Irrigated Lands Program Annual Compliance Form (ACF) Instructions

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Annual Compliance Form Requirement

The purpose of the electronic Annual Compliance Form (ACF) is to provide updated information to the Central Coast Water Board to assist in the evaluation of water quality and progress towards compliance with the Agricultural Order. This information includes, but is not limited to, implementation of management practices, treatment or control measures, or changes in farming practices.

The ACF is required and must be submitted annually by March 1, for all ranches. This form is entirely online and must be accessed by logging into the operation's GeoTracker ESI account.

Growers should complete and update the ACF based on information from the last 12 months. To submit the ACF the grower must click "Save & Submit" at the end of the form. The date of the last submittal is shown at the top of the form, and growers should update information as necessary.

Information Needed

To complete the ACF growers will need the following types of information:

- Primary source(s) of irrigation water
- Irrigation type(s)
- Stormwater discharge characteristics
- Irrigation discharge characteristics
- Tile drain discharge characteristics
- Water containment characteristics
- Water quality management practices
- Water quality improvement projects.

Section A: General Requirements

Verify or update operation and ranch information as needed by logging in to GeoTracker ESI.

Section B: Irrigation Water

The primary irrigation water source is the one that provides the greatest percentage of irrigation water for the ranch.

Section C: Total Nitrogen Applied Reporting

Growers required to report Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA) under Agricultural Order 3.0 must continue to maintain records necessary to submit complete and accurate TNA reports by March 1, annually.

Section D: Irrigation Nutrient Management Plan Reporting

Not Currently required.

Section E: Stormwater Discharge Characteristics

Stormwater discharge is surface water runoff that leaves the ranch from precipitation in excess of what can infiltrate the soil surface and be stored in small surface depressions.

Section F: Irrigation Discharge Characteristics

Irrigation discharge is surface water runoff that leaves the ranch following application of irrigation water in excess of what can infiltrate the soil surface and be stored in small surface depressions (i.e., tail water).

Section G: Tile Drain Discharge Characteristics

Tile drains are subsurface drainage that remove excess water from the soil profile, usually through a network of perforated tile tubes installed 2 to 4 feet below the soil surface. Tile drains allow excess water to leave the field and lowers the water table to the depth of the tile over the course of several days. Discharge stops once the water table has been lowered to the tiles.

Section H: Water Containment Characteristics

Containment structures refer to any type of structure built to collect or contain any water for uses including, but not limited to, irrigation storage, settling ponds, irrigation and/or stormwater runoff collection, and frost control.

Section I: Water Quality Management Practices

Growers should refer to their Farm Water Quality Management Plan (Farm Plan) to complete this section and identify on-farm water quality practices implemented on their ranch in the last 12 months. Management categories include irrigation and nutrient management, pesticide management, and sediment and erosion management. For each of these categories evaluate methods used to assess the effectiveness of practices implemented and assess results or outcomes that demonstrate progress towards water quality improvement.

If selections are not available on the list provided, growers must describe them in the appropriate section of their Farm Plan.

Section J: Water Quality Improvement Projects

Growers should provide information about participation in specific water quality improvement projects with other growers. Include information about the type and scale of the project. If selections are not available on the list provided, growers must describe them in their Farm Plan.

Section K: Individual Surface Water Discharge Reporting

Not Currently required.

Section L: Water Quality Buffer Plan Reporting

Not Currently required.

Questions and Assistance

If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact Irrigated Lands Program Staff at (805) 549-3148 or AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please visit us at the Irrigated Lands Program website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/.

