
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 February 2018

Mr. Joseph C. McGahan
Drainage Coordinator
Grassland Bypass Project
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Los Banos, CA 93635

GRASSLAND BYPASS PROJECT PESTICIDE MONITORING PLAN MODIFICATION

The Pesticide Monitoring Plan (Plan) for the Grassland Drainage Area was approved by the Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer on 14 December 2017. The Plan was developed according to guidelines in the Pesticide Evaluation Protocol (PEP), issued on 29 November 2016. The Plan meets requirements of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), Attachment B to Order R5-2015-0094 Waste Discharge Requirements for San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Permittees) Surface Water Discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project (Order). Monitoring sites include the San Luis Drain and Mud Slough.

On 4 January 2018, the Permittees notified Central Valley Water Board staff that they inadvertently included pesticide monitoring during periods when the Grasslands Bypass Project (GBP) does not discharge to the San Luis Drain. During a phone meeting held on 2 February 2018, the Permittees clarified that pesticide monitoring for the GBP is intended to identify potential water quality concerns associated with discharges from the GBP. Samples collected during the summer season would not be representative of the GBP because it does not discharge to the San Luis Drain during non-rainy periods (generally from June through September). Furthermore, monitoring conducted in Mud Slough by the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition during the summer season represents the potential water quality influences of surrounding agricultural lands.

Based on the reasoning provided by the Permittees and described above, I approve pesticide monitoring for the GBP be limited to periods when the GBP has the potential to discharge to the San Luis Drain (October through May). If you have any questions or comments regarding this approval letter, please contact Susan Fregien by phone at (916) 464-4813 or by email at Susan.Fregien@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Signed by Adam Laputz for

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Approval of the Grassland Bypass Project Pesticide Monitoring Plan