

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - FOR REVIEW BY THE LONG-TERM IRRIGATED
LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY WORK
GROUP

Nutrient Management Plans

Agricultural operations in Tier 3 groundwater areas for which nitrate is the identified constituent of concern are required to prepare and maintain a farm-specific nutrient management plan. The purpose of the nutrient management plan is to budget and manage the nutrients applied to the farm, considering all sources of nutrients, crop requirements, soil types, climate, and local conditions, in order to prevent adverse impacts to the beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater. The NMP must take the site-specific conditions into consideration in identifying steps that will be taken and practices that will be implemented to minimize nutrient movement through surface runoff or leaching past the root zone.

The NMP must contain, at a minimum, all of the elements identified in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Conservation Standard for Nutrient Management (Code 590) for California. The Executive Officer may approve an equivalent alternative Nutrient Management Plan template prepared by a commodity group, third party administering a Water Board WDR, or other organization with recognized expertise in nutrient management of crops.

A specialist who is certified in developing nutrient management plans shall develop the NMP. A certified specialist is a Professional Soil Scientist, Professional Agronomist, or Crop Advisor certified by the American Society of Agronomy or a Technical Service Provider certified in nutrient management in California by the NRCS. Only NMPs prepared and signed by these parties will be considered certified.

Individual irrigated land operations must provide confirmation to its representative third party that they have completed and are implementing a properly certified nutrient management plan, and must provide the name and contact information of the certified crop advisor who prepared or certified the plan. This plan will not be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board, unless required by the Water Board or requested by the Executive Officer. The plan must be made available, if requested, should Board staff conduct an inspection of the irrigated lands operation.

Reporting in Tier 3 Groundwater Areas

The following information must be reported annually in the electronic format required by the Water Board: for each parcel: cropping sequences; number of acres, and the associated Assessors Parcel Numbers (APN); total estimated nitrogen and phosphorus inputs; nutrient application timing; total applied irrigation water; irrigation water application timing. The information must either be reported to the Water Board by the third party or by the enrolled discharger.

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The purpose of the reported information is to allow the Water Board and/or third-party to identify areas that may require additional reporting to determine the estimated discharge of nutrients or identify areas that will require additional management practices to reduce discharge of nutrients.

The Executive Officer may require additional information to be collected and reported in order to characterize the discharge of nutrients to waters of the State.

In lieu of reporting nutrient application information, a grower may submit a proposed monitoring plan or study for Executive Officer approval. The monitoring plan or study must generate sufficient information to, at a minimum, provide an estimate of the discharge of nitrate to groundwater.

Schedule for Completion of Nutrient Management Plan / Reporting

Task	Due Date
Commodity group, third-party, or other organization provides alternative NMP template to NRCS Standard 590.	One year from Order Adoption
Complete preparation of NMP	Two years from Order Adoption
Submit certification confirmation to third party.	Two years from Order Adoption
Submit required reporting information to third party or Water Board.	Three years from Order Adoption and Annually, thereafter.