Sample Annual Compliance Form

AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM - ANNUAL COMPLIANCE INFO

Name of Operation: VIEW OPERATION FORM

Ranch / Farm Name:

Section A: General Requirements

Is the information reported in the electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI) accurate and up to date for this ranch/farm? ○ YES ○ NO

Section B: Irrigation Water

What is the primary source of irrigation water on this ranch/farm? ▼

Section C: Total Nitrogen Applied Reporting (Tier 2 and Tier 3 farms, growing any high risk crop) — Due Annually by March 1

Section D: Certified Irrigation Nutrient Management Plan Effectiveness Report (Tier 3 farms required under 2012 Agricultural Order, or by Executive Officer) — Due March 1, 2019

Section E: Stormwater Discharge Characteristics

Does stormwater leave this ranch / farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES, under what conditions does stormwater leave this ranch/farm during storm events? ▼

If YES, what is the estimated acreage that produces stormwater runoff (doesn't infiltrate) and ends up leaving this ranch/farm during storm events?

Section F: Irrigation Discharge Characteristics

Does irrigation runoff leave this ranch / farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES provide the following information:

Where is the closest drainage point from this ranch/farm to any surface water body (e.g., Stream, Lake, Bay, and/or Ocean)? ▼

State the number of locations where irrigation runoff leaves this ranch/farm. ▼

State the estimated total number of days/year when irrigation runs off/leaves this ranch / farm at any location(s). ▼

State the primary season(s) when irrigation runoff leaves this ranch / farm:

- ☐ Summer (June 21 - September 20)
- ☐ Fall (September 21 - December 20)
- ☐ Winter (December 21 - March 20)
- ☐ Spring (March 21 - June 20)

State the estimated maximum total volume of irrigation runoff leaving from your ranch / farm on the highest flow day of the year. Report in gallons per day. ▼

Section G: Tile Drain Discharge Characteristics

Does tile drain water leave this ranch / farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES provide the following information:

Where is the closest drainage point from this ranch/farm to any surface water body (e.g., Stream, Lake, Bay, and/or Ocean)? ▼

State the number of locations where tile drain water leaves this ranch/farm. ▼

State the estimated total number of days/year when tile drain water leaves this ranch / farm at any location(s). ▼

State the primary season(s) when tile drain water leaves this ranch / farm:

- ☐ Summer (June 21 - September 20)
- ☐ Fall (September 21 - December 20)
- ☐ Winter (December 21 - March 20)
- ☐ Spring (March 21 - June 20)

State the total estimated maximum volume of tile drain water leaving from your ranch / farm on the highest flow day of the year. Report in gallons per day. ▼

Section H: Water Containment Characteristics

Are there water containment structure(s) (i.e., ponds, reservoirs) on this ranch/farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES, state the type of treatment or control that is used to minimize and/or prevent the percolation of waste to groundwater.

Section I: Water Quality Management Practices (select all that apply)

Nutrient Management - Practice Implementation
Identify nutrient management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months, if any.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Evaluated how much fertilizer crop needs and timing of application.
- ☐ Scheduled fertilizer applications to match crop requirements.
- ☐ Measured nitrogen concentration in irrigation water and adjusted fertilizer nitrogen applications accordingly.
- ☐ Measured soil nitrate or soil solution nitrate and adjusted fertilizer nitrogen applications accordingly.
- ☐ Used precision techniques to place fertilizer in the root zone, to ensure crop uptake, with minimal runoff and deep percolation (e.g. fertigation).
- ☐ Measured nitrogen in plant tissue and adjusted fertilizer nitrogen applications.
- ☐ Measured phosphorus in soil and adjusted fertilizer phosphorus applications.
- ☐ Measured nitrogen and phosphorous content of applied manures and other organic amendments.
- ☐ Mixed and loaded fertilizers on low runoff hazard sites (e.g. away from creeks and wells)
- ☐ Used urease inhibitors and/or nitrification inhibitors.
- ☐ Modified crop rotation to use beneficial cover crops, deep rooted species, or perennials to utilize nitrogen.
- ☐ Used treatment systems to remove nitrogen from irrigation runoff or drainage water (e.g. wood chip bioreactor).
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Nutrient Management - Practice Assessment
Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s) / practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- ☐ Not Assessed
- ☐ Compared amount of nitrogen applied in fertilizer and in irrigation water to crop need.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration below the root zone.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Estimated/measured nitrate load in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Estimated/measured nitrate load in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Estimated/measured nitrate loading to groundwater.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration in groundwater.
- ☐ Modeled or studied nitrate in surface water or groundwater.
- ☐ Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or other).
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Nutrient Management - Practice Outcome(s)
Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months, if any.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Annual fertilizer nitrogen application reduced.
- ☐ Total nitrogen applied as fertilizer and in irrigation water matches crop need.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate concentration or load, in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate concentration or load, in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate loading to groundwater.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate concentration in groundwater.
- ☐ Water quality standards achieved.
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Irrigation Management - Practice Implementation
Identify irrigation management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months, if any.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Determined amount of crop water uptake and applied irrigation water accordingly.
- ☐ Installed more efficient irrigation system (e.g. microirrigation).

