
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM

RESOURCES FOR GROWERS BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES

Updated August 22, 2012

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT

Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011 (Condition 31) requires growers who fertigate or chemigate to have proper backflow prevention devices by October 1, 2012. To review the requirements in detail, go to the Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

In the case of chemigation, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and County Agricultural Commissioners have specific requirements for backflow prevention. Growers should contact the local office listed below. In the case of fertigation, local agencies may have specific requirements. In the absence of local requirements, the type of backflow prevention device necessary is dependent on the well construction, irrigation system, and the type of hazards and uses. Periodic testing of the backflow prevention device is also important because of potential malfunction or failure.

Technical assistance providers and consultants may be available to assist growers. Below is a list of resources.

GENERAL RESOURCES

Department of Pesticide Regulation

Backflow Prevention and Chemigation Safety Information

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/grndwtr/chem.htm>

Department of Water Resources Bulletin 74-90 - California Well Standards

http://www.water.ca.gov/pubs/groundwater/water_well_standards__bulletin__74-90/_ca_well_standards_bulletin74-90_1991.pdf

Grower Training Manual for Backflow Prevention in Chemigation of Pesticides

http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/grndwtr/chem/grower_manual.pdf

American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE Standards, 1989 - Standard EP409)

This engineering practice specifies safety devices required when injecting chemicals through irrigation systems. The document deals with backflow prevention devices, including air gap, atmospheric vacuum breakers, pressure vacuum breakers, double check valves, and reduced pressure principle devices. Interlock injections systems are also covered.

LOCAL RESOURCES

For issues regarding agricultural wells, growers should contact the Agricultural Commissioner for their area identified below. For issues regarding wells that provide drinking water (or multi-purpose wells), growers should also contact the local health department identified below.

Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner http://ag.co.monterey.ca.us/		
Salinas Office Pesticide Use Enforcement Unit Phone: (831) 759-7340	Pajaro Office Phone: (831) 724-5025	King City Office Phone: (831) 385-5266
Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau http://montereycountyhealth.org/		
<i>Cheryl Sandoval, R.E.H.S</i> Supervisor - Drinking Water Protection Services Phone: (831) 755-4552 x 4552		
San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner http://cosb.us/county-departments/agriculture/		
Hollister Office: Phone: (831) 637-5344		
San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm.htm		
San Luis Obispo Office Phone: (805) 781-5910	Arroyo Grande Office Phone: (805) 473-7090	Templeton Office Phone: (805) 434-5950
San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth/ehs.htm		
<i>Jon Williams</i> Cross Connection Inspector Phone: (805) 781-5567 Email: jcwilliams@co.slo.ca.us Note: Specific backflow prevention devices are required. Maintenance requirements and an inspection program are in place. There are specifications, guidelines, and information available to growers.		
San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner www.smcgov.org/agwm		
Redwood City Office Phone: (650) 363-4700	Half Moon Bay Office Phone: (650) 726-2514	San Bruno Office Phone: (650) 877-5762
San Mateo County Environmental Health Division		

<http://www.smchealth.org/environ/water>

Terrence Chun

Phone: (650) 372-6210

Email: tchun@smcgov.org

Michelle Bilodeau

Phone: (650) 372-6204

Email: mbilodeau@smcgov.org

Note: All wells are permitted through environmental health and requirements for backflow protection are communicated at the time of well installation.

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner

<http://www.countyofsb.org/agcomm/>

Debbie Trupe

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner - Pesticide Use Enforcement

Phone: (805) 681-5600

Email: dtrupe@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Note: In general, for all agricultural wells a check valve is required to be installed at each wellhead and Reduced Pressure Preventer (RP) devices at all connections where chemical injection occurs.

Santa Barbara Office
Phone: (805) 681-5600

Santa Maria Office
Phone: (805) 934-6200

Carpinteria Office
Phone: (805) 684-3810

Solvang Office
Phone: (805) 686-5064

Lompoc Office
Phone: (805) 737-7733

Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services

<http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/environmentalhealth.aspx?id=1444>

Norman Fujimoto

Senior Environmental Health Specialist

Phone: (805) 681-4917

Email: Norman.Fujimoto@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/ag/Pages/Santa-Clara-County-Division-of-Agriculture.aspx>

San Jose Office
Phone: (408) 918-4600

South County Office - Morgan Hill
Phone: (408) 465-2900

Santa Clara Valley Water District

<http://www.valleywater.org/>

Mike Duffy

Well Permits and Inspections

Phone: (408) 630-2743

Bill Cameron

Phone: (408) 630-2654

Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner http://agdept.com/	
Watsonville Office Phone: (831) 454-2590	Santa Cruz Office Phone: (831) 763-8080
Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services http://www.co.santa-cruz.az.us/health/ehs.html	
<p>Santa Cruz Office Phone: (831) 454-2022</p> <p>Note: The county well ordinance incorporates by reference the State Bulletin 74-90 requirements, which requires the installation of a backflow prevention device if any chemicals are introduced into the irrigation system. The county does not require any specific type of backflow prevention device.</p>	
Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner Office http://portal.countyofventura.org/portal/page/portal/AgComm	
Ventura Office Phone: (805) 477-1620	
County of Ventura Environmental Health Department http://www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth/	
<p><i>Ron Ventura</i> Cross Connection Control Program Phone: (805) 654-2436 Email: ron.ventura@ventura.org</p> <p><i>Salvador Leanos</i> Drinking Water Program Phone: (805) 648-9210 Email: Salvador.Leanos@ventura.org</p>	<p><i>Barbara Council</i> Phone: (805) 654-2024 Email: Barbara.council@ventura.org</p>
Note: Well owners must comply with the Bulletin 74-81 of the California Water Well Standards.	

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