

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 January 2024

Caitie Diemel
Executive Director
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street
Modesto, CA 95354

APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETION – EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION

Thank you for your 18 December 2023 request to remove specific constituents from select East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) site subwatershed management plans. The request proposes to remove 14 site/constituent pairs from active management plan status and from the management plan monitoring schedule.

The Coalition has implemented management plans according to requirements in the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2012-0116-11 for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of a Third-party Group (Order). The conditions for requesting completion of a Management Plan outlined in the Order apply (Attachment B, Appendix MRP-1, Section III, pages 8 and 9).

Based on the information provided in the request letter and in the enclosed staff review, I approve the completion of management plans for the following thirteen site/constituent pairs.

- Ash Slough @ Ave 21 (SC)
- Canal Creek @ West Bellevue Rd (pH, SC)
- Dry Creek @ Rd 18 (SC)
- Duck Slough @ Gurr Rd (Ammonia)
- Highline Canal @ Hwy 99 (*Selenastrum capricornutum*)
- Howard Lateral @ Hwy 140 (DO)
- Levee Drain @ Carpenter Rd (pH)
- Livingston Drain @ Robin Ave (pH)
- Mootz Drain downstream of Langworth Pond (SC)
- Prairie Flower Drain @ Crows Landing Rd (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*)
- Unnamed Drain @ Hwy 140 (pH)
- Westport Drain @ Vivian Rd (pH)

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Implementation of the copper management plans must continue for Deadman Creek @ Hwy 59 because the monitoring data does not support completion of the management plan.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Yared Kebede at yared.kebede@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

 Adam Laputz
Digitally signed by Adam Laputz
Date: 2024.01.26 11:47:13 -08'00'
Water Boards
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Staff Review of Request to Remove Constituents from Management Plan

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Petra Lee
Senior Environmental Scientist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FROM: Yared Kebede
Environmental Scientist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

DATE: 18 January 2024

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE SITE/CONSTITUENT PAIRS FROM
MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING – EAST SAN JOAQUIN
WATER QUALITY COALITION**

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) is required to implement management plans for constituents that exceed water quality objectives at the same site more than once in a three-year period per Order No. R5-2012-0116-11 (Order). The Central Valley Water Board received a request from the Coalition on 18 December 2023 to remove a total of 14 site/constituent pairs in 13 site subwatersheds from the management plan monitoring schedule.

The Coalition's management plans are subject to the requirements found in the Order. The following key components must be addressed in the request: (1) at least three years of compliance with receiving water limitations during the times of year when the parameter is most likely to be present by considering periods of peak use, (2) documentation of third-party education and outreach, (3) documentation of management practice implementation, and (4) demonstration of management practice effectiveness.

Staff reviewed the Coalition's request and recommends that management plans for 13 of the 14 site/constituent pairs be approved for completion. Further details about each category of site/constituent pairs petitioned for management plan completion are provided below:

A. pH in Canal Creek @ West Bellevue Rd

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013												
2014												
2015											8.8	8.8
2016												8.6
2017												
2019												6.4
2020		Dry										
2021											Dry	
2022	Dry	Dry										
2023												

Dry
 Sampled
 Exceedance

There were four exceedances of the pH water quality trigger limit (WQTL) in the Canal Creek @ West Bellevue Rd subwatershed between 2015 and 2019. Since the last exceedance in December 2019, more than three years of monitoring have taken place without any pH exceedances. Staff recommends completion of the pH management plan.

B. Ammonia in Duck Slough @ Gurr Rd

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005												
2006												
2007												
2008										Dry	Dry	
2009												
2010												Dry
2011												Dry
2012	Dry											
2013		Dry	1.7									
2014	Dry											
2015	Dry	Dry	2.1		Dry				Dry	Dry		
2017												Dry
2018	Dry	Dry										
2019	Dry											
2021												Dry
2022	Dry	Dry										Dry
2023	Access											

Dry
 Sampled
 Exceedance

The management plan for Ammonia as N was triggered due to exceedances in March 2013 and 2015. The Coalition has monitored for ammonia 43 times without any exceedances. As part of the 2016 (2016-2018) Focused Outreach, the Coalition provided information to targeted growers to retain water and sediment on the field (tailwater return system and sediment ponds). The Coalition also continues to provide general outreach to all members in the site subwatershed through grower notifications and meetings. Based on the Coalition's outreach and no exceedances within the last three years, staff recommends completion of the ammonia management plan.

