

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

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February 10, 2012

Mrs. Susan Fregien
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Monitoring and Implementation Unit
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

SUBJECT: Updates to Special Project Monitoring for the period of March 2012 through February 2014.

Dear Susan,

As you are aware, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (Westside Coalition) received a revised monitoring order in September 2008 (MRP Order R5-2008-0831). The revised order included a targeted monitoring program with core and special monitoring categories that were site specific spanning from 2008 through February 2011. Beginning in March 2011, the monitoring order required all flowing sites to be tested for the full list of analytes (assessment monitoring), including chemistry, pesticides and aquatic toxicity through February 2012. In March 2012, and through February 2014, monitoring would return to the special monitoring as required in the previous two years. The intent of the assessment monitoring was to determine if adjustments to the site specific monitoring needed to be made and where.

We have reviewed the results of the 2011/12 assessment monitoring results through November and have developed revisions to the monitoring program. Attached are revised Table 2A and Table 3 (the other tables in the monitoring order will remain unchanged).

Summary of Significant Changes.

- **Little Panoche Creek at Western Boundary and San Luis Canal.** These two sites have been removed from the monitoring program. Both sites are near the western most edge of agriculture in the Central Valley and there is very little irrigated agriculture within the watershed that drains to these sites. Additionally, almost all of that is irrigated with drip systems which do not produce runoff. Since its incorporation into the Westside Coalition the San Luis Canal site has been dry and no samples have been collected. Only one sample has been collected at Little Panoche Creek at Western Boundary (March 2011) since the site was incorporated. Water collected from that event was clearly

accreted groundwater rather than irrigation or storm run off. There is no apparent reason to keep these sites in the monitoring program.

- **Russell Avenue Drain at San Luis Canal.** This site has been removed from the monitoring program. This site has not conveyed water since its incorporation into the monitoring program (either the Westside's or the San Luis Water District program prior). The watershed draining into this site is very small and entirely irrigated with drip or micro-sprinkler systems that do not generate runoff.
- **Los Banos Creek at Sunset Avenue.** This site has been removed from the monitoring program. Los Banos creek will continue to be monitored at China Camp Road and Highway 140, and the watershed upstream of Sunset Avenue includes very little irrigated agriculture. Past sample collections at this site have shown clean water consistent with reservoir releases from Los Banos Reservoir. The Westside Coalition believes that Los Banos Creek is adequately monitored with the China Camp Road and Highway 140 sites and data collected at Sunset Avenue will not provide new or useful information related to agricultural discharges.
- **Blewett Drain at Highway 132.** In the 2008 Monitoring Plan Order, Blewett Drain was sampled for core constituents in irrigation and non-irrigation seasons during the non-assessment period, and pesticide and toxicity analyses were only performed during rain events. Based on data collected during the assessment period, it appears that aquatic toxicity and pesticide analysis during the irrigation season is appropriate. The Westside Coalition is proposing to add special monitoring to this site during the irrigation season, including sediment toxicity testing, *ceriodaphnia dubia* toxicity testing, and pesticide analyses as shown in the updated **Table 3**.
- **Poso Slough at Indiana Avenue.** Poso Slough is part of the Salt Slough subwatershed and is included in Focused Plan 3 as part of the Westside Coalition's Management Plan. In the 2008 Monitoring Plan Order, Poso Slough was sampled for core constituents in irrigation and non-irrigation seasons during the non-assessment period, and pesticide and toxicity analyses were only performed during rain events. Because Poso Slough is included in Focused Plan 3 and based on data collected during the assessment period, testing for additional constituents is appropriate. The Westside Coalition is proposing to add special monitoring to this site during the irrigation season, including sediment toxicity testing, algae and *ceriodaphnia dubia* toxicity testing, metals, and pesticide analyses as shown in the updated **Table 3**.

The Westside Coalition intends to implement the proposed changes in the March 2012 sample plan. Please contact me or Chris Linneman of my staff if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Joseph C. McGahan

