
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 February 2015

Mr. Tim Johnson
California Rice Commission
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Sacramento, CA 95814-2933

FINAL TEMPLATE FOR FARM EVALUATION UNDER GENERAL ORDER R5-2014-0032

Waste Discharge Requirements for Sacramento Valley Rice Growers, General Order R5-2014-0029 (General Order) requires that Sacramento Valley rice growers complete a farm evaluation describing management practices implemented to protect surface water and groundwater quality. The California Rice Commission (CRC) proposes the rice-specific Farm Evaluation be submitted via a web-based information system.

The proposed Farm Evaluation template was circulated for public comment on 9 January 2015. No comments were received by the 23 January 2015 deadline. The web-based Farm Evaluation survey format is approved to comply with the requirements of the General Order. Rice growers must submit completed farm evaluations to the California Rice Commission by 1 March 2015. In the 2015 Annual Monitoring Report, the CRC is required to submit the Management Practices Summary Report that will aggregate and summarize information collected from the Farm Evaluations.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Margaret Wong at (916) 464-4857 or by email at Margaret.Wong@waterboards.ca.gov.

*Original signed by
Adam Laputz for*

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

CC: Ms. Roberta Firoved, CRC

Enclosure: Survey format for Farm Evaluation



Rice WDR Farm Evaluation Template

Background Information

The Farm Evaluation is a mandatory requirement of the Rice Waste Discharge Requirements (Rice WDR) Order issued by the Central Valley Water Board. The Farm Evaluation is completed once a year, with the first evaluation due by 1 March 2015. Rice Growers must submit a completed Farm Evaluation to the California Rice Commission (CRC) using a web-based information system provided by the CRC.

A copy of the rice-specific farm evaluation shall be maintained on site or be available electronically at the Rice Grower's farming headquarters or primary place of business. A hard copy of the Farm Evaluation must be produced, if requested, should Central Valley Water Board staff conduct an inspection of the rice operation.

Note: Our reporting from growers will be electronic with the option to print a hard copy for the files and to share with the landowner. The web-based template can be accessed from <http://www.calricenews.org/waste-discharge-requirements/>

By 1 March 2016, and annually thereafter, Rice Growers must update their Farm Evaluation and submit it to the CRC.

The Farm Evaluation template must include confirmation by the Rice Grower (if not the landowner) that the landowner has received notice of the Rice WDR Order and its provisions.

The Farm Evaluation is intended to provide the CRC and the Central Valley Water Board with information regarding the Rice Grower implementation of the Rice WDR Order's requirements.

Information from each Farm Evaluation will be maintained by the CRC to summarize in a report to the Central Valley Water Board. The summary will provide an overview of rice farming practices and not be reported at the individual farm, grower, or owner level. Discrete data records are submitted to the Board at the township level and do not identify the farm or the grower.

Overall Instructions

Please provide the requested Farm Evaluation information in the web-based template for compliance with the Rice WDR. You only need to provide the Farm Evaluation to the CRC once a year on 1 March.

The web-based template provides a convenient and streamlined approach to completing the Farm Evaluation with easy navigation between various sections.

To use this form, you need your grower identification number from your permit at the county agricultural commissioner's office. Your permit number is required to find basic farm location information in the database. The permit data was used to populate the database for this web-based template, to simplify the data entering process and avoid data redundancies and discrepancies between various programs.

Once a valid permit number is entered on the first page (or Main Page) of the Farm Evaluation, the first section of the evaluation will appear. From the Main Page of the web-based template you will be provided with links to download background information and instructions to start filling out the Farm Evaluation.

There are 6 sections in this web-based template, accessible as tabs from the top banner:

- **Section 1:** Landowner Rice WDR Acknowledgement
- **Section 2:** Field Evaluations (field specific information related to rice acreage and farm management practices)
- **Section 3:** Locations Water Leaving Property
- **Section 4:** Well Information Table
- **Section 5:** Farm Map
- **Section 6:** Farm Evaluation Summary, review, and data submittal

Each section and related sub-sections constitute a separate window in the web-based template, to keep the different categories of information short and simple to fill out and provide for step-by-step instructions.

Provide the requested information in the web-based template for compliance with the Rice WDR, based on the previous year's growing season information. For example, you will use your farming information from the 2014 crop year for the Farm Evaluation due by 1 March 2015. You only need to provide the Farm Evaluation to the CRC once a year on 1 March.

You must complete all parts of the Farm Evaluation. Failure to complete portions of the Farm Evaluation will not allow you to submit the data/information to the CRC.

When the Farm Evaluation is fully completed, there will be an option available to download and save a PDF version and/or print a paper version of the completed evaluation for your records.