C. *Selenastrum capricornutum* in Highline Canal @ Hwy 99

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005												
2006			2.35									
2007												
2008		72		63	75					Dry	Dry	Dry
2009	Dry		Dry								Dry	
2010												Dry
2011	Dry	Dry										Dry
2012			Dry									
2013		12									Dry	Dry
2014	Dry	Dry		Dry		36	40				Dry	
2015		Dry	Dry				63					Dry
2016												Dry
2017												Dry
2018	Dry	Dry										
2019	Dry									80		
2020	Dry	Dry					74					Dry
2021			Dry									Dry
2022	Dry	Dry	Dry									Dry
2023												

Dry
 Sampled
 Exceedance

The management plan for *Selenastrum capricornutum* toxicity at Highline Canal @ Hwy 99 was reinstated due to exceedances in October 2019 and July 2020; the management plan was approved for completion in January 2019. Focused outreach in the Highline Canal @ Hwy 99 subwatershed began in 2010 and the targeted growers have implemented recommended management practices, which include using less water during surface irrigation, spraying areas close to waterbodies when the wind is blowing away, and using air blast applications when wind is between 3-10 mph and upwind of a sensitive site. Also, the coalition discussed local water quality concerns with the targeted growers during the 2016 (2016-2018) and 2020 (2020-2022) Focused Outreach. Monitoring data and focused outreach efforts justify *S. capricornutum* management plan completion.

D. DO in Howard Lateral @ Hwy 140

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2009	Dry	Dry	Dry	1.6								Dry
2010	Dry	Dry	Dry								Dry	Dry
2011												
2013											Dry	
2014	Dry											
2015	0.9					4.5	6.8	3		3.8		Dry
2016		Dry	Dry									
2017	6.6											
2018		Dry										
2019	Dry	Dry										
2020	Dry	Dry					6.9					Dry
2021												
2022	Dry	Dry	Dry								Dry	
2023												

Dry
 Sampled
 Exceedance

There were eight exceedances of the DO WQTL in the Howard Lateral @ Hwy 140 subwatershed between 2009 and 2020. Since the last exceedance in July 2020, three

years of monitoring have taken place without any DO exceedances. Staff recommends completion of the DO management plan.

E. pH in Levee Drain @ Carpenter Rd

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012												
2013												
2014	8.9											
2015												
2016												
2017												8.82
2018		8.71										
2019												
2020												
2021	Dry											
2022												
2023												

Dry
Sampled
Exceedance

There were three exceedances of the pH WQTL in the Levee Drain @ Carpenter Rd subwatershed between 2014 and 2018. The water quality data since the most recent exceedance in February 2018 shows pH is no longer a problem and is in compliance with the Order's receiving water limitations. Staff recommends completion of the pH management plan.

F. pH in Livingston Drain @ Robin Ave

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007					8.95		8.82		8.57			
2008			Dry		8.79	8.54	8.97	8.67	8.72			
2009												
2011	Dry	Dry										
2012												
2013	8.85	Dry		8.89	8.54	8.85	9.44	8.81	Dry			
2014	Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry			9.16	Dry			
2015	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry			Dry
2016		Dry			8.61		8.63					
2017	8.67	Dry										
2018		Dry	Dry									
2019												
2020	Dry	Dry										Dry
2021			Dry									Dry
2022	Dry										Dry	Dry
2023		Dry	Dry									

Dry
Sampled
Exceedance

There were eighteen exceedances of the pH WQTL in the Livingston Drain @ Robin Ave subwatershed between 2007 and 2017. Since the last exceedance in January 2017, more than three years of monitoring have taken place without any pH exceedances. Staff recommends completion of the pH management plan.