Enclosure

TABLE 3: Special Project Monitoring - March 2012 through February 2014

Monitoring Site	Site Code	Monitoring Season	Metals*	Ceriodaphnia Toxicity	Fathhead Toxicity	Algae Toxicity	Sediment Toxicity	Special Study Analytes - July 2008 to June 2009											
								OP	OC	Group A	Pesticides*								
Blewett Drain at Highway 132	VH132	Irrigation		X			X	X	X										
Poso Slough at Indiana Avenue	PSAIA	Irrigation	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Hospital Cr at River Road	HCARR	Irrigation	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Ingram Cr at River Road	ICARR	Irrigation	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Westley Wasteway near Cox Road	WVWNCR	Irrigation	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Del Puerto Cr near Cox Road	DPCCR	Irrigation		X			X	X	X										
Del Puerto Cr at Hwy 33	DPCHW	Irrigation		X			X	X	X										
Ramonal Lake near Fig Avenue	ROLFA	Irrigation		X			X	X	X										
Marshall Road Drain near River Road	MRDRR	Irrigation		X			X	X	X										
Orestimba Cr at River Road	OCARR	Irrigation	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Orestimba Cr at Hwy 33	OCAHW	Irrigation	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Newman Wasteway near Hills Ferry Road	NWHFR	Irrigation		X			X	X	X										
San Joaquin River at Lander Avenue	SJRLA	Year-Round		X			X	X	X										
Mud Slough u/s San Luis Drain	MSUSL	Year-Round		X			X	X	X										
Salt Slough at Lander Avenue	SSALA	Year-Round		X			X	X	X										
Salt Slough at Sand Dam	SSASD	Irrigation		X			X	X	X										
Los Banos Creek at Highway 140	LBCHW	Year-Round	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Los Banos Creek at China Camp Road	LBCCC	Irrigation	X	X		X	X	X	X										
Turner Slough near Edminster Road	TSAER	Irrigation		X		X	X	X	X										
Little-Panoche-Cr at Western-Boundary	LPGWB	Eliminated		X			X	X	X										
Little-Panoche-Cr at San Luis Canal	LPCS	Eliminated																	
Russell-Ave-Drain at San Luis Canal	RADSL	Eliminated																	
Los-Banos-Creek at Sunset Ave	LBCSA	Eliminated																	
San Joaquin River at Sack Dam	SJRSD	Year-Round																	X
Delta Mendota Canal at Del Puerto WD	DMCDP	Year-Round																	X
San Joaquin River at PID Pumps	SJRPP	Year-Round																	X

* Specific analytes are listed in Tables 4 and 5 of MRP Order No. R5-2008-0831.

TABLE 2A: Monitoring Site Tests for the period from March 2012 through February 2014

Monitoring Site	Site Code	Season		
		Irrigation (Mar-Aug)*	Non-Irrigation (Sep-Feb)*	Rain Event (2x per year)
Blewett Drain at Highway 132	VH132	Special + Core	Core	Rain**
Poso Slough at Indiana Avenue	PSAIA	Special	Core	Rain**
Hospital Cr at River Road	HCARR	Special	-	Rain**
Ingram Cr at River Road	ICARR	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Westley Wasteway near Cox Road	WWNCR	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Del Puerto Cr near Cox Road	DPCCR	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Del Puerto Cr at Hwy 33	DPCHW	Special	-	Rain**
Ramonal Lake near Fig Avenue	ROLFA	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Marshall Road Drain near River Road	MRDRR	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Orestimba Cr at River Road	OCARR	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Orestimba Cr at Hwy 33	OCAHW	Special	-	Rain**
Newman Wasteway near Hills Ferry Road	NWHFR	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
San Joaquin River at Lander Avenue	SJRLA	Core + Special	Core + Special	Rain**
Mud Slough u/s San Luis Drain	MSUSL	Core + Special	Core + Special	Rain**
Salt Slough at Lander Avenue	SSALA	Core + Special	Core + Special	Rain**
Salt Slough at Sand Dam	SSASD	Special	-	Rain**
Los Banos Creek at Highway 140	LBCHW	Core + Special	Core + Special	Rain**
Los Banos Creek at China Camp Road	LBCCC	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Turner Slough near Edminster Road	TSAER	Core + Special	Core	Rain**
Little Panoche Cr at Western Boundary ^①	LPCWB	Site Eliminated		
Little Panoche Cr at San Luis Canal ^①	LPCSL	Site Eliminated		
Russell Ave. Drain at San Luis Canal ^①	RADSL	Site Eliminated		
Los Banos Creek at Sunset Ave ^②	LBCSA	Site Eliminated		
San Joaquin River at Sack Dam	SJRSD	Source	Source	Source
Delta Mendota Canal at Del Puerto WD	DMCDP	Source	Source	Source
San Joaquin River at PID Pumps	SJRPP	Source	Source	Source

* Irrigation season will run from March through August. Non-irrigation season will run from September through February. The Westside Coalition, in collaboration with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, may shift the seasons up or back 1 month to account for actual practices.

** During rain event sample collection, Discharge sites will be sampled for the constituents listed under

① Site rarely discharges and includes very little irrigated agriculture.

② Discharge through this site is typically reservoir releases and watershed contains very little agriculture.