
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

26 January 2024

Russ Freeman
Westlands Water Quality Coalition
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CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE 2024 WATER YEAR MONITORING PLAN UPDATE FOR THE WESTLANDS WATER QUALITY COALITION

Thank you for submitting the 2024 Water Year Monitoring Plan Update (MPU) for the Westlands Water Quality Coalition. The MPU provides detailed plans for monitoring water quality constituents at all surface water monitoring sites, as required under the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2014-0001-08 (Order).

Based on the information in the submitted documents and the attached staff memorandum, I conditionally approve the Coalition's MPU. The Coalition should continue sampling for metals (boron and copper) as required by the Pesticide Evaluation Protocol. Staff intend to hold further discussions with the Coalition regarding long-term options for metals monitoring in the Coalition region.

If you have any questions or comments 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 15:31:57
Water Boards

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Staff Review of the 2024 Water Year Monitoring Plan Update.

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: 11 January 2024

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE 2024 WATER YEAR MONITORING PLAN UPDATE
FOR THE WESTLANDS WATER QUALITY COALITION

The Central Valley Water Board received the Westlands Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) Pesticide Monitoring Proposal (Proposal) on 1 August 2023. The proposal identifies the constituents and schedule for surface water monitoring from 1 October 2023 through 30 September 2024.

Staff reviewed the Proposal to determine compliance with the requirements pursuant to section III of the Monitoring and Reporting Order R5-2014-0001-08 (Order). A summary of the main elements of the proposed monitoring proposal is provided below, followed by staff recommendation.

1. Monitoring Sites, Parameters, and Schedule

Surface water monitoring will be completed at two of three sites within each watershed area including:

- Arroyo Pasajero sub-watershed:
 - Arroyo Pasajero at El Dorado Avenue
 - Arroyo Pasajero at Marmon Avenue
 - Arroyo Pasajero at Gale Avenue (secondary)
- Cantua Creek sub-watershed
 - Cantua Creek at Highway 33
 - Cantua Creek at San Luis Canal
 - Cantua Creek at South Stanislaus Avenue (secondary)
- Panoche-Silver Creek sub-watershed
 - Panoche-Silver Creek at I-5 Crossing
 - Panoche-Silver Creek at Belmont Avenue
 - Panoche-Silver Creek at Fairfax Avenue (secondary)

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

When there is inadequate flow for sampling at a primary site, the Coalition will move to the secondary site.

1.1. Pesticides

The constituents selected for monitoring were determined using three years of Pesticide Use Report (PUR) data (2020-2022). Pesticides that were applied within the watershed areas were filtered based on the EO List of Pesticides for Consideration (Attachment A, Pesticides Evaluation Protocol), and pesticides with the same toxicant in water were grouped for evaluation of the aquatic life ratio. Pesticides applied within the watershed areas were excluded from monitoring based on factors including environmental fate and transport properties (e.g., 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.

1.2. Metals

Staff intend to hold further discussions with the Coalition regarding long-term options for metals monitoring in the Coalition region based on the criteria proposed. Until this process concludes, the Coalition should continue sampling for metals (boron and copper) as required by the Pesticides Evaluation Protocol.

2. Staff Recommendation

The MPU successfully executed the steps outlined in the Pesticides Evaluation Protocol and complies with the pesticide monitoring requirement of the Order. Staff recommends approval of the MPU from 1 October 2023 through 30 September 2024 with the condition that monitoring for metals is scheduled.