

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

**RESOURCES FOR GROWERS
TIER 3 - INDIVIDUAL SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE MONITORING
Updated November 19, 2013***

**Incorporates changes resulting from State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2013-0101.*

This document provides a general overview of the Tier 3 individual surface water discharge monitoring and reporting requirements that apply to Tier 3 farms/ranches enrolled in the Central Coast Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program ILRP. Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011 and the related Tier 3 Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) requires Tier 3 growers that have one or more outfalls¹ that discharge to surface water (irrigation runoff, stormwater runoff, or tailwater pond) to conduct individual surface water discharge monitoring and reporting.

Tier 3 Farms/Ranches that do not have a discharge to surface water from an outfall are not required to conduct individual surface water discharge monitoring. Detailed information about the individual surface water discharge monitoring requirements is available on the Water Board's website at the link below (see Tier 3 MRP, p.15-17):

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

The purpose of Tier 3 individual surface water discharge monitoring is to a) evaluate the quality of individual waste discharges, including concentration and load of waste for appropriate parameters, b) evaluate effects of waste discharge on water quality and beneficial uses, and c) evaluate progress towards compliance with water quality improvement milestones in the Order.

Key requirements and due dates for Tier 3 individual surface water discharge monitoring and reporting requirements are shown below:

TIER 3 REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE
Submit individual surface water discharge Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).	March 15, 2013
Initiate individual surface water discharge monitoring	December 1, 2013
Submit individual surface water discharge monitoring data	March 15, 2014; October 1, 2014;

¹ *Outfalls are locations where irrigation water and stormwater exit a farm/ranch, or otherwise leave the control of the discharger, after being conveyed by pipes, ditches, constructed swales, tile drains, containment structures, or other discrete structures or features that transport the water. Discharges that have commingled with discharges from another farm/ranch are considered to have left control of the discharger.*

Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)/Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

Prior to sampling, Tier 3 growers must prepare a plan that describes sampling details, such as methods, timeframe, and quality assurance protocols. A template to assist Tier 3 Farms/Ranches in the preparation of the Individual Surface Water Discharge SAP/QAPP is available on the Water Board's website, under the heading "Grower Workshops and Resources". Sample maps and forms are included in the template, as well as instructions for taking flow measurements. The template is intended to provide guidance to the grower and will also facilitate more efficient review by the Water Board. However, the use of this template is not required. Growers can use any format to provide the required information identified in the Tier 3 Monitoring and Reporting Program R3-2012-0011-03, as updated and modified by State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2013-0101.

Finding a Laboratory

The Agricultural Order and MRP require that Tier 3 farms/ranches include specific parameters in the individual surface water discharge monitoring. It is important for growers to select a laboratory that can provide the necessary laboratory analytical methods and achieve specific detection and reporting limits. Prior to sampling, growers should confirm that the selected laboratory can conduct the laboratory analytical methods identified in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Required analytical methods for Tier 3 individual surface water discharge monitoring.

Parameter	Analytical Method	Reporting Limit ²	Units
Discharge Flow or Volume	Field Measure	---	cfs
Approximate Duration of Flow	Field Measure/Calculation	---	hours/month
Pond Volume	Field Measure/Calculation	---	Gallons
Temperature (water)	Field Measure	NA	° Celsius
pH	Field Measure	NA	pH units
Electrical Conductivity	Field Measure or Lab	100	µS/cm
Turbidity	Field Measure or Lab	1	NTUs
Nitrate + Nitrite (as N)	EPA 300.1 or EPA 353.2	0.1	mg/L
Total Ammonia as N	SM 4500 NH ₃ or EPA 350.3	0.1	mg/L
Chlorpyrifos ¹	EPA 8141A or EPA 614	0.02	ug/L
Diazinon ¹			
<i>Ceriodaphnia</i> Toxicity (96-hr acute)	EPA-821-R-02-012	NA	% Survival
<i>Hyalella</i> Toxicity in Water 96-hr acute)	EPA-821-R-02-012	NA	% Survival

¹Only required, if chlorpyrifos or diazinon is applied on the farm/ranch

²Reporting limit (RL) is interpreted here as the lowest level for quantification of the concentration
 RL – Reporting Limit; mg/L – milligrams/ liter; ug/L – micrograms/liter; cfs – Cubic feet per second; NTU – Nephelometric turbidity unit; µS/cm– microSiemens/centimeter; NA – Not applicable

Stay Informed

It is essential that landowners and operators enrolled in the Agricultural Order keep the contact information in the eNOI up-to-date, so that the Water Board can contact the proper individuals regarding farm-specific compliance issues. In addition, to stay informed about the general status of the Agricultural Order, we recommend that owners and operators also subscribe to the Agricultural Discharges electronic mailing list at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.shtml.

For more information about the Agricultural Regulatory Program, including additional resources and guidance for landowners and operators, please visit the Water Board's Internet site at:

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

If you have questions regarding the Agricultural Regulatory Program or need additional assistance, please contact the Water Board at (805) 549-3147.