
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM

RESOURCES FOR GROWERS COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER MONITORING Updated December 20, 2012

In lieu of conducting individual groundwater monitoring, growers may participate in a cooperative groundwater monitoring effort to help minimize costs and to develop an effective groundwater monitoring program. Qualifying cooperative groundwater monitoring and reporting programs may include, but are not limited to, regional or subregional groundwater programs developed for other purposes as long as the proposed cooperative groundwater monitoring program meets the Central Coast Water Board's general purpose of characterizing groundwater quality and ensuring the protection of drinking water sources. Growers electing to participate in a cooperative groundwater monitoring effort must have conveyed this election to the Central Coast Water Board in the electronic-Notice of Intent (eNOI) by August 1, 2012. Detailed information about this requirement is included in the Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRP), Part 2A.6:

Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Proposal

By March 15, 2013, Growers participating in a cooperative groundwater monitoring effort must submit a proposal to the Executive Officer. Growers should coordinate in local areas and seek the assistance of technical assistance providers or consultants to develop acceptable proposals that address the site-specific conditions of the participating growers. At a minimum, the proposal must identify the participating growers (AW# and ranch/farm name) and must include sufficient monitoring to do the following:

1. Characterize the groundwater aquifer(s) in the local area of the participating growers;
2. Characterize the groundwater quality of the uppermost aquifer;
3. Identify and evaluate groundwater used for domestic drinking water purposes;
4. Comply with the requirements for sampling protocols and laboratory analytical methods identified in the MRP or propose a functional equivalent that meets the same objectives;
5. Report results consistent with individual groundwater reporting defined in the MRP, or report results in a manner that is consistent with that approved by the Executive Officer;
6. Include a time schedule for implementation;

The Water Board will review proposals received by March 15, 2013 and aim to provide comments within 30 days, pending available resources. Growers will have an additional 45 days after receipt of comments to submit a final proposal. Growers who elected cooperative groundwater monitoring but do not submit a proposal by March 15, 2013, must conduct individual groundwater monitoring between September–December 2013 and March-June 2014.

If you have questions regarding cooperative groundwater monitoring, please contact Hector Hernandez at (805) 544-4641 or hernandez@waterboards.ca.gov