



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
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23 August 2010

TO: Watershed Coalition Members and Other Agricultural Operations with Irrigated Lands in the San Joaquin River Basin.

LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CHLORPYRIFOS AND DIAZINON TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding requirements of the Central Valley Water Board's Lower San Joaquin River Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon Pesticide Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The lower San Joaquin River (SJR) has been identified as an impaired water body due to elevated concentrations of diazinon and chlorpyrifos. Agricultural discharges are the dominant source of these pesticides.

The Central Valley Water Board is required to address water quality impairments by developing Total Maximum Daily Loads in accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act and the state's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. As a result, in 2005, the Central Valley Water Board adopted numeric water quality objectives and maximum allowable discharges (load allocations) for diazinon and chlorpyrifos in the lower SJR (Basin Plan Amendment R5-2005-0138).

All agricultural operations where chlorpyrifos or diazinon are used on land that is adjacent to or has drainage into the San Joaquin River or its tributaries are responsible for preventing these insecticides from reaching the waterways and contributing to exceedances of the water quality objective or loading allocation. The most common pathways to surface water for the insecticides include irrigation or storm drainage from treated fields or spray drift from applications to fields adjacent to the river or its tributaries.

The compliance deadline for meeting the water quality objectives and load allocations is **1 December 2010** for dormant season discharges and **2 March 2011** for irrigation season discharges. The water quality objectives and load allocations must be met through the implementation of management practices that will reduce discharges of diazinon and chlorpyrifos. Agricultural operations have primary responsibility for compliance with this TMDL.

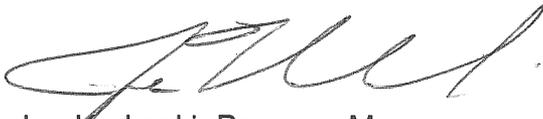
Those agricultural operations that are members of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition or Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition are currently covered under an implementation plan submitted on their behalf by the coalitions. Their plans meet the requirements of the TMDL by conducting a water quality monitoring program and preparing a management plan that describes actions expected to reduce pesticide discharges and which

is being implemented by Coalition members. Agricultural operations that are not members of the Coalitions must seek individual coverage or comply with a prohibition of discharge for the insecticides.

If the TMDL water quality objectives or loading allocations are not met by the compliance deadlines, the Coalition will need to revise their management plan to identify improved management measures. Coalition members will need to implement the improved measures to meet the loading capacity in the areas where load allocations are not met.

Dischargers who are not Coalition members (and not governed by individual or general waste discharge requirements) and who are contributing to the exceedance of the water quality objectives or loading capacity will be considered in violation of the diazinon and chlorpyrifos prohibition of discharge in the Basin Plan. The Central Valley Water Board will take appropriate enforcement action against those parties.

If growers have any questions regarding this letter, they can leave a message on our Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program phone line at (916) 464-4611 or send an email to IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov and staff will contact them within 2 business days.



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