Attachment E – Notice of Intent

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

I. NOTICE OF INTENT STATUS (see Instructions)

Mark only one item	A. New Applicator	B. Change of Information: WDID# 3 400207002	
	C. ☐ Change of ownership or responsibility: WDID#		

II. DISCHARGER INFORMATION

A. Name County of San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District			
B. Mailing Address 976 Osos Street, Room 206			
C. City San Luis Obispo	D. County San Luis Obispo	E. State California	F. Zip 93408
G. Contact Person Keith Miller	H. E-mail address klmiller@co.slo.ca.us	I. Title Environmental Programs Manager	J. Phone (805) 781-5714

III. BILLING ADDRESS (Enter Information *only* if different from Section II above)

A. Name			
B. Mailing Address			
C. City	D. County	E. State	F. Zip
G. E-mail address	H. Title	I. Phone	

IV. RECEIVING WATER INFORMATION

A. Algaecide and aquatic herbicides are used to treat (check all that apply):

1. ☐ Canals, ditches, or other constructed conveyance facilities owned and controlled by Discharger.
   Name of the conveyance system: _____
2. ☐ Canals, ditches, or other constructed conveyance facilities owned and controlled by an entity other than the Discharger.
   Owner's name: _____
   Name of the conveyance system: _____
3. Directly to river, lake, creek, stream, bay, ocean, etc.
   Name of water body: Arroyo Grande Creek, Los Berros diversion channel

B. Regional Water Quality Control Board(s) where treatment areas are located (REGION 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9): Region 3
(List all regions where algaecide and aquatic herbicide application is proposed.)

V. ALGAECIDE AND AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION INFORMATION

A. Target Organisms: 7

English Ivy, Cape Ivy, Giant Reed, Castor Bean, Perriwinkle, Fennel, Poison Hemlock

B. Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Used: List Name and Active ingredients

2-4% v/v solution glyphosate + methylated seed oil + non-toxic dye
Milestone (Aminopyralid)
1-1.5% v/v solution glyphosate + non-toxic dye
2% v/v solution glyphosate Aquamaster + methylated seed oil + non-toxic dye

C. Period of Application: Start Date January 1 End Date December 31

D. Types of Adjuvants Used:
methylated seed oil

VI. AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATION PLAN

Has an Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan been prepared and is the applicator familiar with its contents?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, when will it be prepared? _____

VII. NOTIFICATION

Have potentially affected public and governmental agencies been notified? ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. FEE

Have you included payment of the filing fee (for first-time enrollees only) with this submittal?
☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA

IX. CERTIFICATION

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction and supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment. Additionally, I certify that the provisions of the General Permit, including developing and implementing a monitoring program, will be complied with."

A. Printed Name: Keith Miller

B. Signature: _____ **Date:** 3/18/14

C. Title: Environmental Programs Manager

XI. FOR STATE WATER BOARD STAFF USE ONLY

WDID:	**Date NOI Received:**	**Date NOI Processed:**
Case Handler's Initial:	**Fee Amount Received:** **$**	**Check #:**
☐ **Lyris List Notification of Posting of APAP**	**Date** _____	**Confirmation Sent** _____

Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP)

For the

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zones 1 and 1A

Water Quality Order No.

General Permit

Prepared by:
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
1203 Main St., Suite B
Morro Bay, CA 93442
Contact: Jackie Crabb
(805) 772-4391

Submitted to:
Department of Public Works
Room 206 County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Contact: Nola Engelskirger
(805) 781-5252

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Existing Conditions 3

Invasive Species Selected for Eradication 4

- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) 4
- Cape Ivy (Delairea odorata) 4
- Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) 5
- Castor Bean (Ricinus communis) 5
- Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) 6
- Common Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare) 6
- Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) 7

Treatment Plan 7

- Possible Alternatives 8

Best Management Practices 9

- Native Plant Reestablishment 11

Water Quality Monitoring Plan 11

- Potential Sampling Locations 12
- Sampling Design 12
- Field Data Sheets 13
- Field Sampling 14
- Procedures to Prevent Sample Contamination 14
- Monitoring Records 14
- Sample Shipment 14

Appendix A – Maps 15

Appendix B – General Permit for Aquatic Pesticide 16

Figures

Figure 1. Vicinity Map 2
Figure 2. Map of Sampling Location and Runoff Flow Lines 12

Tables

Table 1. Area of infestation by species in square feet, broken into three cover classes 3
Table 2. Recommended treatment windows for target species. 8
Table 3. Project Alternative Evaluation Matrix 9
Table 4. Summary of Monitoring Data to be Collected 13

