

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 February 2025

Mr. Tim Johnson
California Rice Commission
1231 I Street, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95814-2933

APPROVAL OF 2025 RICE PESTICIDES PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Thank you for submitting the 2024 Rice Pesticides Program Annual Monitoring Report and management practice recommendations for the 2025 monitoring season. The report and recommendations were submitted to meet the conditions of Resolution No. R5-2010-9001. The Central Valley Water Board staff review of the Annual Monitoring Report is in the attached memorandum.

In 2024, there were no exceedances of the thiobencarb water quality objective at the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento water intakes, nor of the performance goal at the agricultural drains. Your management practice recommendation for 2025 is to continue actions implemented by rice growers in the Sacramento Valley in 2024. No new management practices are proposed.

I approve your management practice recommendation for 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Peters by phone at (916) 464-4857 or by email at Ashley.Peters@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Adam
Laputz
Date: 2025.03.03 13:47:52
08:00
Water Boards

Adam Laputz

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Craig Riddle, California Rice Commission (by email)
Rice Pesticides Program stakeholders (by email)

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Petra Lee
Senior Environmental Scientist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FROM: Ashley Peters, P.E.
Water Resources Control Engineer
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

DATE: 12 February 2025

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE RICE PESTICIDES PROGRAM 2024 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
AND 2025 MANAGEMENT PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

On 30 December 2024, the California Rice Commission (CRC) submitted the 2024 Annual Monitoring Report for the Rice Pesticides Program following a two-week public comment period on the draft submittal. On 10 January 2025, management practice recommendations for the 2025 monitoring season were submitted.

In this memorandum, staff provides a summary of the monitoring activities conducted during 2024, the management practice recommendations for the 2025 monitoring season, and staff recommendations.

SUMMARY OF THE 2024 SEASON

The CRC monitored for thiobencarb at five (5) sites from 30 April to 2 July 2024:

- Colusa Basin Drain 5 in the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (CBD5);
- Colusa Basin Drain above Knights Landing (CBD1);
- Butte Slough at Lower Pass Road (BS1);
- Sacramento Slough Bridge near Karnak (SSB); and
- Sacramento River at Village Marina/Crawdads Cantina (SR1).

Thiobencarb was detected above the reporting limit in 1 of 70 samples collected at these sites in 2024. There were no exceedances of the performance goal of 1.5 micrograms per liter (µg/L).

The Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento monitored for thiobencarb at their water supply intakes from 10 April to 26 June 2024:

- City of Sacramento at Sacramento River Intake (SSR); and
- George Kristoff Water Treatment Plant Intake, formerly the City of West Sacramento Intake at Bryte Bend, (WSR).

There were no detections of thiobencarb above the reporting limit at the water intakes for the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento or at CRC's Sacramento River site.

The acreage treated with thiobencarb, relative to planted acreage, was much lower in 2024 compared to previous years. Treated acreage decreased from about 140,000 acres to 75,000 acres (or 45 percent) from 2023 to 2024, while planted acreage decreased by only 5 percent. The CRC says this is primarily due to increased competition from other recently registered herbicides. Detections of thiobencarb in waterways typically trend with treated acreage.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2025 SEASON

The CRC did not propose any changes to the Rice Pesticides Program for 2025. The CRC plans to continue with the management practices previously implemented. These actions include the following:

- 1) Support voluntary acreage reductions by the registrant (the company or individual applying to register a pesticide), who controls product availability within the current manufacturing and distribution limitations; and
- 2) Department of Pesticide Regulation Enforcement Branch limitation of the liquid formulation (Abolish 8EC) of thiobencarb to ground only applications north of Highway 20 and west of the Sacramento River.

In addition to the recommendations outlined above, the CRC will continue to implement the actions required by the Resolution and subsequent approval letters, which emphasize outreach and education and funding the county agricultural commissioners' supplemental surveillance contracts.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2024 Annual Monitoring Report contained the information necessary to review and evaluate the program. The water quality objective and performance goal at the respective monitoring sites was met in 2024. Staff recommends approval of the management practices planned for 2024.