
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

29 July 2014

Mr. Joe McGahan, Watershed Coordinator
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
P.O. Box 2157
Los Banos, CA 93635

APPROVAL OF THE WESTSIDE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION'S MANAGED WETLANDS EVALUATION TEMPLATE

Thank you for submitting the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition's (Coalition) Managed Wetlands Evaluation template, accompanying cover letter, and instructions for Coalition members (Members) on 15 May 2014. The Managed Wetlands Evaluation template was provided by the Coalition to satisfy requirements in the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-002 for Growers within the Western San Joaquin River Watershed (Order).

The Coalition's initial Managed Wetlands Evaluation template was revised and finalized in response to Central Valley Water Board staff comments provided on 21 May 2014 and 7 July 2014. The Coalition worked closely with wetland managers in the Order area to ensure the template is appropriate to wetlands management practices. The final template was provided on 25 July 2014. Based on Central Valley Water Board staff review of the Managed Wetlands Evaluation Survey template and the requirements of the Order, I approve the Managed Wetlands Evaluation template in accordance with Section VIII.C of the Order.

We appreciate all of your efforts to develop a Managed Wetlands Evaluation Template that provides valuable information and can be completed in a cost effective manner. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Susan Fregien at (916) 464-4813 or by email at Susan.Fregien@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original signed by

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Managed Wetland Evaluation Survey

Overall Instructions

There are five pages of the Managed Wetland Evaluation Survey to complete. Included are Property Maps that will help you identify parcel numbers and where you will mark the location of active and abandoned wells. You will need to fill out a separate evaluation for each property or management unit you own. If you need to complete separate surveys for each of your management units, please make copies of the blank form prior to filling out. Once completed, submit the signed survey and make copies of your surveys and maps to keep at your facility.

Step by Step Instructions

1. Enter each parcel number of the property or management unit that is enrolled; remember that this only includes irrigated lands (i.e., land flooded or irrigated to create/maintain wetland habitat or for crop production). Note that a property or management unit can encompass multiple parcel numbers or, conversely, a single parcel could contain more than one management unit. Use map(s) to help identify parcel numbers. You may attach additional sheets if you need more lines. Types of management units are as follows:
 - a. Property that is seasonal wetland, brood pond, or permanent wetland can be included in one evaluation form.
 - b. Property that has irrigated pasture should have a separate evaluation form.
 - c. Property that has irrigated crops should have a separate evaluation form.
 - d. USFWS and CDFW defined management units may be used as the basis for determining which properties should have separate survey forms.
 - e. Noncontiguous properties that have the same management practices do not require separate evaluation forms, but separate maps are needed.

2. Check all of the boxes that apply to the management unit being surveyed. For each habitat type, estimate to the best of your ability the total number of acres. Do not include any non-irrigated upland habitat. Seasonal wetlands are initially flooded up between August and October, remain flooded throughout the winter, and are drawn down in the spring, between March and May. Semi-permanent wetlands are typically flooded a minimum of 8 months, from September through July, and permanent wetlands are flooded year-round. Brood ponds (reverse cycle wetlands) are typically flooded from March through August to provide summer water primarily for locally breeding waterfowl. Irrigated pastures typically consist of tall, dense nesting habitat during the spring months and short green grazing and loafing habitat during the winter for wildlife. Management of irrigated pastures includes controlled haying and/or livestock grazing. Irrigated uplands are typically native upland habitat that provides nesting cover for waterfowl or other ground nesting birds. Irrigated crops are grown to provide food and cover for wildlife and typically include corn or small grain crops.

3. Irrigation Practices – For each habitat type you have on your property or management unit, fill out all the irrigation practices you use. Because timing of wetland habitat management can vary from year to year, please use the practices that were used from March 2013 – February 2014. For the timing of your irrigations, please enter a range of months in which you applied water to the habitats. For example, if you started irrigating your seasonal wetlands in March, but started irrigating your last seasonal wetland in June, you may put “**From March To June**” rather than putting down each month you irrigated a seasonal wetland. An "irrigation" is a relatively small amount of water that is applied in order to irrigate the vegetation. A flood-up is when the unit is flooded up to the desired depth and water is kept on it for months to provide habitat for wildlife.
4. Management Practices – Check the boxes of all the management practices used on your property or management unit. Remember to use practices from March 2013 – February 2014. If herbicides were applied during this time period, proceed to Question 5, otherwise go to Question 6.
5. Herbicide Practices – If any herbicides were applied, list all the types that were used. Then check all the practices used during herbicide application.
6. Irrigation Wells – If there are any active or abandoned wells on your property fill out the table. Give each well a unique identifier (Well ID) and list that in column 1. Use the Well ID to link the well management practices to the wells identified on the Property Map. Keep a copy of this map in your files as this must be produced in the event of a Regional Water Board compliance inspection.
7. Sediment Control Practices – Check all practices that are used to prevent sediment from being discharged from the property.
8. Review the Property Map of your enrolled parcels and make any necessary changes to the boundaries. For example, a parcel may be enrolled and assigned to a member; however the acreage enrolled is only part of the entire parcel. If you need to update the parcel boundaries, return a copy of the updated map to the Coalition with your Managed Wetland Evaluation so the information is linked to the correct piece of land.
9. Sign the bottom of page 2 to certify that all of the information provided is current and accurate. Return to the Coalition the signed Managed Wetland Evaluation and map(s) (page 4, if updated with parcel information).