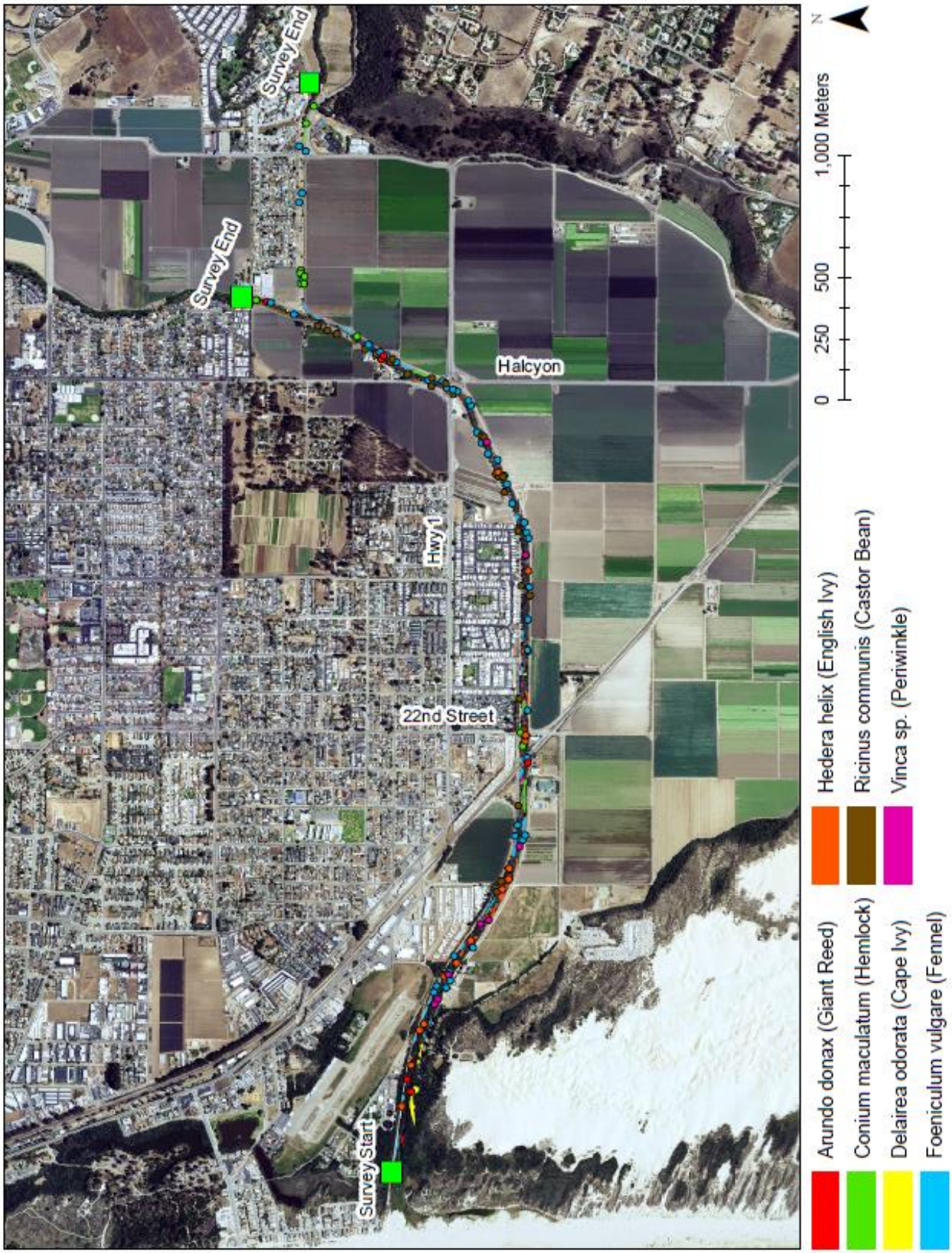
Introduction

This Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP) has been prepared to outline herbicide use on non-native invasive plant species associated with the Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Waterway Management Program Alternate 3a, Modified 3c Project (WMP). The WMP is a comprehensive set of actions designed to restore the capacity of the leveed lower three miles of Arroyo Grande Creek Channel and the Los Berros Creek diversion channel to provide flood protection up to a 20-year storm event while simultaneously enhancing water quality and sensitive species habitat within the managed channel. The WMP establishes a framework for how the lower portion of Arroyo Grande and Los Berros Creeks will be managed, long-term, to meet the goals established by Zones 1 and 1A (Zone 1/1A) of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). The Zone 1/1A Flood Control Channel has a large number of invasive plant species that threaten native plant species survival and, in some cases, impede the flow capacity of the channel. The preparation of an effective Invasive Plant Control Program is required in order to control and/or eliminate the non-native invasive plant species. This APAP has been prepared as a part of this program and will provide removal methods and a prioritization for removal over a 5-year period of time.

This APAP will be submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board pursuant to Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act in order to ensure that herbicides will not be discharged into the waters of the State, unless in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The Arroyo Grande Creek Flood Control Channel is at the bottom of the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed which is dominated by agricultural land uses including vineyards, ranches, and row crops. The channel currently provides important wildlife habitat features; including large trees, hiding and resting cover, nesting sites, structural diversity, and food sources characteristic of natural riparian ecosystems. Unfortunately the riparian corridor is threatened by the presence of several invasive species that impact desirable native tree and brush species; and in some cases impede the flood capacity of the channel by climbing trees and creating a web of dense vegetation that restricts flood flows. The primary goal of riparian management is to provide self-sustaining streamside forests that will ensure the desired conditions of riparian resources for the future. Invasive species eradication techniques like manual removal and herbicide applications are valuable tools for restoring and improving ecological functionality of the creek corridor. Invasive species eradication will maintain and improve ecosystem services (e.g. storm water management), provide beneficial uses, and protect habitat for fish and wildlife. This plan summarizes recommendations for an invasive plant control program for Zone 1/1A to implement within the managed channel.

This plan was prepared by the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District for the County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department who is responsible for the on-going operation and maintenance of the flood control channel.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Arundo donax (Giant Reed)
Conium maculatum (Hemlock)
Delairea odorata (Cape Ivy)
Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel)
Hedera helix (English Ivy)
Ricinus communis (Castor Bean)
Vinca sp. (Periwinkle)

Existing Conditions

Arroyo Grande Creek is a 157 square mile coastal watershed located in west-central San Luis Obispo County. The mainstem of Arroyo Grande Creek flows through the city of Arroyo Grande and community of Oceano and provides agricultural and municipal water for many communities in southern San Luis Obispo County. An expanding urban population and a desire to maintain the region's agricultural roots has resulted in an increasing demand on the natural and biological resources of the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed. The project area includes the managed flood control channel which is located along the lower portion of mainstem Arroyo Grande and Los Berros creeks.

The project area is a linear corridor with two segments: (1) beginning on Arroyo Grande Creek 0.14 mile upstream of the confluence of Los Berros Creek and continuing downstream to the upper edge of the Arroyo Grande Creek lagoon at the Pacific Ocean, and (2) beginning at the Century Lane Bridge on Los Berros Creek and continuing downstream to the confluence with Arroyo Grande Creek (Figure 1). The total project length is approximately 3.5 miles.

In the fall of 2014, invasive species were mapped along the Arroyo Grande Creek and Los Berros Creek diversion channel using a combination of aerial photographs and field GPS receivers. The length of the Zone 1 and 1A flood control channel was surveyed along both north and south levees and along the creek bed. A total of 4.4 acres of the target species were recorded, with the densest infestations downstream of the 22nd St. crossing. The vicinity map below shows the survey area. Occurrences less than 10 square feet meters were recorded as points, and larger infestations were recorded as polygons. For detailed maps see Appendix A.

Table 1. Area of infestation by species in square feet, broken into three cover classes

Eradication Priority Rank	Species	1-33% Cover (Low)	34-66% Cover (Medium)	67-100% Cover (High)	GPS Points	Total Occupancy (Sq. Ft.)
1	English Ivy	7,742	9,767	10,514	20	**28,023**
1	Cape Ivy	0	0	22,748	0	**22,418**
2	Giant Reed	0	1,719	0	6	**1,719**
4	Periwinkle	898	11,146	7,743	9	**19,788**
3	Castor Bean	19,847	6,721	0	29	**26,568**
6	Hemlock	12,445	32,378	0	12	**44,824**
5	Fennel	791	31,014	18,269	46	**50,075**
						193,415(4.4ac)

Within the project area, the survey found the largest infestation by area was of fennel. English ivy, cape ivy, castor bean and poison hemlock were in the range of 22,000 to 28,000 square feet. Giant reed and periwinkle covered the least area. Eradication priority rankings were determined using California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Inventory rankings in combination with the current extent of infestation in the project area.

Invasive Species Selected for Eradication

Eradication priority rankings were determined using California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Inventory rankings in combination with the current extent of infestation in the project area. Along with priority rankings, there are manual and chemical treatment options included below. Unless specifically stated in the recommendation, both options are viable. However, at certain sites one method might be more appropriate (i.e. manually removing a small patch to avoid herbicide application, manually removing mature plants and spraying dense seedlings, etc). In many cases a combination of both methods is the most successful, and the RCD's recommendations are at the end of this section.

