

**ITEM 20**  
**Agricultural Regulatory Program Update - Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring**

**ATTACHMENT 2 TO SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET**  
**FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 14-15, 2013**

Revised March 14, 2013

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**  
**R3-2012-011-03, PART 2.A.6.**

6. In lieu of conducting individual groundwater monitoring, Dischargers may participate in a cooperative groundwater monitoring effort to help minimize costs and to develop an effective groundwater monitoring program. Qualifying cooperative groundwater monitoring and reporting programs may include, but are not limited to, regional or subregional groundwater programs developed for other purposes as long as the proposed cooperative groundwater monitoring program meets the Central Coast Water Board's general purpose of characterizing groundwater quality and ensuring the protection of drinking water sources. Proposals for cooperative groundwater monitoring efforts, including the use of other regional or subregional groundwater monitoring programs, must be approved by the Executive Officer. At a minimum, the cooperative groundwater monitoring effort must include sufficient monitoring to adequately characterize the groundwater aquifer(s) in the local area of the participating Dischargers, characterize the groundwater quality of the uppermost aquifer, and identify and evaluate groundwater used for domestic drinking water purposes. Cooperative groundwater monitoring efforts must comply with the requirements for sampling protocols and laboratory analytical methods identified in this MRP, including parameters listed in Table 3, or propose a functional equivalent that meets the same objectives and purposes as individual groundwater monitoring. The cooperative groundwater monitoring program must report results consistent with individual groundwater reporting defined in part 2.B, or report results in a manner that is consistent with that approved by the Executive Officer in his or her approval of the cooperative groundwater monitoring proposal. Dischargers electing to participate in a cooperative groundwater monitoring effort must convey this election to the Central Coast Water Board **by August 1, 2012**, and the individual groundwater monitoring requirements shall not apply as long as a cooperative groundwater monitoring proposal for that Discharger's area is submitted within one (1) year of adoption of this Order. If no cooperative groundwater monitoring proposal for that Discharger's area is submitted within one (1) year, then the individual groundwater monitoring provisions shall apply and the Discharger shall have one (1) year to comply with the provisions identified in Part 2.

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<Add to Part 2A.6:>

Dischargers who wish to participate in a cooperative groundwater monitoring ~~effort~~program, but did not elect the cooperative groundwater monitoring option on their eNOI by the August 1, 2012 deadline may switch to cooperative groundwater monitoring if the following applies:

- a) Discharger complied with the requirement to conduct individual groundwater sampling during the initial September – December 2012 time period;
- b) Discharger is in compliance with requirements to update the electronic-Notice of Intent (eNOI) and submit the Annual Compliance Form (Tier 2 and Tier 3 only);
- c) The Executive Officer approved a cooperative groundwater monitoring proposal that was submitted to the Water Board by March 15, 2013 and that includes the grower's individual farm/ranch area.

Dischargers electing to participate in an approved cooperative groundwater monitoring ~~effort~~program must convey this election to the administrator of the cooperative monitoring program **within 30 60 days of approval of the cooperative groundwater monitoring proposal.**

The administrator of an approved groundwater monitoring program must provide the Executive Officer with a list of participants **within 45 75 days of approval of the cooperative groundwater monitoring program.**

Dischargers who participate in a cooperative groundwater monitoring program approved by the Executive Officer are responsible for the successful implementation of that program. This individual discharger responsibility has two consequences if the cooperative monitoring program is not successfully implemented: 1) The Water Board may take enforcement action against individual dischargers. 2) The Water Board or Executive Officer will require individual discharges to conduct individual monitoring per the requirements of the Ag Order. The failure of a third-party group to successfully implement an approved program cannot be used as an excuse for lack of individual discharger compliance.