



Irrigated Lands Program Backflow Prevention Devices Guidance Document

Description of Requirement

Growers who apply fertilizers, fumigants, pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, or other chemicals through an irrigation system must have functional and properly maintained backflow prevention devices installed at the well or pump to prevent pollution of groundwater and surface water that comply with any applicable Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) requirements or local ordinances. Backflow prevention devices used to protect water quality must be those approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), DPR, State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, or the local public health or water agency¹.

General Resources

Department of Pesticide Regulation:

- Backflow Prevention and Chemigation Safety Information
<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/grndwtr/chem.htm>
- Grower Training Manual for Backflow Prevention in Chemigation of Pesticides
http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/acwm/215612_ChemigationManual.pdf

Department of Water Resources:

- Bulletin 74-90 California Well Standards
<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Wells/Well-Standards/Combined-Well-Standards/Bulletin-74-90-Intro>

American Society of Agricultural Engineers:

- ASAE Standards, EP409.1 Mar1989 (R2018) Safety Devices for Chemigation

Local Resources

Growers should contact their local Agricultural Commissioner for issues regarding their irrigation wells, and their local Health Department for issues regarding wells that provide drinking water (or multi-purpose wells). Contact information for offices in the Central Coast region are provided below:

Monterey County:

Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/agricultural-commissioner>

- Salinas office, Pesticide Use Enforcement Unit: (831) 759-7340
- Pajaro office: (831) 784-5900

¹ [Agricultural Order 4.0](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_order.pdf) (Order No. R3-2021-0040), page 43, paragraph 7
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_order.pdf)

- King City office: (831) 385-5266

Monterey County Health Department

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/environmental-health>

- Salinas office: (831) 755-4505
- Monterey office: (831) 647-7654
- King City office: (831) 386-6899

Santa Barbara County:

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner

<http://www.countyofsb.org/agcomm/>

- Santa Barbara office: (805) 681-5600
- Santa Maria office: (805) 934-6200
- Carpinteria office: (805) 681-5600
- Buellton office: (805) 688-5331
- Lompoc office: (805) 688-5331

Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services

<https://www.countyofsb.org/phd/ehs/home.sbc>

- Santa Barbara office: (805) 681-4900
- Santa Maria office: (805) 346-8460

San Benito County:

San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner

<https://www.cosb.us/departments/agriculture>

- Hollister office: (831) 637-5344

Santa Clara County:

Santa Clara County Agricultural Commissioner

<https://ag.sccgov.org/home>

- San Jose office: (408) 918-4600
- San Martin office: (408) 201-0640

Santa Clara Valley Water

<https://www.valleywater.org/>

- San Jose office: (408) 265-2600

Santa Cruz County:

Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner

<https://www.agdept.com/>

- Watsonville office: (831) 763-8080
- Santa Cruz office: (831) 763-8080

Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services

<https://www.scceh.org/>

- Santa Cruz office: (831) 454-2022

San Luis Obispo County:

San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures.aspx>

- San Luis Obispo office: (805) 781-5910
- Arroyo Grande office: (805) 473-7090
- Templeton office: (805) 434-5950

San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Public-Health/eh.aspx>

- San Luis Obispo office: (805) 781-5544

San Mateo County:

San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner

<https://agwm.smcgov.org/>

- Redwood City office: (650) 363-4700
- Half Moon Bay office: (650) 726-2514
- San Bruno office: (650) 877-5762

San Mateo County Environmental Health Services

<https://www.smchealth.org/water-protection-land-use>

- San Mateo office: (650) 372-6200

Ventura County:

Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner

<https://www.ventura.org/agricultural-commissioner/>

- Ventura office: (805) 388-4222

Ventura County Environmental Health Department

<https://vcrma.org/divisions/environmental-health>

- Ventura office: (805) 654-2813