G. *Cerodaphnia dubia* in Prairie Flower Drain @ Crows Landing Rd

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005												
2006			75									
2007									0			
2008												
2010												
2011								0				
2012												
2013								0				
2014										Dry	Dry	
2015			0	0	0	70	60					Dry
2016												
2017					0			0				
2018	0		Dry									
2019												
2020												
2021												
2022												

Dry
 Sampled
 Exceedance

The *Cerodaphnia dubia* management plan at Prairie Flower Drain @ Crows Landing Rd is based on twelve exceedances between 2006 and 2018. Since the last toxicity in January 2018, three years of monitoring were conducted without any *C. dubia* toxicity. As part of 2016 (2016-2018) Focused Outreach, the Coalition targeted 11 growers in the site subwatershed and recommended additional management practices to one grower to install a tail water return system although the grower was unable to implement the recommended practice due to financial hardship. Monitoring data and focused outreach efforts justify *C. dubia* management plan completion.

H. pH in Unnamed Drain @ Hwy 140

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013	8.9	Dry	9.1									
2014												
2015		Dry										
2016												
2017												
2019												
2020		Dry										
2021	Dry										Noaccess	
2022	Dry											

Dry
 Sampled
 Exceedance

The pH management plan in Unnamed Drain @ Hwy 140 was triggered due to exceedances of the upper pH WQTL in January and February 2013. The water quality data since the most recent exceedance shows pH is no longer a problem and is in compliance with the Order's receiving water limitations. Staff recommends completion of the pH management plan.

I. pH in Westport Drain @ Vivian Rd

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007												
2008												
2014				Dry								
2015			8.7	Dry								
2016	9.56	Dry					8.76					
2017												
2018												
2019												
2020												
2021			Dry					Dry		Dry		Dry
2022	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
2023	Dry	Dry										

Dry
 Sampled
 Exceedance

The management plan for pH in Westport Drain @ Vivian Rd is based on exceedances of the upper WQTL for pH in 2015 and 2016. The water quality data since the most recent exceedance shows pH is no longer a problem and is in compliance with the Order's receiving water limitations. Staff recommends completion of the pH management plan.

J. SC in Ash Slough @ Ave 21

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004							Dry					
2005												
2006												
2007		Dry		Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry			
2008	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
2009	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
2010	Dry	Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
2014	Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry			
2015	Dry			Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry			Dry
2016	Dry	Dry										
2017	1048											
2018	Dry		Dry	Dry								
2019	Dry	Dry										
2020	Dry		Dry	Dry			Dry	Dry	Dry			
2021			Dry									
2022	Dry		Dry		Dry		Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry	
2023												

L. SC in Mootz Drain downstream of Langworth Pond

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2009												
2010										Dry	Dry	
2013												
2014												
2015												
2016												
2017		787										Dry
2020	Dry											
2021	Dry											
2022	Dry											
2023				Dry								

K. SC Canal Creek @ West Bellevue Rd

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2013												
2014												
2015												
2016												794
2017												
2019												
2020		Dry										
2021											Dry	
2022	Dry	Dry										
2023												

M. SC in Dry Creek @ Rd 18

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005												
2006												
2007												
2008									Dry			
2011												
2012												
2013												Dry
2014	Dry			Dry			Dry	Dry				Dry
2015	Dry					Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry
2016	Dry											Dry
2017			2270									
2018	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry								
2019	Dry											
2020	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry				Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
2021	Dry		Dry		Dry	Dry		Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
2022	Dry		Dry		Dry	Dry		Dry			Dry	Dry
2023												

Dry

Sampled

Exceedance

The management plans for SC at Ash Slough @ Ave 21, Canal Creek @ West Bellevue Rd, Mootz Drain downstream of Langworth Pond, and Dry Creek @ Rd 18 are not required due to a single exceedance of the SC WQTL. The water quality data since the

most recent exceedance shows SC is no longer a problem and is in compliance with the Order's receiving water limitations.

N. Dissolved Copper in Deadman Creek @ Hwy 59

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008												
2011												
2012					Dry			Dry				
2017	7.1											
2018												
2019	Dry	5.8		Dry								
2020	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry								
2021	Dry			Dry								
2022			Dry								Dry	
2023	No Access											

Dry

Sampled

Exceedance

The Coalition has requested management plan completion for dissolved copper in Deadman Creek @ Hwy 99. However, three years of data showing no exceedances has not been attained. Staff recommends additional monitoring is required to meet the three years of compliance with receiving water limitations.