
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Cannabis Regulatory Program Annual Reporting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- I. What is the purpose of the annual report?**
 - a. The purpose of the annual report is to assess compliance with the Cannabis General Order and Notice of Applicability (NOA).
- II. Who is required to submit the annual report?**
 - a. All Tier 1 and Tier 2 cultivators. Annual report must be submitted by the operator(s), landowner(s), or third-party provider(s) indicated on the application or NOA.
- III. When is the deadline to submit the annual report?**
 - a. Annual Reports must be submitted to the Regional Water Board by March 1 following the year being monitored. For example, the monitoring report for activities conducted in the year 2019 is due on March 1, 2020.
- IV. How do I start the annual report?**
 - a. Steps to start the Annual Report:
 - i. Locate your WDID number. This can be found on the NOA.
 - ii. Follow the link to the portal: <https://public2.waterboards.ca.gov/cgo> and log in or register for a new account.
 - iii. Click “Create New Survey”
 - iv. Click “Online Cannabis Water Quality Monitoring & Reporting Program.”
- V. What are canopy area, cultivation area, and disturbed area?**
 - a. Cannabis Canopy Area (Canopy Area) – The anticipated canopy acreage at plant maturity.
 - b. Cultivation Area:
 - i. For in-ground plants, the cultivation area is defined by the perimeter of the area planted, including any immediately adjacent surrounding access pathways.
 - ii. For plants grown outdoors in containers (e.g., pots, grow bags, etc.) the cultivation area is defined by the perimeter of the area that contains the containers, including any immediately adjacent surrounding access pathways. The area is not limited to the sum of the area of each individual container.

- iii. For plants grown indoors that do not qualify for the conditional exemption under the Cannabis Cultivation General Order, the cultivation area is defined by the entire area contained in the structure where cultivation occurs, excluding any area used solely for activities that are not cultivation activities (e.g., office space). Areas used for storage of materials, equipment, or items related to cannabis cultivation are included in the cultivation area calculation.
- c. Disturbed Area: Disturbed area includes land where natural plant growth has been removed whether by physical, animal, or chemical means, or natural grade has been modified for any purpose. Land disturbance includes all activities whatsoever associated with developing or modifying land for cannabis cultivation related activities or access. Land disturbance activities include, but are not limited to, construction of roads, buildings, water storage areas, excavation, grading, and site clearing. Disturbed area includes cultivation areas, storage areas where soil or soil amendments (e.g., potting soil, compost, or biosolids) are located. Access roads that are designed, constructed, and maintained, or are reconstructed consistent with the Handbook for Forest, Ranch, and Rural Roads ([Road Handbook](#)), and that implement the interim and long-term erosion prevention and soil stabilization measures contained in Attachment A, are not considered disturbed areas for the purpose of tier determination under the Cannabis Cultivation General Order.

VI. What is a third-party representative?

- a. A designated consultant. This may include a Resource Conservation District (RCD).

VII. If I did not cultivate during the last reporting period, do I need to submit an annual report?

- a. Yes, you do.

VIII. What is the winterization period for my site?

- a. Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, Santa Clara County: October 15- April 15
- b. Other Counties: November 15- April 1

Nitrogen Reporting related questions

IX. Who is required to submit a nitrogen report?

- a. The Nitrogen Reporting requirement is required for Tier 2 cultivators with cultivation area > 1 acre.

Stormwater Monitoring related questions

X. Who is required to perform stormwater monitoring?

- a. Dischargers who are classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2, AND are characterized as a moderate or high risk
- XI. Where should my stormwater sampling locations be?**
- a. Samples must be taken in a location representative of the disturbed area. More than one sample may be required to adequately characterize the discharge from all areas. Reach out to Central Coast Water Board staff if you have any questions.
- XII. What if it doesn't rain or what if it rains in the middle of the night?**
- a. If it doesn't rain, no samples need to be taken. If it rains in the middle of the night or when the site is unoccupied, please make your best effort to return to the site to obtain samples in the morning or as soon after the rain even as possible, as is applicable.
- XIII. How do we monitor constituents and who can take the samples?**
- a. Constituents must be monitored with a calibrated instrument and the user must be trained in proper use and maintenance of the instruments. You may also use a local water quality lab. Contact the lab prior to the sampling event to get required items such as sample bottle and chain of custody forms.