

ATTACHMENT D

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM ORDER NO. R5-2009-0875

REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPING A PILOT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN FOR SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITION

The following requirements and information pertain to the development of a Pilot Watershed Management Practices Plan (Pilot Plan). The modified monitoring approach described herein meets the requirements of Water Code section 13269(a)(2) for monitoring and is sufficient to verify the adequacy and the effectiveness of the Waiver's conditions. The purpose of this Attachment is to provide additional details and clarification regarding the contents and requirements of a Pilot Plan.

The Pilot Watershed Management Practices Plan is subject to Central Valley Water Board review and approval. The Pilot Plan should be developed in conjunction with local agencies or other entities with expertise in agriculture, as determined by the Coalition (e.g. growers, University of California Cooperative Extension, agricultural commissioners, or other resource agencies).

Development of the Pilot Plan will be consistent with the area or watershed commodity types, common agricultural practices, pesticides commonly used, and local land characteristics. Crop types, agricultural practices, pesticides used, and land features may be described in the Pilot Plan or referenced in other Coalition documents. The Pilot Plan will also consider the results of water quality sampling conducted under the current ILRP.

A Pilot Watershed Management Practices Plan must contain all of the following elements:

- A set of management objectives (by crop type or type of agricultural operation),
- A set of management practices (may be amended with review and approval) that will be effective in addressing agricultural discharge-related impacts to water quality and achieving the objectives,
- An approach that will be used by the Coalition to promote implementation of the management objectives and practices, and
- A mechanism(s) that will be used to track the watershed-wide level of management practice implementation and identification of performance goals for implementation.

REDUCED MONITORING QUALIFICATION

To qualify for reduced monitoring within a subwatershed or drainage area, the Coalition must prepare a Pilot Watershed Management Practices Plan (as described below), and submit evidence that management practice implementation has been attained by 75% of member growers. Both elements will require Central Valley Water Board review and approval. Under reduced monitoring, the Coalition is not required to conduct Assessment or Core monitoring in the participating subwatershed or drainage area. However, Special Project monitoring must continue, where applicable. Where approved, documentation of management practice implementation (as described below), combined with Special Project monitoring, will meet the requirements of Water Code section 13269(a)(2) for monitoring and will be sufficient to verify the adequacy and the effectiveness of the Waiver's conditions. The Coalition may propose an alternative measure of management practice implementation (e.g. a percent of acreage representing all major crop types and practices) for approval by the Executive Officer.

Evidence of management practice implementation will require that member growers document their practices in a hard-copy or electronic questionnaire. The questionnaire should be developed by the Coalition and entities with local expertise and reviewed by the Central Valley Water Board staff prior to distribution. The level of detail in the questionnaire must be adequate to demonstrate that the management practice(s) are appropriate and serve to protect water quality in relation to the specific agricultural operations on the member grower's parcels. The Coalition must submit evidence of management practice implementation by 95% of member growers at the beginning of the second year of the Pilot Plan. If this condition is not met at the beginning of second year, the Coalition may describe the reasons and report on their progress, describe how and when the 95% will be met, and request approval to continue with the Pilot Plan.

COMPONENTS OF THE PILOT PLAN

Management Objectives

Management objectives and management practices will be developed for crop types (e.g. vineyards, fruit or nut tree orchards, wild rice) or general agricultural operations (e.g. livestock management with irrigated pasture, hay production) that are common to the selected geographic or watershed area. Management objectives describe what is to be achieved on a watershed-wide basis (e.g. "manage irrigation water so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of tailwater to adjacent watercourses).

Management Practices

Management practices are the more specific methods used by a grower or a group of growers to achieve the management objectives (e.g. collect tailwater in ponds or wetlands, modify irrigation methods, discharge tailwater to vegetated buffer zones).

Selection of an appropriate management practice(s) is typically done on a site-specific basis by the grower or an advisor. A set of proven management practices will be presented in the Pilot Plan and provided to growers. Growers are responsible for selecting and implementing management practices, as needed. Each grower can select the appropriate practice(s) to adapt to his or her specific conditions for compliance with the ILRP. Where appropriate, management practice(s) can be implemented to serve a group of growers. As new management practice information becomes available, the Coalition may amend or update their Pilot Plan to include additional suitable management practices. All Pilot Plan changes are subject to Central Valley Water Board review and approval.

Implementation

As part of the Pilot Plan, the Coalition will describe an explicit and detailed approach to promote implementation of management objectives and practices. This approach will include, but not be limited to, organizing an educational program to inform local growers of the requirements in the Pilot Plan. An additional goal of the education program would be to inform growers of the ILRP requirements, water quality concerns, and management practices available to address those concerns. The approach to promote management practice implementation may include workshops, classes, management practices field demonstration days, obtaining cost-share grants, and/or establishing a certification process that rewards participants.

Tracking and Evaluation

Tracking and Evaluation is a separate step from the initial requirement to submit evidence of implementation, which was previously described under Reduced Monitoring Qualification. The Coalition will develop, describe, and implement a mechanism to track the watershed-wide level of management practice implementation. As an evaluation tool, the Coalition will also identify performance goals against which the levels of management practice implementation can be compared. This will include on-site farm visits by a person(s) with known expertise in the area that can verify and document the implementation of visually observable management practices (e.g. Agricultural Commissioner, UCCE, or other entities identified by the Coalition). Cultural practices (e.g. pest management choices, deciding when and how much to irrigate, timing of soil tilling, attending educational workshops) may be documented through questionnaires or interviews. For the tracking component, the Coalition will specify how on-site documentation will be achieved and the type of information to be collected (e.g. parcel identification, number of irrigated acres, crop types, irrigation methods, potential for discharge, type(s) and appropriateness of management practice(s) implemented, digital photographs, maps showing the location of operations and named water bodies, technical description of practice adequacy). The Coalition shall specify a percentage of member grower facilities in their area that will be visited and evaluated on an annual basis. The Coalition must maintain an up-to-date list of program participants that would

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FOR SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITION
UNDER AMENDED ORDER NO. R5-2006-0053
COALITION GROUP CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS

be provided, on request, to the Central Valley Water Board. Participants must provide information on their operations and management practices, if requested by the Coalition.

The Coalition must also identify measures (i.e., performance goals) to verify that management practices are functioning properly (e.g. monitoring that an installed tailwater return system or type of irrigation practice is preventing off-site discharge, review of erosion prevention practices after storm events, visual monitoring of turbidity of field discharge).

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Coalition must submit an annual report that documents the progress in implementing the Pilot Watershed Management Practices Plan, including documentation of management practice implementation. The report will be prepared by the local entity and submitted by the Coalition Group.