Detailed Instructions

From the Main Page, you can access the Farm Evaluation, which is composed of 6 sections with sub-sections, as listed above. Below are the detailed instructions to fill out each category of information. On the web-based template, each category page also includes detailed instructions that pertain to the specific information requested.

Section 1: Landowner Rice WDR Acknowledgement

The Rice WDR requires acknowledgment by the grower, that the landowner (if different from the grower) has been notified of the provisions in the Order and of the joint responsibility for complying with the terms and conditions of the Order. A template letter is provided for you to use and send to the landowner, as necessary.

A copy of the Rice WDR Order can be downloaded here:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/new_waste_discharge_requirements/rice_growers_sacvalley_wdrs/index.shtml

It is required that the landowner and the grower, if not the same person, keep a copy of the Rice WDR Order on file.

Section 2: Field Evaluations

There are 3 sub-sections for this category of information.

1. Grower identification and locations of farm and associated fields

Once you enter your permit number, the screen will auto-populate the location of your farm and fields (County and MTRS), based on the data provided in your permit. Verify that the location of your farm is accurate and that all the fields listed are part of your farm. You will be able to provide feedback if fields are missing. Information can be entered for each field separately by clicking on the site name of the field you wish to enter. For fields that have the same properties, you can fill out the same information once by selecting several fields at the same time by holding down the Ctrl or Shift key on your keyboard. You can select all fields using the "Select All" button, or unselect all fields by using the "Clear All" button.

2. Rice acreage identification by field

The requested information pertains to how many acres of rice are planted for each field associated with the permit number and if other crops are grown in rotation with rice and in what interval. The total field acreages will be auto-populated from the information found in your permit. If this field acreage is different from the actual acres of rice planted on that field, you can modify the acreage on the second line. The list of fields initially appears in red. Once data is entered for the field, it turns grey, signifying that it was completed. This helps you keep track of the fields that still need information.

3. Farm management practices identification by field

On this page, lists of regulatory and voluntary farm management practices include commonly used best management practices in rice farming. Check the box next to each on-farm management practice that pertains to each of your fields. Again, you can select several fields at once to check the same farm practices.

Section 3: Locations where water leaves the property

On this page, enter information about whether or not water leaves the property, and where water leaves the property (mark location on the Farm Map) as well as identifying the main drain where water is discharged (drop-down menu listing the CRC monitoring sites). Alternatively, a water district can be entered.

Section 4: Well information description

If you have agricultural irrigation wells on your farm, you need to fill out the table with the requested information for each well. If you do not know the information, mark as “UNK” (unknown) and if the information is not applicable mark as “NA”. Each portion of the well table needs to be marked for the form to be complete; if the well is still active, enter NA in the “year abandoned” and “destroyed description”. Before leaving this page, confirm that you have recorded information about your wells. Even if you don’t have wells on your property, check this information, confirming that you completed this requirement.

Mark the location of each well on the Farm Map, with the same well ID as shown in the table.

Note: you can save your data separately for each section and you do not need to complete the entire form at once. The website will save your data and you can return to it later to finish and submit the completed form, or print an additional copy of the submitted form.

Section 5: Farm map completion

The farm map is to be kept on site (hard copy) – it does not need to be submitted with this Farm Evaluation. You may be required to produce the farm map during an inspection by Central Valley Water Board staff.

The farm map identifies water leaving the property. In addition, the farm map identifies the location of any wells on the property. Use the same well ID on the map as the one listed in the table, to be able to link the well information to the well location.

There are several types of acceptable maps you can use for this requirement, for example:

1. Use an existing farm map to label the requested information
2. Use a Google Map or Google Earth screenshot of your farm and label the information electronically before printing

Clearly mark your farm map with the following:

X – In use well locations (include well ID)

A – Known abandoned well locations (include well ID)

DP – Off-farm surface water discharge point

Section 6: Farm evaluation summary, review, and data submittal

The last page of the web-based template provides the status of the data completion in each section. By clicking on any of the sections, you can go back to that section, review the data entered, and add missing information. This page also allows for data saving, printing, and downloading a PDF copy. This is the page from which you submit your completed Farm Evaluation. Once the Farm Evaluation is submitted, it is deemed final and no more changes can be entered. A “read-only” copy can be downloaded after submittal of the completed Farm Evaluation.

Important: Farm Evaluation Certification

Per Central Valley Water Board requirement, the **completed and printed copy of the Farm Evaluation needs to be dated and signed by the grower** who was responsible for the Farm Evaluation. The following certification will appear on the printed PDF of the completed Farm Evaluation:

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 or represented Growers 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 for violations.



