
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 5, 2017

Via Electronic Mail

Mr. George Kendall
Santa Rosa Creek Valley Groundwater
Monitoring Cooperative
4330 Santa Rosa Creek Rd.
Cambria, CA 93428
georgekendall01@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Kendall:

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM: APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR SANTA ROSA CREEK VALLEY, CAMBRIA, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

The Central Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) approved Agricultural Order R3-2017-0002 and associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRPs) on March 8, 2017. The new Agricultural Order is the third Agricultural Order adopted in the central coast region, so is referred to as Ag Order 3.0. Ag Order 3.0 has a term of three years and must be replaced by March 7, 2020. Ag Order 3.0 and the associated MRPs require groundwater monitoring and reporting. Growers may choose to comply with groundwater monitoring and reporting individually, or through a cooperative monitoring and reporting program that is approved by the Executive Officer. A copy of Ag Order 3.0 and associated MRPs, including groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements are available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

Central Coast Water Board staff reviewed the *Santa Rosa Creek Valley Groundwater Monitoring Cooperative* plan, dated November 26, 2016 (Work Plan) for the Santa Rosa Creek Valley located in Cambria, CA. The Work Plan was initially submitted to comply with the MRPs associated with Agricultural Order R3-2012-0011, approved by the Executive Officer on August 22, 2016. Per your request, staff has reviewed the Work Plan per the recently adopted Ag Order 3.0 and associated MRPs, and I am hereby approving the Work Plan as submitted and outlined below.

Santa Rosa Creek Valley Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Santa Rosa Creek Valley Groundwater Monitoring Cooperative includes eleven members identified in Table 1 below. All members are enrolled in Ag Order 3.0 and the enrolled parcels are located in the Santa Rosa Creek Valley watershed. The Work Plan proposes to continue implementation of the cooperative groundwater monitoring groundwater monitoring and reporting program for the Santa Rosa Creek Valley approved in May 2013.

The Santa Rosa Creek Groundwater Basin is a relatively small basin underlying approximately six miles of the western portion of Santa Rosa Creek Valley. Existing data documents that

groundwater is of relatively high quality with no known exceedances of the drinking water standard for nitrate. Groundwater wells produce from the alluvial sediments that form the aquifer or from fractured bedrock immediately beneath or adjacent to the alluvial sediments.

The Work Plan proposes to monitor three groundwater wells which are representative of the hydrogeologic conditions of the groundwater basin, including the following: 1) Broadhurst Well - Dragon Spring Farm (AGL020000877), 2) Kendall Well - Dos Pasos Ranch (AGL020001145), and 3) Garoupa Well – Five G Farm (AGL020018862). The three groundwater wells will be sampled twice each in 2017 and analyzed for all the required groundwater sampling parameters identified in Table 3 of the MRP. Pursuant to Part 2A of the MRP, the first groundwater sample from each groundwater well must be collected between March 1 and June 30, 2017, and the second sample must be collected between September 1 and December 31, 2017. Laboratory analyses must be conducted by a State certified laboratory according to U.S. EPA-approved methods and analytical results must be submitted within 60 days of sample collection using the Water Board’s GeoTracker electronic deliverable format (EDF). Pursuant to Part 2B of the MRP, analytical results must be uploaded to the individual ranch Global ID (AGL#) where the groundwater well is located.

Table 1. Santa Rosa Creek Valley Groundwater Cooperative Members

Ranch Name	GeoTracker Global ID
Linn's Fruit Bin	AGL020005092
Dragon Spring Farm	AGL020000877
McCall Farm	AGL020007543
Redwing Ranch	AGL020003598
Pop's Place Farm	AGL020003329
Dos Pasos Ranch	AGL020001145
Dos Cruces Ranch (aka Stolo Family Vineyard)	AGL020004167
Five G Farm	AGL020018862
Spitzley Farm (aka Boulder Ridge Vineyard)	AGL020001021
5860 Santa Rosa Creek Road	AGL020015867
Rosavo Ranch	AGL020024642

Drinking Water Notification Requirements

Ag Order 3.0 and the associated MRPs prioritize safe drinking water and the protection of public health, and require drinking water notification in the case of a drinking water exceedance. Part 2(6) of the MRP states that if a Discharger or third party conducting cooperative groundwater monitoring determines that water in any well that is used or may be used for drinking water exceeds 10 mg/L of nitrate as Nitrogen, the Discharger or third party must provide notice to the Central Coast Water Board within 24 hours of learning of the exceedance. For domestic wells on a Discharger’s farm /ranch that exceed 10 mg/L nitrate as Nitrogen, the Discharger or third party must provide written notification to the users within 10 days of learning of the exceedance and provide confirmation of the notification to the Central Coast Water Board.

The drinking water notification must include the statement that the water poses a human health risk due to elevated nitrate concentration, and include a warning against the use of the water for drinking or cooking. In addition, Dischargers must also provide prompt written notification to any new well users (e.g. tenants and employees with access to the affected well), whenever there is a change in occupancy. In addition, all records required by Ag Order 3.0 and the associated

MRPs are available to the public, including but not limited to groundwater data and any drinking water notification and confirmation letters.

Legal Requirements

These groundwater monitoring reports are required pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267, which allows the Central Coast Water Board to require submission of technical reports from persons whose activities may have an impact on water quality, and to determine compliance with Agricultural Order R3-2017-0002. Failure to submit the requested reports indicated above may result in the Central Coast Water Board imposing an administrative civil liability in the amount up to \$1,000 for each day of the violation pursuant to California Water Code Section 13268(b)(1) if you fail to respond, respond late, or submit an inadequate response.

The Central Coast Water Board recognizes that cooperative third-party approaches may provide a number of short and long-term benefits that can bring participants together to maximize local efforts toward understanding and improving water quality. We appreciate your efforts to work together to develop an effective cooperative monitoring program.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact **Corey Walsh (805) 542-4781** or at **corey.walsh@waterboards.ca.gov** or Angela Schroeter at (805) 542-4644 or at **angela.schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov**.

Sincerely,

John M. Robertson

Digitally signed by John M.
Robertson

Date: 2017.04.04 18:08:32 -07'00'

John M. Robertson
Executive Officer

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GeoTracker ID: AGC100000002