RETURN SIGNED SURVEY YOUR WATER DISTRICT OR TO JOE MCGAHAN, P.O. BOX 1122, HANFORD, CA 93232, FAX 559-582-7632, OR E-MAIL jmcgahan@summerseng.com

Managed Wetland Evaluation

Property Name: _____ Agency/District: _____

1. Identify all the Parcels that this survey applies to, you may attach a separate sheet if you need additional lines.

Parcel (APN): _____

2. Check the boxes of all the habitat types found on your property.

- Seasonal Wetland (Flooded August – April) _____ acres
- Semi-permanent (Flooded September – July) _____ acres
- Permanent Wetland (Flooded Year round) _____ acres
- Brood Pond/Reverse Cycle (Flooded March – August) _____ acres
- Irrigated Pasture (Grazing) _____ acres
- Irrigated Upland _____ acres
- Irrigated Crop _____ acres

3. Irrigation Practices (Report practices used from March 2013 – February 2014)

Seasonal Wetland (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Do you release / drain your irrigation water? ___ Yes ___ No
- Flood Up From _____ To _____
Do you receive maintenance flows during the winter? ___ Yes ___ No
- Drawdown From _____ To _____
How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Semi-permanent (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

- Irrigation From _____ To _____
Do you release / drain your irrigation water? ___ Yes ___ No
- Flood Up From _____ To _____
Do you receive maintenance flows? ___ Yes ___ No
- Drawdown From _____ To _____
How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Permanent Wetland (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

ÿ Flood Up From _____ To _____

Do you receive maintenance flows? ___ Yes ___ No

ÿ Drawdown From _____ To _____

How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Brood Pond (Check all practices used and list the month ranges these occur)

ÿ Irrigation From _____ To _____

Do you release / drain your irrigation water? ___ Yes ___ No

ÿ Flood Up From _____ To _____

Do you receive maintenance flows during the summer? ___ Yes ___ No

ÿ Drawdown From _____ To _____

How do you draw down your wetlands? ___ Pull all boards at once ___ Drain slowly

Irrigated Pasture

ÿ Irrigation From _____ To _____

Does the irrigation water leave the field? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you apply fertilizer? ___ Yes ___ No

Irrigated Upland

ÿ Irrigation From _____ To _____

Does the irrigation water leave the field? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you apply fertilizer? ___ Yes ___ No

Irrigated Crop _____ Please list crop(s) grown

ÿ Irrigation From _____ To _____

Type of irrigation used: ___ Furrow ___ Sprinkler ___ Flood ___ Border Strip

Does the irrigation water leave the field? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you apply fertilizer ___ Yes* ___ No

Do you apply insecticides ___ Yes* ___ No

* If yes fill out separate Farm Evaluation Plan.

4. Management Practices (Report practices used from March 2013 – February 2014)

Check all the practices used on your irrigated lands.

ÿ Grazing

ÿ Mowing

ÿ Disking

ÿ Burning

ÿ Herbicide Application (if yes, go to 5., if no, go to 6.)

5. Herbicide Practices

List any herbicides used: _____

Check all practices used during application:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Permit Followed | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor Wind Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow Label Restrictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor Rain Forecasts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive Areas Mapped | <input type="checkbox"/> Use PCA Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Trainings | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid Surface Water When Spraying | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

6. Irrigation Well Information

- Do you have any wells on your property? ___ Yes ___ No
- Are you aware of any known abandoned wells on your property? ___ Yes ___ No
- For each well, mark the location on the attached map(s) or your own property map with a unique Well ID of your choice and fill in the following table. Be sure to fill in the table with the Well ID that corresponds to the map and put an "X" next to the practices that apply to the individual well. For abandoned wells, indicate the year the well was abandoned (write "Unk" if the year is unknown; approximation is ok) and mark how the well was abandoned.

7. Sediment Control Practices

Do water releases or storm runoff from your property have the potential to discharge sediment to off-site surface waters?

(Circle one) Yes No

Check all practices that apply:

- Vegetation prevents suspension of sediment.
- Vegetation prevents discharge of sediment.
- Storm water is captured on wetland areas before discharge.
- Ditches and conveyances vegetated and prevent suspension and discharge of sediment.
- Vegetative filter strips and buffers are used to capture flows.
- Sediment basins / holding ponds are used to settle out sediment from irrigation and storm runoff.
- Native vegetation are used to reduce erosion.
- Hedgerows or trees are used to help stabilize soils and trap sediment movement.
- Creek banks and stream banks have been stabilized.
- Field is lower than surrounding terrain.
- No storm drainage due to field or soil conditions.

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 members 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.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Property Map

(Keep Onsite – For Inspection Purposes Only)

Update map with well locations and surface water discharge points.

Legend

X – In Use Well Locations

A – Known Abandoned Well Locations

DP – Off Property Surface Water Discharge Points