- [ ] Improved irrigation distribution uniformity (DU) based on results of mobile lab or similar assessment.
- [ ] Scheduled irrigation events using soil moisture measurements.
- [ ] Scheduled irrigation events using weather information (e.g., evapo-transpiration, crop coefficient).
- [ ] Maintained irrigation system to maximize efficiency and minimize losses (e.g. system components are replaced and/or flushed/cleaned).
- [ ] Selected sprinkler heads,nozzles, and drip tape/emitter with application rate(s) that match system layout, system pressure, and infiltration rates.
- [ ] Installed a variable speed pump and/or control system to improve irrigation distribution uniformity (DU).
- [ ] Recycled or reused excess irrigation water.
- [ ] Contained and/or treated irrigation water runoff prior to discharge off the farm/ranch.
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Irrigation Management - Practice Assessment
Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- [ ] Not Assessed
- [ ] Walked the perimeter of the property and cropped areas to verify irrigation runoff has been reduced or eliminated.
- [ ] Recorded amount of irrigation water applied.
- [ ] Recorded and reduced number of tailwater days/year.
- [ ] Compared amount of irrigation water applied to crop water uptake
- [ ] Estimated/measured volume of irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Conducted field quick tests or used handheld meters to determine waste concentrations in irrigation runoff or tile drain water.
- [ ] Conducted laboratory analysis to determine waste concentrations in irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Modeled or studied amount of irrigation water losses (runoff or deep percolation).
- [ ] Conducted photo monitoring before and after practice implementation.
- [ ] Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or other).
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Irrigation Management - Practice Outcome(s)
Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months, if any.

- [ ] None
- [ ] Volume of water applied matches crop needs.
- [ ] Annual volume of irrigation water applied reduced.
- [ ] Number of tailwater days/year reduced.
- [ ] Reduction in volume of irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Elimination of irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Reduction in volume of tile drain discharge.
- [ ] Reduction in water infiltration/percolation losses.
- [ ] Reduction in pollutant concentration in irrigation runoff and/or tile drain discharge.
- [ ] Water quality standards achieved.
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Pesticide Management - Practice Implementation
Identify pesticide management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months, if any.

- [ ] None
- [ ] Certified Organic
- [ ] Utilized Integrated Pest Management to reduce pesticide use (e.g., pest scouting, beneficial insects other).
- [ ] Selected lower risk pesticides to minimize risk to water quality (e.g. based on toxicity, runoff potential, leaching potential).
- [ ] Followed specific label instructions and any local use restrictions.
- [ ] Avoided pesticide applications prior to rain events to prevent runoff.
- [ ] Avoided pesticide applications during windy conditions to prevent drift.
- [ ] Avoided pesticide application in areas adjacent to streams, creeks, or other surface water bodies.
- [ ] Eliminated or controlled irrigation runoff during and after pesticide applications.
- [ ] Eliminated or controlled sediment erosion and movement to avoid transport of pesticides.
- [ ] Treated irrigation runoff with enzymes or other products to breakdown pesticides.