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Fast growing English Ivy forms dense mats, outcompeting other vegetation and climbing trunks into tree canopies until eventually dominating tree foliage - shading them and causing impaired function and death. English ivy stems eventually harden to wood and may live one-hundred years. The mats crowd other flora forming monotypic stands, reducing native species richness and seedling recruitment.

Cal-IPC Ranking: High Invasiveness.
Treatment Priority Rank: 1
Treatment Options:

Manual Removal

It is preferable to remove plants before they begin to produce seed. Plants can be pulled from soil and off supporting structures. The debris from removal should be bagged and taken offsite to ensure that stem fragments don't resprout. On larger shrubby mature individuals, the cut-stump method, Cutting the stump and immediately apply herbicide to freshly cut stump within 30 min, can be used to remove biomass and prevent resprouts. Individual assessments should also be made in determining whether *Hedera* biomass in the canopy threatens to topple trees and how this material should be removed.

Herbicide treatment: Spot Spray Foliar Application

Rate: 2-4% v/v solution of glyphosate (with aquatic site code) in water plus a methylated seed oil surfactant to thoroughly wet all leaves (5-25 Gallons/acre) plus Blazon or Mark-it Blue non-toxic dye indicator. Do not cut for four months after foliar application. Note: for the most part English ivy grows on or near trees and as groundcover inside the dripline of trees and only glyphosate (at 4%) is appropriate.

Timing: Year round foliar treatments. Dead ground cover may be left in place for decomposition and then serve as a substrate for native plant establishment. For cut stump treatment; late summer, early fall or dormant season provides best control. Treatment should occur immediately after cutting.

Cape Ivy (Delairea odorata)

Cape ivy is a fleshy perennial vine that forms mats on the ground and climbs over groundcover, shrub and tree foliage where it shades and smothers foliage causing impaired function. The mats crowd other flora forming monotypic stands, reducing native species richness and seedling recruitment. It destroys habitat for ground nesting birds and bees. Cape ivy can be toxic to animals when ingested; fish can be killed when plant materials are soaking in waterways.

Cal-IPC Ranking: High Invasiveness.
Treatment Priority Rank: 1
Treatment Options:

Manual removal of plants should be combined with herbicide treatment of resprouts.

Manual Removal
Cape Ivy reproduces vegetatively through stolons, rhizomes, and stems; and a fragment as small as one inch can generate a new plant if it has a node. During manual removal, all plant parts should be bagged and properly disposed of, and treatment sites should be maintained monthly to ensure progress is not lost.

Herbicide treatment: Spot Spray Foliar Application

Rate: Aminopyralid (Milestone). 3 to 7 oz Aminopyralid/Milestone per acre or up to 14 oz per acre for spot treatment. Typically, spot treatments range from 4 - 100 sq ft.

Timing: Post-emergence when plants are rapidly growing. Best results in late summer or early fall.

Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*)

Giant Reed is a bamboo-like perennial with thick, well-formed rhizomes. This fast growing grass grows along riparian corridors, with multiple canes forming massive clumps which may grow to 25 feet tall. It displaces other plant species and increases flooding and siltation in natural areas.

Cal-IPC Ranking: High Invasiveness.
Treatment Priority Rank: 1
Treatment Options:

Manual Removal:
Manual Removal is not recommended because cutting stems stimulates growth and may overcome cut stump herbicide treatment.

Herbicide treatment: Spot Spray Foliar Application
Rate: 2% v/v solution of glyphosate Aquamaster (with aquatic site code) in water plus a methylated seed oil surfactant to thoroughly wet all leaves plus Blazon or Mark-it Blue non-toxic dye indicator.

Timing: spring and summer when actively growing. *Arundo* tends toward dormancy in the winter (particularly with frost); therefore winter is not an ideal time to treat.

Castor Bean (Ricinus communis)

Castor bean is highly toxic and well suited to conditions in the riparian corridor of Arroyo Grande Creek. It has the capability to crowd native species and produce many seedlings which grow tall (10 feet or more). Its established presence, fast growth, and reproduction rate present a threat to Arroyo Grande Creek

Cal-IPC Ranking: Limited Invasiveness.
Treatment Priority Rank: 3
Treatment Options:

Manual Removal
Smaller individuals and seedlings to 1 ft. tall may be hand pulled (it is important to wear gloves). Lop or saw larger individuals to the ground.-Remove and bag seed clumps for disposal.

Herbicide treatment: Spot Spray Foliar Application

Rate: 22% v/v solution of glyphosate (with aquatic site code) plus Blazon or Mark-it Blue non-toxic dye indicator, spray to wet for seedling treatment; 25% v/v solution (with aquatic site code) plus Blazon or Mark-it Blue non-toxic dye indicator for cut stump method. Dead material may be left in place to decompose.

Timing: Year round

Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)

Periwinkle can become the dominant species in the riparian woodland understory along Arroyo Grande Creek. Forming dense mats like ivy, it outcompetes other vegetation forming monotypic stands. It reproduces primarily vegetatively from trailing stems and stem fragments. Because it is so prolific in riparian areas, repeated removal efforts over multiple years are necessary with both manual and chemical controls.

Cal-IPC Ranking: Moderate Invasiveness.
Treatment Priority Rank: 4
Treatment Options:

Manual Removal
Hand pulling is very effective if all stems and root nodes are removed. Repeated removal efforts over multiple years are necessary with both manual and chemical controls.

Herbicide treatment:
Rate: 2.5%v/v of Glyphosate. Solution should be used with a surfactant to thoroughly wet all leaves (5-25 Gallons/acre) plus Blazon or Mark-it Blue non-toxic dye indicator. Dead clumps may be left in place to decompose and serve as substrate for establishing native plants.

Timing: Post-emergence, when plants are rapidly growing. Treat year-round, best results in late summer or early fall.

Common Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare)

Fennel prefers open, disturbed areas and has invaded portions of Arroyo Grande Creek. It is competitive against native flora and may form dense stands of tall stems (up to 10 ft). Fennel does benefit pollinators such as bees.

Cal-IPC Ranking: High Invasiveness.
Treatment Priority Rank: 5
Treatment Options:

Manual Removal
Lop mature plants at ground level, which forces growth, and follow up with spraying. Digging out individuals is possible but labor intensive. Plant parts with seed must be bagged and properly disposed.

Herbicide treatment:
Rate: 2-5% v/v solution of glyphosate, spray to wet plus Blazon or Mark-it Blue non-toxic dye indicator.

Timing: Post-emergence application onto fully developed leaves, but before flowering. Most effective control is before plants have bolted in early spring. Dead material may be left in place to decompose.