Rice WDR Farm Evaluation Template



Rice WDR Farm Evaluation

Main Evaluation

Background Information

The Farm Evaluation is a mandatory requirement of the Rice Waste Discharge Requirements (Rice WDR) Order issued by the Central Valley Water Board. The Farm Evaluation is completed once a year, with the first evaluation due by 1 March 2015. Rice Growers must submit a completed Farm Evaluation to the California Rice Commission (CRC) using this web-based information system provided by the CRC. A copy of the rice-specific farm evaluation shall be maintained on site or be available electronically at the Rice Grower's farming headquarters or primary place of business. A hard copy of the Farm Evaluation must be produced, if requested, should Central Valley Water Board staff conduct an inspection of the rice operation.

Begin Farm Evaluation

Enter permit number: [Start Evaluation](#)

Overview

To use this form, you need your grower identification number from your permit at the county agricultural commissioner's office.

There are 6 sections in this web-template, accessible as tabs from the top banner:

- Section 1: Landowner Rice WDR Acknowledgement
- Section 2: Field Evaluations (field specific information related to rice acreage and farm management practices)
- Section 3: Locations Water Leaving Property
- Section 4: Well Information Table
- Section 5: Farm Map
- Section 6: Farm Evaluation Summary, review, and data submittal

Each section and related sub-sections constitute a separate window in the web-based template. Provide the requested information in the web-based template for compliance with the Rice WDR, based on the previous year's growing season information. For example, you will use your farming information from the 2014 crop year for the Farm Evaluation due by 1 March 2015. You only need to provide the Farm Evaluation to the CRC once a year on 1 March. You must complete all parts of the Farm Evaluation. Failure to complete portions of the Farm Evaluation will not allow you to submit the data/information to the CRC.

Downloads and Links

- [California Rice News WDR page](#)
- [Rice WDR Order](#)
- [Farm Evaluation Web-based Template Instructions](#)





Main Evaluation

Landowner Acknowledgement Field Evaluations Locations Water Leaving Property Well Information Table Farm Map Summary

Name of Permittee (Permit Number)

Landowner Rice WDR Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement by the Grower, that the landowner (if different from Grower) has been notified of the provisions in the Order and of the joint responsibility for complying with the terms and conditions of the Order.

Is the landowner aware of the provisions of the Rice WDR Order?

Does the landowner have a copy of the Rice WDR Order?

Downloads

Click [here](#) to download a template landowner notification letter.

A copy of the Rice WDR Order can be downloaded [here](#).

Note

It is required that the landowner and the grower, if not the same person, keep a copy of the Rice WDR Order on file.



California Rice

Main Evaluation

Landowner Acknowledgement | **Field Evaluations** | Locations Water Leaving Property | Well Information Table | Farm Map | Summary

California Rice

Review List of Fields (current count: 18)

Missing Fields?

Description:

Name of Permittee (Permit Number)

Select All Clear All

Field ID: 4-3 County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E29
Field ID: 4-4 County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E32
Field ID: 4-5 County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E32
Field ID: 4-6 County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E32
Field ID: 4-8 County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E33
Field ID: 4-9E County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E28
Field ID: 4-9W County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E28
Field ID: 4-1N County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E29
Field ID: 4-1S County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E28

Current Field ID: 4-3

Rice Acreage | Farm Management Practices

Total field acreage (from permit database):

Rice acreage grown (acres):

Was this field traditionally planted to rice, but no rice crop grown in 2014?

Do you rotate your rice crop with other crops?

What other crop(s) are grown on your field:

Percent of field planted with another crop:

Frequency of rotation into or out of rice:

Acres of land taken out of production (permanent crop, development, etc.):

Save Current Field Save All Selected Fields Next Field Tab

Main Evaluation

Landowner Acknowledgement
Field Evaluations
Locations Water Leaving Property
Well Information Table
Farm Map
Summary

Review List of Fields (current count: 18)

Missing Fields?

Description:

Name of Permittee (Permit Number)

Select All
Clear All

- Field ID: 4-3
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E29
- Field ID: 4-4
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E32
- Field ID: 4-5
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E32
- Field ID: 4-6
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E32
- Field ID: 4-8
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E33
- Field ID: 4-9E
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E28
- Field ID: 4-9W
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E28
- Field ID: 4-1N
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E29
- Field ID: 4-1S
County: Sutter - MTRS: M11N04E29

