

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 January 2024

Ms. Nicole Bell
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
Post Office Box 151
Bakersfield, CA 93302

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE KERN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION AUTHORITY PESTICIDE EVALUATION PROTOCOL PROPOSAL - 2024 WATER YEAR UPDATE

Thank you for your 5 October 2023 submittal of the Pesticide Evaluation Protocol Proposal – 2024 Water Year Update (Proposal) for the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority. The proposed pesticides and schedule for surface water monitoring were identified based on guidance provided in the Pesticide Evaluation Protocol (PEP) as required by section III.B.2. of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Attachment B to Order R5-2013-0120-09.

Based on the attached staff memorandum, the monitoring schedule complies with the MRP requirements, except for chloropicrin, metconazole, pyraclostrobin, and pyrethrins monitoring. I am approving the Proposal under the condition that the monitoring schedule is revised to include these four pesticides.

If you have any questions regarding this approval letter, please contact Yared Kebede by email at Yared.Kebede@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam Laputz
Digitally signed by Adam Laputz
Date: 2024.01.26 11:50:50
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Water Boards
Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Staff Review of Pesticide Monitoring Proposal

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: 22 January 2024

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE KERN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION AUTHORITY
PESTICIDE EVALUATION PROTOCOL PROPOSAL – 2024 WATER
YEAR UPDATE

The Central Valley Water Board received the revised Pesticide Evaluation Protocol Proposal – 2024 Water Year Update (Proposal) from the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority on 5 October 2023. The Proposal identifies the constituents and schedule for pesticide monitoring in surface water from 1 October 2023 through 30 September 2024.

Staff reviewed the Proposal to determine compliance with the requirements pursuant to section III.B.2 of the Monitoring and Reporting Order R5-2013-0120-09 (Order). A summary of the main elements of the monitoring proposal is provided below, followed by staff recommendation.

1. Monitoring Sites, Parameters, and Schedule

Pesticide monitoring is scheduled at Chanac Creek, El Paso Creek, Kern River, Poso Creek, and Tecuya Creek for the 2024 water year. The constituents selected for monitoring were determined using three years of Pesticide Use Report (PUR) data (2019-2021) as required by the PEP. Pesticides not included on the EO List of Pesticides for the Kern River subwatershed were removed from consideration. Degradates were then added to the list of pesticides under consideration and pesticides with the same toxicant in water were grouped for evaluation of the aquatic life risk ratios.

Pesticides applied within the sub-watersheds were excluded from monitoring based on factors including environmental fate and transport properties such as high volatility, calculation of an aquatic life risk ratio of less than 50 or human health risk ratio less than 10, and no commercially available analytical methods.

2. Staff Comments

The Coalition proposed to exclude certain pesticides from monitoring if “only one Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) accredited laboratory offers the analysis, regardless of the number of non-accredited laboratories offering the analysis”. This led to the proposed exclusion of pesticides from monitoring because the PEP requires availability of commercial analytical methods that can be performed by multiple laboratories. Neither the Order nor the PEP stipulate that pesticide analyses must be conducted using an ELAP accredited method. Therefore, the Proposal should be revised to include monitoring for chloropicrin, metconazole, pyraclostrobin, and pyrethrins.

3. Staff Recommendation

The Proposal successfully executed the steps outlined in the Pesticides Evaluation Protocol and complies with the requirements of the MRP. Staff recommends approval of the Proposal with the condition that monitoring for the four pesticides are scheduled. There are commercially available analytical methods for these pesticides, and ELAP accreditation is unnecessary.