

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

**ATTACHMENT C TO ORDER R5-201X-XXXX
DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS GENERAL ORDER
FOR**

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
AND**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**SURFACE WATER DISCHARGES FROM THE
GRASSLAND BYPASS PROJECT**

FRESNO AND MERCED COUNTIES

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The following definitions, acronyms and abbreviations apply to this Order as related to surface water discharges from subsurface drainages associated with irrigated agriculture. All other terms shall have the same definitions as prescribed by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code Division 7), unless specified otherwise.

1. Antidegradation Policy– State Water Board Resolution 68-16, "*Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*," requires existing high quality water to be maintained until it has been demonstrated that any change will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state, will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of water, and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in Resolution 68-16. The Central Valley Water Board must establish standards in its orders for discharges to high quality waters that result in the implementation of best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to avoid pollution or nuisance and to maintain the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state. Resolution 68-16 has been approved by the USEPA to be consistent with the federal anti-degradation policy.
2. Basin Plan – The Basin Plan is the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins. The Basin Plan describes how the quality of the surface and groundwater in the Central Valley Region should be managed to ensure reasonable protection of beneficial uses. The Basin Plan includes beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and a program of implementation.
3. Degradation – Any measurable adverse change in water quality.
4. Exceedance – For the purposes of this Order, an exceedance is a reading using a field instrument or detection by a California state-certified analytical laboratory where the detected result indicates an impact to the beneficial use of the receiving water when compared to a water quality objective for the parameter or constituent. Exceedances will be determined based on available data and application of the appropriate averaging period. The appropriate averaging period may be defined in the Basin Plan, as part of the water quality criteria established by the USEPA, or as part of the water quality criteria being used to interpret a narrative water quality objective. If averaging periods are not defined as part of the water quality objective or the water quality criteria being used, then the Central Valley Water Board may use its best professional judgment to determine an appropriate period.

5. Impaired water body – A surface water body that is not attaining water quality standards and is identified on the State Water Board’s Clean Water Act section 303(d) list.
6. Management practices to protect water quality – A practice or combination of practices that is the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of controlling nonpoint pollutant sources at levels protective of water quality.
7. Monitoring – Monitoring undertaken in connection with assessing water quality conditions, and factors that may affect water quality conditions. Monitoring includes, but is not limited to, water quality monitoring undertaken in connection with agricultural activities, monitoring to identify short and long-term trends in water quality, nutrient monitoring, active inspections of operations, and management practice implementation and effectiveness monitoring. The purposes of monitoring include, but are not limited to, verifying the adequacy and effectiveness of the Order’s requirements, and evaluating compliance with the requirements of the Order.
8. Nonpoint source waste discharge– The Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan states that “*A nonpoint source discharge usually refers to waste emanating from diffused locations.*” Nonpoint source pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage or hydrologic modification. The term "nonpoint source" is defined to mean any source of water pollution that does not meet the legal definition of "point source" in section 502(14) of the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act (CWA) defines a point source as a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, such as a pipe, ditch, or channel. Irrigated agricultural return flows and agricultural storm water runoff are excluded from the CWA’s definition of point source. Nonpoint pollution sources generally are sources of water pollution that do not meet the definition of a point source as defined by the CWA.
9. Nuisance – “Nuisance” is defined at section 13050 of the Water Code as “*...anything which meets all of the following requirements:*
 - (1) *Is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.*
 - (2) *Affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal.*
 - (3) *Occur during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes.*”
10. Nutrient – Any element taken in by an organism which is essential to its growth and which is used by the organism in elaboration of its food and tissue.
11. Pollution – Defined in section 13050(l)(1) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act as “*...an alteration of the quality of the waters of the state by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects either of the following: (A) The waters for beneficial uses. (B) Facilities which serve these beneficial uses.*”
12. Requirements of applicable water quality control plans – Water quality objectives, prohibitions, total maximum daily load implementation plans, or other requirements contained in water quality control plans adopted by the Central Valley Water Board and approved according to applicable law.

