

---

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 December 2013

Parry Klassen, Executive Director  
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition)  
1201 L Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Mr. Klassen,

Thank you for the 6 December 2013 submittal of the revised Farm Evaluation Template associated with the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2012-0116-R1 for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed (Order). The Farm Evaluation Template was revised in response to the 14 June 2013 and 2 December 2013 staff comment letters. In addition to considering staff comments, the Coalition considered comments made by interested parties on the draft templates.

Based on Central Valley Water Board staff review of the Farm Evaluation Template and the requirements of the Order, I approve the Farm Evaluation Template in accordance with Section VIII.C.1.a. (Farm Evaluation Template Group Option) of the Order. We understand that the Coalition intends to "beta-test" the Farm Evaluation, including the instructions, with a small group of growers. Based on the beta-testing, the Coalition may make revisions to the Farm Evaluation Template. Any such revisions will require Executive Officer approval prior to distribution of the Farm Evaluation Template to your Members. Once finalized, the instructions being provided to your Members must be submitted to us.

Additionally, we understand that the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan template revisions will be submitted at a later date, but prior to the deadline for Members to prepare the Plan. Also, we understand that revisions to the Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) and NMP Summary Report Templates will not be made until the board provides further direction based on recommendations from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Nitrogen Task Force and the State Water Board's Expert Panel.

We appreciate your leadership on this challenging task and the work of your colleagues in the agricultural community in preparing the Farm Evaluation Template. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at [jkarkoski@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jkarkoski@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 464-4668.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Kenneth D. Landau, for*

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer