner**” you may join an approved cooperative groundwater monitoring effort. New membership acceptance is at the discretion of the selected groundwater cooperative group and Water Board staff. To join a cooperative groundwater monitoring effort you must convey your selection to the administrator of the cooperative groundwater monitoring effort within 60-days of filing your eNOI. Currently there are two approved groundwater cooperative efforts; Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC), and Santa Rosa Creek Valley Groundwater Cooperative. For additional information regarding groundwater cooperatives and contact information go to the Water Board's website on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program page, under Grower Workshops and Resources and select **Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Guidance**.

### ***How do I login to my GeoTracker eNOI account?***

To login to your secure GeoTracker account you must have been issued a username and password, go to: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi>.

### ***What if I forgot my eNOI login information?***

If you have forgotten your password, you can create a new password by requesting a password reset email. Go to the login page at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi> and down below the Login to ESI button, where it says “Forgot your password? Have a password reset link emailed to you”, click on the word “emailed” and submit your email address. An email will be

sent to you immediately that will contain your username and a lengthy hyper-link to click on to allow you to create a new password. You may also contact the GeoTracker Help Desk directly at [Geotracker@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Geotracker@waterboards.ca.gov) or (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](mailto:hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov) or **Corey Walsh** at (805) 542-4781 or [cwalsh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cwalsh@waterboards.ca.gov)