

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

25 April 2014

Mr. A. David Hampton  
Cawelo Water District Coalition  
17207 Industrial Farm Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93308

### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY ISSUED TO THE CAWELO WATER DISTRICT TO SERVE AS THE THIRD-PARTY UNDER GENERAL ORDER R5-2013-0120**

On 24 February 2014 and 2 April 2014, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff and representatives of Cawelo Water District Coalition (Coalition) met to discuss the Coalition's concerns regarding a conditional Notice of Applicability (NOA), issued by the Executive Officer to the Coalition, to represent owners and operators of irrigated lands subject to Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120 for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area that are Members of a Third-Party Group (General Order). The Coalition's primary concerns with the conditional NOA were the distinction between the Coalition's boundary and the supplemental coverage areas (see Figure 1), prioritization of required tasks, and funding for General Order tasks in the supplemental coverage areas.

As discussed during meetings, the Coalition is aware that it must comply with all third-party duties required by the General Order, and that the General Order provides the Coalition with the flexibility to prioritize its efforts when meeting the requirements of the General Order. The General Order does not address fee structures between Coalitions and members. The Central Valley Water Board does not have a position regarding fees charged by the Coalition, other than an expectation that all growers within a Coalition's boundary and supplemental area would have an opportunity to join the Coalition and pay the appropriate Coalition fees based on actual costs.

During the February and April 2014 meetings, your representative stated that the Cawelo Water District Coalition will provide an opportunity for all owners and/or operators of irrigated lands within the Coalition boundaries and in the supplemental area (see supplemental coverage area in enclosed Figure 1, Boundary Map), to enroll in the Coalition.

With these understandings, and based on staff's review of your application and your record of representing growers under the Conditional Waiver, your Coalition meets the requirements of the General Order to serve and a third-party entity.

This letter serves as an NOA and approval of the Coalition to serve as a third-party entity under the General Order. We believe your Coalition is well suited to meet the requirements of a third-party group and to assist your members in complying with the General Order. Those tasks required by the General Order that are time-dependent on the issuance of an NOA will begin upon the date this letter was signed.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact David Sholes at (559) 445-6279.



*for* Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Figure 1, Boundary Map  
Table of Compliance Dates

cc: Joe Karkoski, Supervising Engineer, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FIGURE 1, MAP OF THE CAWELO WATER DISTRICT COALITION BOUNDARY

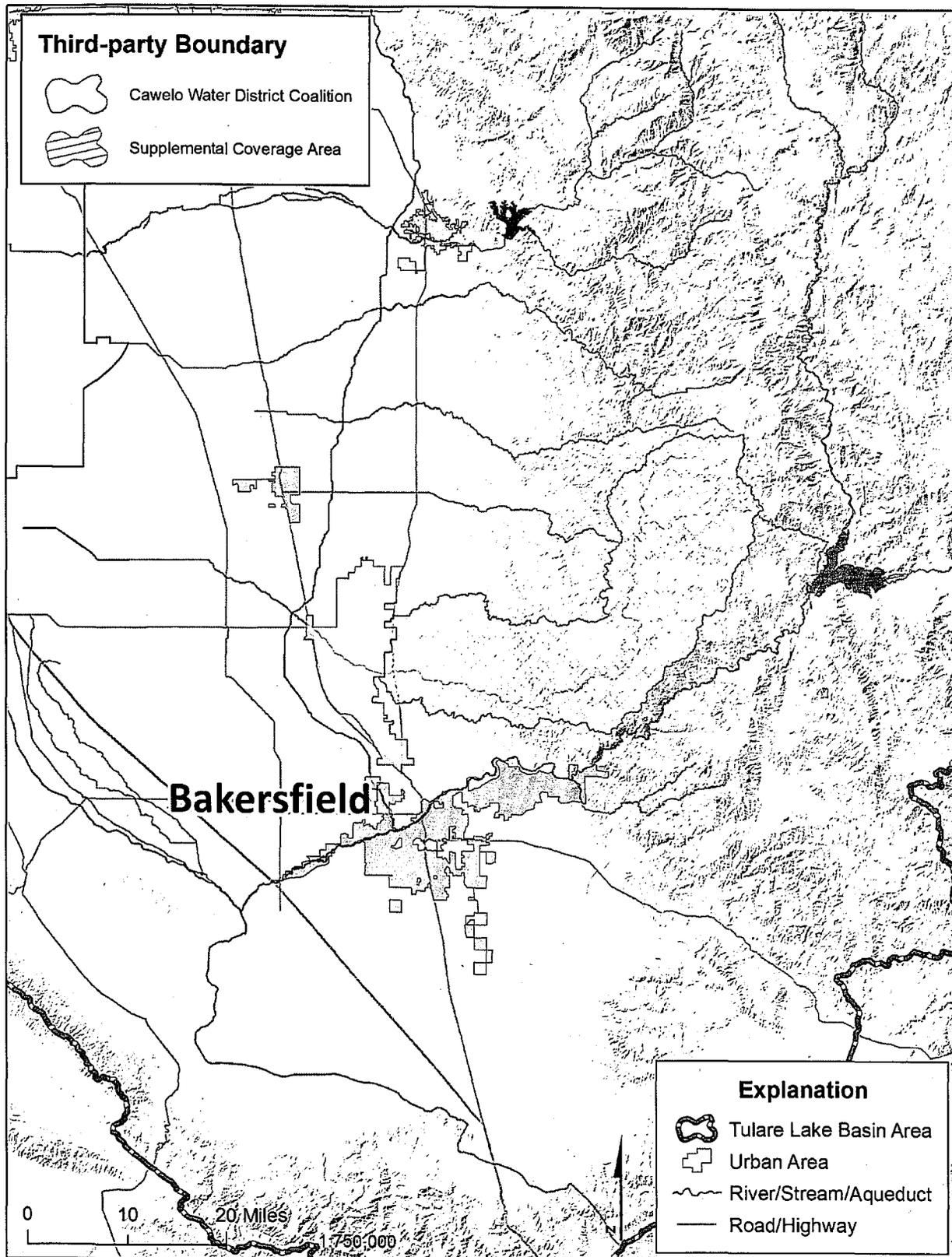


TABLE OF COMPLIANCE DATES ASSOCIATED WITH ISSUANCE OF THE NOA

<b>Due Date*</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
26 May 2014	Provide Notice of Confirmation to Members
24 July 2014	Outline for Groundwater Assessment Report
22 October 2014	Notice of Confirmation Received from Current Members Surface Water Monitoring Plan
23 October 2014	Non-enrolled growers apply directly to Regional Board and Third-party
21 November 2014	Membership List
27 April 2015	Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR)
1 Year from approval of GAR	Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Workplan Management Practice Evaluation Workplan (third-party only option)
1 March 2015	Farm Evaluation Template (All High Vulnerability areas) Nitrogen Management Plan Template (Large Farms in High Vulnerability areas)
180 Days from approval of SDEAR	Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Template (Large Farms)
2 Years from approval of GAR	Management Practice Evaluation Workplan (group option)
1 Year from approval of SDEAR	Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Template (Small Farms)
1 March 2016	Farm Evaluation Template (Large Farms in Low Vulnerability areas)
1 March 2017	Nitrogen Management Plan Template (Small Farms in High Vulnerability areas and all farms in low vulnerability areas)
1 March 2018	Farm Evaluation Template (Small Farms in Low Vulnerability areas)

\*Based on the effective dates following the issuance of NOA as specified in the Order. The NOA issue date is 25 April 2014.