- [ ] Used filter strips, vegetated treatment or other systems to remove pesticides and pollutants from irrigation runoff or tile drain water.
- [ ] Mixed and loaded pesticides on low runoff hazard sites (e.g. away from creeks and wells)
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Pesticide Management - Practice Assessment
Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- [ ] Not Assessed
- [ ] Conducted field quick tests or used handheld meters to determine pesticide concentrations or toxicity in irrigation runoff or tile drain water.
- [ ] Conducted laboratory analysis to determine pesticide concentrations or toxicity in irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Measured pesticide concentrations or toxicity in surface receiving water.
- [ ] Measured pesticide concentrations or toxicity in tile drain water
- [ ] Modeled or studied pesticides or toxicity in surface water or groundwater.
- [ ] Conducted photo monitoring before and after practice implementation.
- [ ] Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or other).
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Pesticide Management - Practice Outcome(s)
Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months, if any.

- [ ] None
- [ ] Annual pesticide application reduced.
- [ ] Reduction in pesticide concentration or toxicity in irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Reduction in pesticide concentration or toxicity in surface receiving water.
- [ ] Water quality standards achieved.
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Sediment Management - Practice Implementation
Identify sediment management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months, if any.

- [ ] None
- [ ] Avoided disturbance of soils adjacent to streams, creeks, and other surface water bodies.
- [ ] Minimized presence of bare soil in non-cropped areas.
- [ ] Minimized presence of bare soil in cropped areas.
- [ ] Minimized tillage to protect soil structure and cover soil.
- [ ] Used soil amendments to protect soil structure.
- [ ] Planted cover crops.
- [ ] Aligned rows for proper drainage and to reduce erosion.
- [ ] Diverted runoff and concentrated flows to grassed areas.
- [ ] Controlled concentrated drainage on roads by grading to reduce erosion or installing culverts, rolling dips, underground outlet pipe(s).
- [ ] Installed filter strips, vegetated treatment or other systems to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff.
- [ ] Installed sediment basin(s), pond(s), reservoir(s) or other sediment trapping structures to remove sediments from discharge
- [ ] Applied Polyacrylamide (PAM) in irrigation water
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Sediment Management - Practice Assessment
Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- [ ] Not Assessed
- [ ] Walked the perimeter of the property to verify erosion controls and that sediment doesn't leave the ranch/farm during irrigation events and/or storm events.
- [ ] Conducted laboratory analysis, field quick tests or used handheld meters to measure turbidity in irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Estimated sediment load in irrigation and.or stormwater runoff.
- [ ] Conducted laboratory analysis, field quick tests or used handheld meters to measure turbidity in stormwater runoff.
- [ ] Modeled or studied sediment load in surface water.
- [ ] Conducted photo monitoring before and after practice implementation.
- [ ] Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or

other).

- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Sediment Management - Practice Outcome(s)
Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months, if any.

- [ ] None
- [ ] Soil coverage increased and amount of bare soil reduced.
- [ ] Reduction in turbidity or sediment load in irrigation runoff.
- [ ] Reduction in turbidity or sediment load in stormwater runoff.
- [ ] Reduction in turbidity or sediment load in surface receiving water.
- [ ] Reduction in stormwater flow and/or volume.
- [ ] Water quality standards achieved.
- [ ] Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Section J: Water Quality Improvement Projects

Is this ranch/farm participating in a specific water quality improvement project with other growers? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES provide the following information:

Identify the type of project. ▼

Describe the scale of the project. ▼

Section K: Individual Surface Water Discharge Reporting	Subset of Tier 3 ranches/farms: Due annually by March 1
Section L: Water Quality Buffer Plan Reporting: (Tier 3 ranches/farms required under 2012 Agricultural Order, or by Executive Officer)	Due by March 1, 2019

Proprietary Information

Information related to trade secrets or secret processes are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Water Code §13267. If the Discharger asserts that all or a portion of a report submitted is exempt from public disclosure the Discharger must provide an explanation of how those portions of the reports are exempt from public disclosure.

Does this Annual Compliance Form contain information related to trade secrets or secret processes)? ○ YES ○ NO

Authorization and Certification

By submitting this Annual Compliance Form, in compliance with Water Code § 13267, I certify under penalty of perjury that this document was prepared by me, or under my direction or supervision, following a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this document is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

Save & Submit