Current Field ID: 4-3

Rice Acreage
Farm Management Practices

Identification of on-farm management practices implemented to achieve the Order's farm management performance standards. The Rice WDR Order does not have any mandated on-farm management practices. From almost 30 years of managing water quality programs the following list of practices result from permit conditions and label requirements regulated by the county agricultural commissioners through the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Regulatory Farm Management Practices (check all that apply)	Voluntary Farm Management Practices (check all that apply)
Follow Label Restrictions <input type="checkbox"/>	Land Leveling/ Precision Technology <input type="checkbox"/>
Follow County Permit Conditions <input type="checkbox"/>	Utilize Tailwater Return <input type="checkbox"/>
Waterholding Requirements <input type="checkbox"/>	Utilize Peripheral Drains <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor Wind Conditions <input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor Rain Forecasts <input type="checkbox"/>
Use Appropriate Buffer Zones <input type="checkbox"/>	Crop Rotation (organic) <input type="checkbox"/>
Attend Mandatory Trainings <input type="checkbox"/>	Cover Cropping (organic) <input type="checkbox"/>
Use Low Drift Nozzles <input type="checkbox"/>	Strip Cropping (organic) <input type="checkbox"/>
Use PCA Recommendations <input type="checkbox"/>	Compacting Levees <input type="checkbox"/>
End of Row Shutoff When Spraying <input type="checkbox"/>	Variable timing of water release (Pre-field prep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Avoid Surface Water When Spraying <input type="checkbox"/>	Variable timing of water release (Pre-harvest) <input type="checkbox"/>
Compliance with PPE <input type="checkbox"/>	Slow release of water from fields <input type="checkbox"/>
Use Drift Control Agents <input type="checkbox"/>	Crop Rotation (non-organic) <input type="checkbox"/>
Provide Employee Safety Training <input type="checkbox"/>	Voluntary Trainings (Spray Safe, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/>

Save Current Field
Save All Selected Fields
Next Tab

Main Evaluation

Landowner Acknowledgement Field Evaluations Locations Water Leaving Property Well Information Table Farm Map Summary

Name of Permittee (Permit Number)

Identification of whether or not water leaves the property, and where water leaves the property as well as identifying drainage ditches where water is discharged.

Does water leave the property?

If yes, I have marked this information on my farm map.

Which of these locations does the water leaving your property drain to? (see map for location ID)

Optional: which Water District does the water leaving your property drain to?



Legend

- CWFR Assessment Sites
- CWFR & RFP Core Sites
- RFP River Site



California Rice

Main Evaluation

Landowner Acknowledgement Field Evaluations Locations Water Leaving Property Well Information Table Farm Map Summary

Name of Permittee (Permit Number)

If you have wells on your farm, fill out the table with information as "NA". Note: If you don't have any wells, you still need to...

I have recorded information about my wells.

+ Add new record

Permit N...	Well Id	Ground ...	Standing ...
5100273		No	No

Edit

Permit Number

Well Id

Ground Sloped Away No

Standing Water Avoided No

Good Housekeeping Practices No

Air Gap No

Backflow Prevention Check Valve No

Year Abandoned

Destroyed Description Unknown method

Update Cancel

1 - 1 of 1 items

Note: Good housekeeping practices include keeping the area surrounding the wellhead clean of trash, debris and any empty containers.

Save Next Tab



Main Evaluation

Landowner Acknowledgement Field Evaluations Locations Water Leaving Property Well Information Table **Farm Map** Summary

Name of Permittee (Permit Number)

The farm map is to be kept on site (hard copy) – it does not need to be submitted with this Farm Evaluation. It is required to be produced during an inspection by Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff.

The farm map identifies water leaving the property and wells on the property. Use the same well ID on the map as the one listed in the table, to be able to link the well information to the well location.

There are several types of acceptable maps you can use for this requirement:

1. Use an existing farm map to label the requested information
2. Use a Google screenshot of your farm and label the information electronically before printing

Clearly mark your map with the following:

- X – In use well locations (include well ID)
- A – Known abandoned well locations (include well ID)
- DP – Off-farm surface water discharge point

I have filled out my farm map.

Save Next Tab



California Rice

Main Evaluation

Landowner Acknowledgement Field Evaluations Locations Water Leaving Property Well Information Table Farm Map Summary

Name of Permittee (Permit Number)

Review Status

Completed sections of the evaluation are colored green. Red-colored sections are incomplete and need additional information. Click on a section to edit it.

⚠ Fix	Landowner Rice WDR Acknowledgement
⚠ Fix	Field Evaluations
⚠ Fix	Well Information Table
✓ Ready	Locations Water Leaving Property
⚠ Fix	Farm Map
⚠ Not Yet Submitted	Final Evaluation

Output

From this page you can download and print a summary report of your evaluation in progress, for your review. Once you submit your final evaluation, you must download and print a copy for your records. **Per Central Valley Water Board requirement, the completed and printed copy of the Farm Evaluation needs to be dated and signed by the Grower responsible for the Farm Evaluation.**

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