
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

DRAFT PESTICIDE EVALUATION PROTOCOL NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Central Valley Water Board is providing an opportunity for public comment on the *Draft Pesticide Evaluation Protocol* (see link below), which was developed to evaluate pesticides for surface water monitoring under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Under the ILRP Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Orders, pesticides to be monitored are to be identified using an evaluation process and initial list of pesticides issued by the Executive Officer. The third-party is required to apply the process and evaluation factors in each sub-watershed and propose pesticides to be monitored in the Monitoring Plan Update.

The MRP Orders specify that the list of pesticides, evaluation process and factors be developed with input from qualified scientists and coordination with the Department of Pesticide Regulation. In 2014, Staff convened a Pesticide Evaluation Advisory Workgroup (Workgroup) to provide input on a process for evaluating and prioritizing pesticides for surface water monitoring. *The Draft Pesticide Evaluation Protocol* is based on Workgroup discussions and materials developed by Workgroup members over the course of six meetings.

In instances where the Workgroup members did not reach consensus on the best approach to follow, the Executive Officer will make a decision on the final approach. In particular, the question of whether the US EPA's Human Health Benchmarks should be used as reference values for ranking and prioritizing pesticide monitoring is a complex issue that was not resolved. Note that benchmarks are not adopted as Basin Plan objectives for human health. In the Draft Pesticide Evaluation Protocol, the pesticides that do not have adopted numeric objectives for human health would not require monitoring at this time (unless they warrant monitoring based on the aquatic life ranking process), but would only be ranked and reported to ILRP staff. Staff plans to convene a working group of technical experts to address how to appropriately use human health benchmarks as a screening tool.

Please submit written comments on the Draft Pesticide Evaluation Protocol to Susan Fregien by **27 July 2016** (Susan.Fregien@Waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 464-4813).

The draft protocol can be found at the following link:

Draft Pesticide Evaluation Protocol:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/regulatory_information/stakeholder_advisory_workgroup/index.shtml#draftpestprotocol

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Susan Fregien by email at susan.fregien@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 464-4813.

Original signed by
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27 June 2016