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Poison hemlock is a biennial that grows in moist places, especially riparian corridors, and is highly toxic to animals. It forms dense stands of tall plants and crowds out other plants and forms monotypic stands. It is a prolific seeder. *Conium* tends to grow rapidly and flower in the rainy season. After the seeding stage it becomes dormant leaving dried stems topped with seed. Places occupied by dried material are difficult to traverse. *Conium* has a #6 eradication rank due to the difficulty in eradicating it, and when balanced against the importance of eradicating *Hedera, Delairia* and *Arundo.* A consistent 5-year effort should significantly reduce its presence and create opportunities for occupation by native species.

Cal-IPC Ranking: Moderate Invasiveness.
Treatment Priority Rank: 6
Treatment Options:

Manual Removal:
Hand removal is recommended for small infestations comprising of individual plants or a cluster of 100 sq. ft. When pulling the plants dig down and remove the entire taproot. Wear gloves and wash hands after working with poison hemlock. Manual removal can be effective but soil disturbance encourages further germination of seeds so follow up treatments may be necessary. Solid carpets of hemlock seedlings are not uncommon following soil disturbance. Dead biomass, without seed may be left in place to decompose.
Timing: Fall (after rainfall) to late winter. Hemlock is easier to remove up to mid-size (2 ft.) before flowering.

Herbicide treatment:
Herbicide treatment is recommended for large infestations of clusters larger than 100 sq. ft.
Rate: 1-1.5% v/v solution of glyphosate, spray to wet plus Blazon or Mark-it Blue non-toxic dye indicator.

Timing: Winter, spring. Seedlings are most susceptible to herbicide before they bolt, but higher concentrations can be effective on mature plants.

Treatment Plan

The following treatments are recommended:

Herbicide Application Only:

Giant Reed —Spray to wet entire plant surface with glyphosate mix and allow the plants to decompose.

Periwinkle —Spray glyphosate mix to groundcover, spray to wet all leaves and stems. Allow to decompose in place.

Manual Removal and Herbicide Application:

English Ivy —Spray glyphosate mix onto groundcover. Cut tree climbing stems and paint stumps with 50% glyphosate mixture.

Cape Ivy —Manual removal followed by Aminopyralid/Milestone mix application of remaining foliage.

Castor Bean —Spray glyphosate mix onto seedlings. manually cut mature plants to the ground and remove plant material and seeds, followed by cut-stump glyphosate application.

Poison Hemlock —Spray glyphosate mix onto emerging seedlings followed by manual removal of maturing plants that were not killed from spraying. For plants at the flowering stage remove and dispose. Repeat the process monthly through Winter.

Common Fennel —Lop stems to the ground, dispose seed material, followed by spraying glyphosate mix onto resprouts and seedlings.

Table 2. Recommended treatment windows for target species.

Schedule of Times of the Year for Treatment				
	Winter	**Spring**	**Summer**	**Fall**
English Ivy	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)
Cape Ivy		(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)
Giant Reed		(Spray)	(Spray)	
Periwinkle	(Spray)	(Spray)	(Spray)	(Spray)
Castor Bean	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)
Fennel	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)
Hemlock	(Manual + Spray)	(Manual + Spray)		

Possible Alternatives

The alternatives to herbicide were examined. Control methods that were evaluated are discussed below.

1. No action—No action would result in the continued degradation of the project site and reduced wildlife habitat quality.
2. Prevention—The District has a flood control easement on numerous private properties along Arroyo Grande Creek and the project area, but does not own the property. Prevention will therefore be a difficult method, and would take the form of ongoing invasive monitoring during the maintenance phase of the project. There is source material upstream and therefore the threat of reinfestation remains a possibility.
3. Manual and Mechanical Methods— Manual removal by hand crews can be effective for some of the invasive species and the size of the infestations. However, hand removal alone is not cost effective for larger infestations, and may not be effective on all plant species.
4. Cultural Method—N/A.
5. Biological Control— Goat grazing has been used since 2012 to manage vegetation in specific sections along Arroyo Grande Creek. It may be possible to use goats to graze on invasive plants instead of manual removal. The cost of this method is approximately $100 a day, compared to hauling removed material offsite which is a minimum of $35 up to 900lbs and $73 per ton after. However, goats may also spread invasive species if seeds are not fully digested and returned to the project site – or other sites – post consumption, and requires intensive management to prevent harm to native plant communities.
6. Pesticide Control— The use of herbicides remains an effective control for many of the plant species in the project area. The minimum amount of aquatic herbicides that is necessary to

have an effective control program will be used and in accordance with the aquatic herbicide product label requirements.

Table 3. Project Alternative Evaluation Matrix

Alternative Considered	Effectiveness	Cost	Intrusiveness	Impacts to Water Quality	Maintenance of Native Plant and Animal Diversity	Included in Current Maintenance Efforts
No Action	None	Low	None	None	Low	No
Prevention	High	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	No
Manual/ Mechanical	Medium	High	High	Low	Medium	Yes
Biological	High	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Yes
Pesticide	High	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	No

Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices will be followed for all herbicide application.

1. Aquatic Herbicide Spill Prevention and Containment

All herbicide applications will be supervised by a California Department of Pesticide Regulation-certified applicator (PCA) who has received training specific to the herbicide and surfactant/adjuvant products to be used. Label language is followed to ensure safe handling and loading of herbicides. Application equipment is routinely maintained and checked to identify and/or minimize the possibility of leak development or failure that might lead to a spill. Tank mixing and filling will be done well away from all surface waters. The applicator will avoid spills and spray drift to water bodies. The applicator will have a spill kit at the work site. In the event of an aquatic herbicide spill, the material will be prevented from entering water bodies. The following measures will be taken: 1) Control: spills will be stopped when they occur which would include up-righting any overturned containers and repairing leaking hoses. 2) Containment: after controlling a spill the material will be contained so that it can't spread beyond the area where the accident occurred. Kitty litter or other absorbent material will be used to soak the material, and then picked up deposited into a drum or heavy plastic bag and hauled off-site for proper disposal.

2. Applications Made According to Label and PCA Recommendation

All aquatic herbicide applications are to be made according to the product label in accordance with regulations of the U.S. EPA, Cal EPA, Cal OSHA, DPR and San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture. Prior to application a PCA will prepare a written recommendation that specifies rates of application and any warnings or conditions that limit the application so that non-target flora and fauna are not negatively affected. There will be no application to standing or flowing water.

3. Applications by Qualified Personnel

Aquatic herbicide applications will be conducted by persons holding a valid Qualified Applicator License (QAL.) The QAL shall train employees for proper application including understanding the herbicide product label and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the herbicide. Training shall also include mixing and spraying the appropriate amounts of herbicide and adjuvants and avoiding adverse effects from

herbicide application: for example selection and spraying the target species only and avoiding spraying native plants.

4. Plan to Inform Agencies Receiving Water from Project Site

The District shall inform adjacent property owners that there is an APAP for the project site and will disclose the herbicide used for the project.

