

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 July 2024

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Sacramento, CA 95814

### **NITRATE SURFACE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED FOR GRAND ISLAND DRAIN NEAR LEARY ROAD**

On 28 December 2021 a second nitrate exceedance within three years occurred at the surface water quality monitoring site, Grand Island Drain near Leary Road, triggering a surface water quality management plan (SQMP). A third nitrate exceedance occurred on 21 December 2022.

In accordance with the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed Order R5-2014-0030-11 (Order):

*“A SQMP shall be developed by the Third-Party where: (1) an applicable water quality objective or applicable water quality trigger limit is exceeded (considering applicable averaging periods) twice in a three year period for the same constituent at a monitoring location (trigger limits are described in section VIII of the MRP) and irrigated agriculture may cause or contribute to the exceedances...”*

On 31 March 2023, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted a Technical Memorandum (Tech Memo) titled, “Grand Island Drain Upstream Nitrogen Source Investigation Monitoring” detailing the one-day study results. An outfall from an unenrolled parcel was found to have a concentration of 14 mg/L while the downstream sampling site Grand Island Drain near Leary Road had a concentration of 4.4 mg/L nitrate. Unfortunately, the Tech Memo does not fulfill the requirements for a Source Identification Study detailed in Appendix MRP-1 of the Order, including:

- A lack of pre-approval by the Executive Officer,
- A lack of an evaluation of the types of practices, commodities, and locations that may be a source,
- Inclusion of a continued or increased monitoring plan,

- Inclusion of an assessment of potential pathways through which waste discharges could occur, or
- Inclusion of a schedule for conducting the study.

*Exceedances at Grand Island Drain near Leary Road*

Date	Nitrate Exceedance	Nitrate MCL
26 October 2021	18 mg/L	10 mg/L
28 December 2021	20 mg/L	10 mg/L
21 December 2022	11 mg/L	10 mg/L
MCL = California Maximum Contaminant Level mg/L = milligrams per liter		

An SQMP for nitrate at Grand Island Drain near Leary Road is required that fulfills the requirements described in Appendix MRP-1: Management Plan Requirements for Surface Water and Groundwater in the Order, and the Coalition's Comprehensive Surface Water Quality Management Plan (CSQMP). The SQMP for Nitrate exceedances must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by **24 October 2024**.

If you have any questions, please contact Petra Lee at (916) 464-4604 or [Petra.Lee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Petra.Lee@waterboards.ca.gov) or Olivia Mathews at (530) 224-3215 or [Olivia.Mathews@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Olivia.Mathews@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Adam Laputz  
Digitally signed by Adam Laputz  
Date: 2024.07.25 10:01:16 -07'00'  
Water Boards

Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

cc: Bruce Houdesheldt, Northern California Water Association