
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 January 2024

Ms. Debra Dunn
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Coordinator
Kings River Water Quality Coalition
4866 E. Jenson
Fresno, CA 93275

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE KINGS RIVER WATER QUALITY COALITION SURFACE WATER PESTICIDE MONITORING PROPOSAL- 2024 UPDATE

Thank you for your 30 October 2023 submittal of the Pesticide Evaluation Protocol Proposal – 2024 Update (Proposal) for the Kings River Water Quality Coalition.

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 acetamiprid, chloropicrin, cyprodinil, metconazole, oryzalin, propiconazole, pyraclostrobin, pyrethrins, S-metolachlor, tau-fluvalinate, and thiamethoxam monitoring. I am approving the Proposal under the condition that the monitoring schedule is revised to include these 11 pesticides.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the review, please contact Yared Kebede by email at Yared.Kebede@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam Laputz 
Digitally signed by Adam Laputz
Date: 2024.01.26 11:59:39 -08'00'
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: 3 January 2024

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE KINGS RIVER WATER QUALITY COALITION
PESICIDE MONITORING PROPOSAL – 2023 UPDATE

The Central Valley Water Board received the Kings River Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) Pesticide Monitoring Proposal (Proposal) on 30 October 2023. The Proposal identifies the constituents and schedule for pesticides in surface water from 1 January 2024 through 31 December 2024.

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

1. Monitoring Sites, Parameters, and Schedule

Pesticide monitoring is scheduled at Crescent Weir, Cross Creek, Empire Weir #2, Gould Canal, and Tivy Creek for the 2024 monitoring based on the Coalition's 3-year rotating schedule. The constituents selected for monitoring were determined using three years of Pesticide Use Report data (2019-2021), as required by the Pesticides Evaluation Protocol. Pesticides that were not applied within the Coalition area 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 and human health risk ratios.

Pesticides applied within the sub-watershed 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 of 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 acetamiprid, chloropicrin, cyprodinil, metconazole, oryzalin, propiconazole, pyraclostrobin, pyrethrins, S-metolachlor, tau-fluvalinate, and thiamethoxam.

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 for pesticide monitoring from 1 January 2024 through 31 December 2024 with the condition that monitoring for the 11 aforementioned pesticides are scheduled. There are commercially available analytical methods for these pesticides, and ELAP accreditation is unnecessary.