5. Plan for Preventing Fish Kill from Pesticide Application and Plan for the Protection of Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife

Aminopyralid and its breakdown products are relatively safe for fish. In applying this herbicide to terrestrial vegetation (*Delairia*) there is a possibility of a spill and runoff towards water. A spill prevention, control and containment plan is present in this plan under BMP 1. All mixing and use of concentrated herbicide is outside of the riparian corridor, where it cannot enter water.

Prior to each day's activity, a qualified biologist will conduct a survey for California red-legged frogs and will instruct the workers on the identification and biology of California red-legged frogs. The biologist will be available should the workers identify a California red-legged frog while the work is taking place. If a red-legged frog is observed, all work will cease immediately until the biologist arrives and assess the situation to determine if the work can proceed, and determine if the US Fish and Wildlife Service should be contacted.

If herbicide application activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 15th), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by a District-approved biologist or District Environmental Resource Specialist prior to any herbicide application activity or vegetation removal or trimming to identify potential bird nesting activity. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the project site, then the project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young.

6. Least Intrusive Method of Aquatic Herbicide Application

Best management practices will be used to make pesticide application as safe and least intrusive as possible. Prior manual biomass removal will reduce the application of herbicide to a minimum. This will reduce the likeliness of chemical exceedances. There will be some impacts to habitat by workers such as crews making trails with the use of chainsaws and hand tools.

7. Communication Plan

All staff working on the project will be required to have weekly tailgate meetings when herbicide application is planned or actively used. Meetings will start at least two weeks in advance of the first treatment, and continue until the last treatment. Staff will require all contractors to attend at least one tailgate meeting prior to their work at the site. Meetings will review:

- Required planning project records
- Location and limits of herbicide application, pathways of potential residue flows, areas of significant concern (if applicable)
- Basis for determination of representative monitoring locations (for background, event and post-event monitoring)
- Criteria to trigger post-event sampling (time, storm event, etc.).
- Dates for herbicide application and criteria that may alter those dates (such as unfavorable weather conditions).
- Application rates of herbicides to be used (and resulting calculations based on application rate and treatment area)
- Herbicide dissipation duration
- Dates for water quality sampling
- Email confirmation that the laboratory is able to accept samples
- Required monitoring forms
- Confirmation of application staff current licensing
- Roles, responsibilities and contact information
- Project goals and expectations
- Best management practices (including the correct use of pesticides, management of spills, etc.)

- Requirements during application
  - visual observations log requirements
  - application rates
  - determination of potential drift area based on application conditions

8. Water Quality Sampling Training All staff collecting water quality samples will be given training on the following prior to start of the project:

- sampling equipment
- how to collect, store and transport water quality samples
- how to fill out chain of custody
- frequency of sampling with focus on planning around herbicide application events

Native Plant Reestablishment

The Arroyo Grande Creek Waterway Management Program includes a planting plan, and which will be the primary way of reestablishing native plant species

Water Quality Monitoring Plan

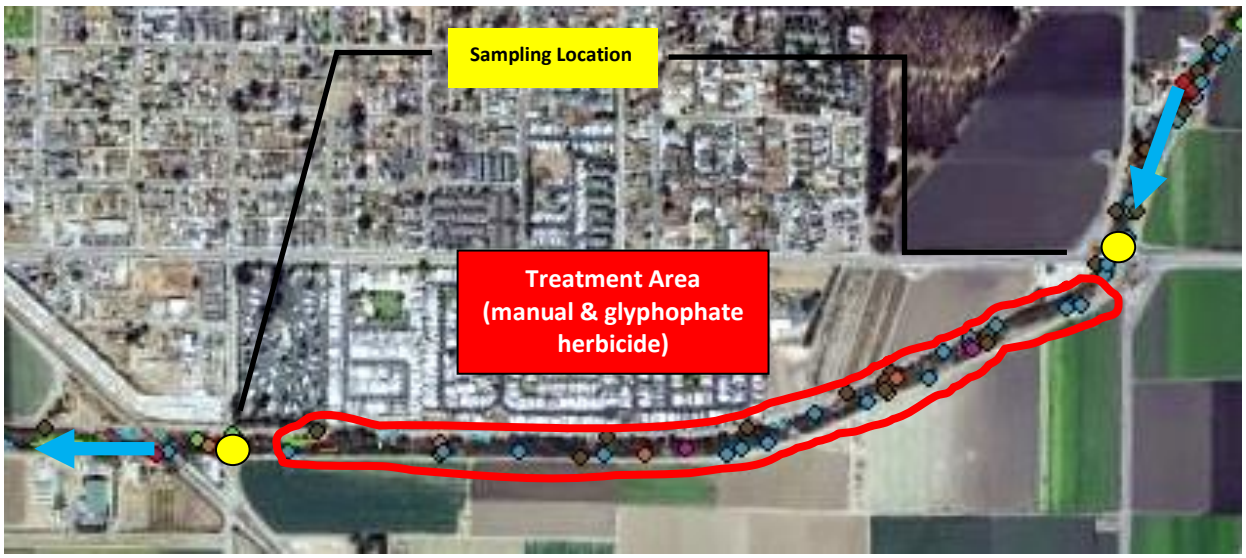
Water quality monitoring sufficient to achieve compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) State-wide General Permit requirements will be conducted. The Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit For Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges To Waters Of The United States From Algae And Aquatic Weed Control Applications, Water

Quality Order No. 2013-0002-DWQ General Permit No. CAG99000 covers discharges of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicide and their degradation byproducts to waters of the United States from algae and aquatic weed control applications (See Appendix B General Permit). Coverage under the permit is administered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The State and Regional Water Boards are California's regulatory agencies responsible for ensuring that the quality of the State's rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, ocean, and groundwater is protected. To protect our water resources, the Water Boards set water quality standards in plans and policies, monitor and assess the State's waters, regulate identified pollutant sources, and enforce compliance with regulatory requirements.

Potential Sampling Locations

Sampling locations will be determined each year prior to herbicide application, and be representative. To be considered "representative," at a minimum, a location must be similar in hydrology, algaecides and aquatic herbicides use, and other factors that affect the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues to surface waters as a result of applications to the areas being represented in that environmental setting. Sampling locations may change from year to year. Figure 7 illustrates an example of the planning that will be done in advance of treatment. See Appendix A for the complete treatment area. Monitoring location information shall include a description of the treatment area, GPS coordinates if feasible, and algaecides and aquatic herbicides being applied.

Figure 2. Map of Sampling Location and Runoff Flow Lines



Sampling Design

The sampling events are designed to characterize the potential risk involved with glyphosate and Aminopyralid/Milestone applications relative to adjacent surface waters. Consistent with permit requirements, the monitoring program will include background/ pre-treatment sampling up to 24 hours prior to the application, application event monitoring immediately post-treatment, and one-week post-application event monitoring. Sample collection sites will be recorded using GPS and marked to aid monitoring staff in locating the point for future sampling events.