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13. Subsurface drainage – Water generated by installing and operating drainage systems to lower the water table below irrigated lands. Subsurface drainage systems, deep open drainage ditches, or drainage wells can generate this drainage.
14. Tailwater – The runoff of irrigation water from an irrigated field.
15. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) -- From the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 40 CFR 130.2(i), a TMDL is: *“The sum of the individual WLAs [waste load allocations] for point sources and LAs [load allocations] for nonpoint sources and natural background. ... TMDLs can be expressed in terms of either mass per time, toxicity, or other appropriate measure. ...”*
16. Total Maximum Monthly Load (TMML) – Similar to TMDL, but with waste allocations based on a monthly basis rather than daily.
17. Toxicity – Refers to the toxic effect to aquatic organisms from waste contained in a water sample.
18. Waste – Includes sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers of whatever nature prior to, and for purposes of, disposal as defined in California Water Code section 13050(d). Wastes that conform to this definition include, but are not limited to, earthen materials (such as soil, silt, sand, clay, rock), inorganic materials (such as metals, salts, boron, selenium, potassium, nitrogen, phosphorus), organic materials such as pesticides, and biological materials, such as pathogenic organisms. Such wastes may directly impact beneficial uses (e.g., toxicity of metals to aquatic life) or may impact water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen.
19. Water Year -- A water year is defined as a 12 month time period from 1 October of one year to 30 September of the next. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends (the year within which 9 of the 12 months fall).
20. Waters of the State – Is defined in Water Code section 13050 as *“any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State.”*
21. Water Quality Criteria – Levels of water quality required under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act that are expected to render a body of water suitable for its designated uses. Criteria are based on specific levels of pollutants that would make the water harmful if used for drinking, swimming, farming, fish production, or industrial processes. The *California Toxics Rule* adopted by USEPA in April 2000 sets numeric water quality criteria for non-ocean surface waters of California for a number of toxic pollutants.
22. Water Quality Objectives – Defined in Water Code section 13050 as *“limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specified area.”* Water quality objectives may be either numerical or narrative and serve as water quality criteria for purposes of section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
23. Water quality problem – Exceedance of an applicable water quality objective or a trend of degradation that may threaten applicable Basin Plan beneficial uses.

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24. Water Quality Standards – Provision of state or federal law that consist of the designated beneficial uses of a waterbody, the numeric and narrative water quality criteria that are necessary to protect the uses of that particular waterbody, and an antidegradation statement. Water quality standards include water quality objectives in the Central Valley Water Board's two Basin Plans, water quality criteria in the California Toxics Rule and National Toxics Rule adopted by USEPA, and/or water quality objectives in other applicable State Water Board plans and policies. Under section 303 of the Clean Water Act, each state is required to adopt water quality standards.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Authority	<i>The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority</i>
Basin Plan	<i>Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins (4th Ed.)</i>
Bureau	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
BPTC	best practicable treatment or control
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEDEN	California Environmental Data Exchange Network
Central Valley Water Board	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Register
COC	constituent of concern
CTR	California Toxics Rule
CV RDC	Central Valley Regional Data Center
CV-SALTS	Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability
CWC	California Water Code
DCRT	Data Collection and Reporting Team
DO	dissolved oxygen
DPH	California Department of Public Health
DPR	California Department of Pesticide Regulation
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EDD	electronic data deliverable
EIS/EIR	environmental impact statement/environmental impact report
ESA	federal Endangered Species Act
GAF	Grassland Area Farmers
GBP	Grassland Bypass Project
GDA	Grassland Drainage Area
GeoTracker ESI	GeoTracker Electronic Submittal of Information Online System
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GWD	Grassland Water District
ILRP	Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
LTDMP	Long-term Drainage Management Plan
MAA	management agency agreement
MDL	method detection limit
MRP	monitoring and reporting program
MRPP	monitoring and reporting program plan
NAD83	North American Datum 1983
NAVD88	North American Vertical Datum 1988
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOD	Notice of Determination

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NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	nonpoint source
NPS Policy	State Water Board's Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program
NTR	National Toxics Rule
PUR	pesticide use report, CA DPR
QAPP	quality assurance project plan
QA/QC	quality assurance and quality control
RL	reporting limit
ROD	record of decision
ROWD	report of waste discharge
SFEI	San Francisco Estuary Institute
SLD	San Luis Drain
SIP	<i>Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of CA (State Implementation Plan)</i>
SJRIP	San Joaquin River Improvement Project
SQMP	surface water quality management plan
State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
SWAMP	surface water ambient monitoring program
TDS	total dissolved solids
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TMML	total maximum monthly load
TPRT	Technical and Policy Review Team
UA	Use Agreement
USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U. S. Geological Survey
WDRs	waste discharge requirements

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