The General Permit requires dischargers to comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program of the General Permit (MRP) (See Attachment C of the General Permit/Appendix B). In the event of precipitation where there is runoff within a week of herbicide application the following monitoring protocol will be enacted:

1. **Background Monitoring.** Background monitoring samples shall be collected upstream at the time of the application event or in the application area just prior to (up to 24 hours in advance of) the application event. The application event is the time that introduction of the algaecide or aquatic herbicide to the treatment area takes place, not the length of time that the environment is exposed to the algaecide or aquatic herbicide.
2. **Event Monitoring.** Event monitoring samples shall be collected immediately downstream of the treatment area in flowing waters or immediately outside of the treatment area in non-flowing waters, immediately after the application event, but after sufficient time has elapsed such that treated water would have exited the treatment area.
3. **Post-Event Monitoring.** Post-event monitoring samples shall be collected within the treatment area within one week after application.

Field Data Sheets

At each sampling location, the sample ID number, the time of the sampling, the sample depth, and the water temperature, pH, conductivity, and salinity will be entered on a Field Data Collection Form. Also recorded on the form will be site information, including the site ID number, wind conditions, water color, and the type of herbicide and surfactant that might be present. Any other unusual conditions or concerns will be noted, and any fish, birds, or other wildlife present will be recorded. See Table 4. The forms will be dated and numbered consecutively for each site on that date. On return to the office, the data will be entered into an electronic spreadsheet for processing, and the forms will be compiled into a data log and kept permanently in the office.

Table 4. Summary of Monitoring Data to be Collected

Analyte	EPA Method	Reporting Limit	Hold Time (Days)	Container	Chemical Preservative
Temperature	170.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Turbidity	180.1	0.00 NTU	2	100mL HDPE	None
Electrical Conductivity	120.1	0 µS/cm	28	100mL HDPE	None
***Aminopyralid**	GRM 7.10 (MRID 47572602)	0.05 µg /L	7	1L Amber Glass	None
***Glyphosate**	547	0.5µg/L	14	2x40 mL VOA	Sodium Thiosulfate
pH	150.1 or 150.2	1-14	Immediately	100mL HDPE	None
Dissolved Oxygen	360.1 or 360.2	0.0 mg/L	1	1L Amber Glass	None
Hardness	200.7	1.0 mg/L	1	250 mL HDPE	None

**Active ingredient. Chemical analysis is only required for the active ingredient used in treatment.*

Field Sampling

Water samples should be collected 3 feet below surface level if possible, or mid-depth if water depth is less than 3 feet.

The following field sampling materials will be used:

1. New sampling bottles, one per sample with sample ID labels, provided by lab
2. Coolers sufficient to hold sample bottles, with ice or gel-packs
3. Plastic gloves
4. Instruments for measuring water and air temperature, pH and depth
5. Field data sheets, site map, and clipboard

Procedures to Prevent Sample Contamination

1. Sampling will be done upwind.
2. Sampling will be done in a manner to prevent contact with application equipment, containers, vegetation, personal protective equipment, and treated water.
3. Sampling equipment to be used at multiple locations will be thoroughly cleaned with a non-phosphate cleaner, triple rinsed in uncontaminated water, and then rinsed once with the water being sampled prior to its first use at a new location.
4. Gloves will be changed between sampling sites.

Monitoring Records

Records of monitoring information will include:

1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements
2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements
3. The date(s) analyses were performed
4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses
5. The analytical techniques or methods used and
6. The results of such analyses.

Sample Shipment

Following collection, water samples will be stored on ice packs and delivered to a laboratory certified by the California Department of Public Health. If samples are not delivered until the following day, they will be stored in a cooler on ice until they can be transferred to a refrigerator. Samples shall be prepared according to the laboratory's sampling instructions.

Appendix A – Maps

Survey Start
Hwy 1
22nd Street
Arundo donax (Giant Reed)
Conium maculatum (Hemlock)
Delairea odorata (Cape Ivy)
Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel)
Hedera helix (English Ivy)
Ricinus communis (Castor Bean)
Vinca sp. (Periwinkle)
0 125 250 500 Meters
N

Hwy 1
22nd Street
Halcyon
Arundo donax (Giant Reed)
Conium maculatum (Hemlock)
Delairea odorata (Cape Ivy)
Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel)
Hedera helix (English Ivy)
Ricinus communis (Castor Bean)
Vinca sp. (Periwinkle)
0 125 250 500 Meters
N

Survey End
Survey End
Halcyon
Hwy 1
Arundo donax (Giant Reed)
Conium maculatum (Hemlock)
Delairea odorata (Cape Ivy)
Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel)
Hedera helix (English Ivy)
Ricinus communis (Castor Bean)
Vinca sp. (Periwinkle)
0 125 250 500 Meters
N

Appendix B – General Permit for Aquatic Pesticide

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/aquatic.shtml

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

The following Dischargers may apply for coverage under this General Permit in compliance with the waste discharge requirements as set forth in this General Permit:

Table 1. Discharger Information

Dischargers	Any entity that discharges residual algaecides and aquatic herbicide and their degradation byproducts to waters of the United States* from algae and aquatic weed control applications.

Table 2. Administrative Information

This General Permit was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter State Water Board) on:	**March 5, 2013**
This General Permit shall become effective on:	**December 1, 2013**
This General Permit shall expire on:	**November 30, 2018**
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Board have classified this discharge as a **minor** discharge.	

I, Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board, do hereby certify that this General Permit with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the General Permit adopted by the State Water Board on March 5, 2013.

AYE: Vice Chair Frances Spivy-Weber
Board Member Tam M. Doduc
Board Member Steven Moore
Board Member Felicia Marcus

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Chairman Charles R. Hoppin

Jeanine Townsend

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

Table of Contents

I. Discharge Information 3
II. Permit Coverage and Application Requirements 3
A. General Permit Coverage 3
B. Discharger 4
C. General Permit Application 4
D. Fees 5
E. Terminating Coverage 5
III. Findings 5
IV. Discharge Prohibitions 6
V. Effluent Limitations 6
VI. Receiving Water Limitations 6
VII. Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers 8
VIII. Aquatic Pesticide Use Requirements 8
A. Application Schedule 8
B. Public Notice Requirements 9
C. Aquatic Pesticides Application Plan (APAP) 9
D. APAP Processing, Approval, and Modifications 11
E. Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Application Log 11
IX. Provisions 12
A. Standard Provisions 12
B. Monitoring and Reporting Program Requirements 13
C. Special Provisions 13
X. Compliance Determination 17

List of Tables

Table 1. Discharger Information 1
Table 2. Administrative Information 1
Table 3. Receiving Water Limitations 7
Table 4. Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers 8

List of Attachments

Attachment A – Definitions A-1
Attachment B – Standard Provisions B-1
Attachment C – Monitoring and Reporting Program C-1
Attachment D – Fact Sheet D-1
Attachment E – Notice of Intent E-1
Attachment F – Notice of Termination F-1
Attachment G – Exception List G-1

I. DISCHARGE INFORMATION

Pesticide formulations may include "active ingredients"* and "inert ingredients."* Adjuvants* or surfactants may be added to the ingredients in the application equipment used in delivery of the pesticide. As part of the registration process of pesticides for use in California, U.S. EPA and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) evaluate data submitted by registrants to ensure that a product used according to label instructions will cause no harm or adverse impact on non-target organisms that cannot be reduced or mitigated with protective measures or use restrictions. The Clean Water Act (CWA) section 301(a) broadly prohibits the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States, except in compliance with an NPDES permit. Residual pesticides* discharged into surface waters constitute pollutants within the meaning of the CWA even if the discharge is in compliance with the registration requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Therefore, coverage under an NPDES permit is required.

The discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues to surface waters for algae and aquatic weed control throughout the State of California may pose a threat to existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the United States if not properly controlled and regulated.

This General Permit regulates the discharge of aquatic pesticides* (algaecides and aquatic herbicides) used for algae and aquatic weed control to waters of the United States. These are algaecides and aquatic herbicides with registration labels that explicitly allow direct application to water bodies.

II. PERMIT COVERAGE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Permit Coverage

Except for discharges on tribal lands that are regulated by a federal permit, this General Permit covers the point source* discharge to waters of the United States of residues resulting from pesticide applications using products containing 2,4-D, acrolein, copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone, glyphosate, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, and triclopyr-based algaecides and aquatic herbicides, and adjuvants containing ingredients represented by the surrogate nonylphenol. This General Permit covers only discharges of algaecides, and aquatic herbicides that are currently registered for use in California, or that become registered for use and contain the above-listed active ingredients and ingredients represented by the surrogate of nonylphenol.

* An asterisk means the term is defined in Attachment A. This applies to all sections of this General permit.

This General Permit does not cover agricultural storm water discharges or return flows from irrigated agriculture because these discharges are not defined as “point sources” and do not require coverage under an NPDES permit. This General Permit also does not cover other indirect or nonpoint source discharges from applications of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, including discharges of pesticides to land that may be conveyed in storm water or irrigation runoff.

As shown in Table 1, this General Permit becomes effective on December 1, 2013. To obtain coverage under this General Permit on or after that date, Dischargers must submit their application for coverage as set forth in Section II.C below, at least 90 days prior to their first pesticide application.

B. Discharger

A Discharger under this General Permit includes any entity involved in the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that results in a discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues and degradation byproducts to waters of the United States, and meets either or both of the following two criteria:

The entity has control over the financing for or the decision to perform algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications that result in discharges, including the ability to modify those decisions; or

The entity has day-to-day control of algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications or performs activities that are necessary to ensure compliance with this General Permit. For example, the entity is authorized to direct workers to carry out activities required by this General Permit or perform such activities themselves.

C. General Permit Application

To obtain authorization under this General Permit, Dischargers must submit to the State Water Board a complete application that consists of the following:

1. A Notice of Intent (NOI) shown as Attachment E, signed in accordance with the signatory requirements of the Standard Provisions in Attachment B;
2. An application fee. A fee is required only for new Dischargers. Dischargersenrolled under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ and applying for coverage under this Permit will be billed during the regular billing cycle; and
3. An Aquatic Pesticide* Application Plan (APAP).

Within 90 days of receipt of an application, the State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality (Deputy Director) will either issue a Notice of Applicability (NOA) or deny the application. The NOA will specify the permitted algaecide and aquatic herbicide active ingredients that may be used, and any region-specific conditions and requirements not stated in this General Permit. Any such region-specific conditions and requirements shall be enforceable. The Discharger is authorized to discharge starting on the date of the NOA.

Alternatively, the Deputy Director or a Regional Water Board Executive Officer may issue a Notice of Exclusion (NOE),[1] which either terminates the permit coverage or requires submittal of an application for an individual permit or alternative general permit.

D. Fees

The fee for enrollment under this General Permit shall be based on section 2200(b)(9) category 3 of title 23, California Code of Regulations, which is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/docs/fy1112fee_schdl_npdes_prmt.pdf and is payable to the State Water Board.

E. Terminating Coverage

To terminate permit coverage, a Discharger must submit a complete and accurate Notice of Termination (NOT) provided in Attachment F. The Discharger's authorization to discharge under this General Permit terminates on the day of the coverage termination letter issued by the Deputy Director. Prior to the termination effective date, the Discharger is subject to the terms and conditions of this General Permit and is responsible for submitting the annual fee and all reports associated with this General Permit.

A Discharger must submit an NOT when one of the following conditions occurs:

1. A new operator has taken over responsibility of the Discharger's algae or aquatic weed control activities covered under an existing NOA;
2. The Discharger has ceased all discharges from the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicide for which it obtained General Permit coverage and does not expect to discharge during the remainder of this General Permit term; or
3. The Discharger has obtained coverage under an individual permit or an alternative general permit for all discharges required to be covered by an NPDES permit.

III. FINDINGS

The Fact Sheet (Attachment D), which contains the background information and rationale for the requirements in this General Permit, is hereby incorporated into this General Permit and constitutes its findings. All other attachments (A, B, C, and E through G) are also incorporated into this General Permit.

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[1] An NOE is a one-page notice that indicates and justifies why the Discharger or proposed Discharger is not eligible for coverage under this General Permit and states the reason why. This justification can include, but is not limited to, necessity to comply with a total maximum daily load or to protect sensitive water bodies. The NOE can also indicate that the coverage is denied if feasible alternatives to the selected pesticide application project are not analyzed.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this General Permit supersedes Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ except for enforcement purposes, and in order to meet the provisions contained in division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with §13000) and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the CWA and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, the Discharger shall comply with the requirements in this Order.

IV. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

A. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides in a manner different from that described in this General Permit is prohibited.

B. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides shall not create a nuisance as defined in section 13050 of the California Water Code.

C. The discharge shall not cause, have a reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above any applicable standard or criterion promulgated by U.S. EPA pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, or water quality objective adopted by the State or Regional Water Boards.

D. All pesticides are prohibited from the waters of the Lahontan Region (Region 6). The use of this permit is invalid in the Lahontan Region unless the discharger has requested a prohibition exemption from the Lahontan Water Board and the Lahontan Water Board has granted an exemption for the use of algaecides or aquatic herbicides.

V. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

A. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides must meet applicable water quality standards; and

B. Dischargers shall implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) when applying aquatic algaecides and aquatic herbicides. The BMPs must be provided in the APAP which is described in Section VIII.C below.

VI. RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

The discharge shall not result in any of the following:

A. The discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides shall not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the following limitations in the receiving water:*

Table 3. Receiving Water Limitations

Constituent/ Parameter	BENEFICIAL USE[1]				Basis
	MUN, µg/L	WARM or COLD, µg/L	Other than MUN, WARM, or COLD, µg/L	All Designations	
2,4-D	70				U.S. EPA MCL
Acrolein[2]	320	21	780		U.S. EPA Water Quality Criteria, 1986.
Copper[2]				Dissolved Freshwater[3] Copper Chronic = 0.960exp{0.8545 [ln(hardness[4])] – 1.702} [5, 6] Dissolved saltwater[3] Copper Chronic = 0.83exp{0.8545 [ln(hardness[4])] – 1.702} [5,6]	California Toxics Rule
Diquat	20				U.S. EPA MCL
Endothall	100				U.S. EPA MCL
Fluridone	560				U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System
Glyphosate	700				U.S. EPA MCL
Nonylphenol				Freshwater Chronic Criterion = 6.6 µg/L Saltwater Chronic Criterion = 1.7 µg/L	U.S. EPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria
Toxicity	Algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications shall not cause or contribute to toxicity in receiving water(s).				Regional Water Boards' Basin Plans

Notes:
1. See Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for beneficial use definitions.
2. Public entities and mutual water companies* listed in Attachment G are not required to meet these limitations in receiving waters during the exception period described in the APAP and Section VIII.C.10 below.
3. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or less than 1 part per thousand 95% or more of the time, the freshwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or greater than 10 parts per thousand 95% or more of the time, saltwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is between 1 and 10 parts per thousand, the applicable criteria are the more stringent of the freshwater or saltwater criteria.
4. For freshwater aquatic life criteria, waters with a hardness 400 mg/L or less as calcium carbonate, the actual ambient hardness of surface water shall be used. For waters with a hardness of over 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate, a hardness of 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate shall be used with a default Water-Effect Ratio of 1.
5. Values should be rounded to two significant figures.
6. This limitation does not apply to the Sacramento River and its tributaries above the State Highway 32 Bridge at Hamilton City. See Table III-1 of the Basin Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins for copper limitation.

B. **Dissolved Oxygen.** Dissolved oxygen to be below the Regional Water Board Basin Plans' dissolved oxygen objectives for the receiving water.

C. **Floating Material.** Floating material to be present in the amounts that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

D. **Settleable Substances.** Settleable substances to be present in concentrations that result in the deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses.

E. **Suspended Material.** Suspended material to be present in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

F. **Taste and Odors.** Taste- or odor-producing substances to be present in concentrations that impart undesirable tastes or odors to fish flesh or other edible products of aquatic origin, or that cause nuisance, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses or domestic or municipal water supplies.

G. **Toxic Pollutants.** Toxic pollutants to be present in the water column, sediments, or biota in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses; that produce detrimental response in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life; or that bioaccumulate in aquatic resources at levels which are harmful to human health.

H. **Color.** Esthetically undesirable discoloration.

I. **Aquatic Communities.** Aquatic communities and populations, including vertebrates, invertebrates, and non-target plant species to be degraded.

VII. RECEIVING WATER MONITORING TRIGGERS

In the absence of Receiving Water Limitations, the Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers shown in Table 4 below will be used to assess compliance with the narrative receiving water toxicity limitation. However, exceeding the monitoring trigger does not constitute a violation of this General Permit as long as the Discharger performs the following actions: (1) initiates additional investigations for the cause of the exceedance; (2) implements additional BMPs to reduce the algaecide and aquatic herbicide residue concentration to be below the monitoring triggers in future applications; and (3) evaluates the appropriateness of using alternative products.

Table 4. Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers

Ingredient	Unit	Instantaneous Maximum Monitoring Trigger	Basis
Imazapyr	mg/L	11.2	U.S. EPA Office of Pesticides *Ecotoxicity Database*
Triclopyr Triethylamine	mg/L	13.0	U.S. EPA Office of Pesticides *Ecotoxicity Database*

VIII. AQUATIC PESTICIDE USE REQUIREMENTS

A. Application Schedule

The Discharger shall provide a phone number or other specific contact information to all persons who request the Discharger's application schedule. The Discharger shall provide the requester with the most current application schedule and inform the requester if the schedule is subject to change. Information may be made available by electronic means, including posting prominently on a well-known website.

B. Public Notice Requirements

Every calendar year, at least 15 days prior to the first application of algaecide or aquatic herbicide, the Discharger shall notify potentially affected public agencies. The Discharger shall post the notification on its website if available. The notification shall include the following information:

1. A statement of the discharger's intent to apply algaecide or aquatic herbicide(s);
2. Name of algaecide and aquatic herbicide(s);
3. Purpose of use;
4. General time period and locations of expected use;
5. Any water use restrictions or precautions during treatment; and
6. A phone number that interested persons may call to obtain additional information from the Discharger.

C. Aquatic Pesticides Application Plan (APAP)

Dischargers shall submit an APAP at least 90 days before the expected day of permit coverage. The APAP shall contain, but not be limited to, the following elements sufficient to address each proposed treatment area:*

1. Description of the water system to which algaecides and aquatic herbicides are being applied;
2. Description of the treatment area in the water system;
3. Description of types of weed(s) and algae that are being controlled and why;
4. Algaecide and aquatic herbicide products or types of algaecides and aquatic herbicides expected to be used and if known their degradation byproducts, the method in which they are applied, and if applicable, the adjuvants and surfactants used;
5. Discussion of the factors influencing the decision to select algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications for algae and weed control;
6. If applicable, list the gates or control structures to be used to control the extent of receiving waters potentially affected by algaecide and aquatic herbicide application and provide an inspection schedule of those gates or control structures to ensure they are not leaking;
7. If the Discharger has been granted a short-term or seasonal exception under State Water Board *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays,* and Estuaries of California* (Policy) section 5.3 from meeting acrolein and copper receiving water limitations, provide the beginning and ending dates of the exception period, and justification for the needed time for the exception. If algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications occur outside of the exception period, describe plans to ensure that receiving water criteria are not exceeded because the Dischargers must comply with the

acrolein and copper receiving water limitations for all applications that occur outside of the exception period;

8. Description of monitoring program;
9. Description of procedures used to prevent sample contamination from persons, equipment, and vehicles associated with algaecide and aquatic herbicide application;
10. Description of the BMPs to be implemented. The BMPs shall include, at the minimum:
    a. Measures to prevent algaecide and aquatic herbicide spill and for spill containment during the event of a spill;
    b. Measures to ensure that only an appropriate rate of application consistent with product label requirements is applied for the targeted weeds or algae;
    c. The Discharger's plan in educating its staff and algaecide and aquatic herbicide applicators on how to avoid any potential adverse effects* from the algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications;
    d. Discussion on planning and coordination with nearby farmers and agencies with water rights diversion so that beneficial uses of the water (irrigation, drinking water supply, domestic stock water, etc.) are not impacted during the treatment period; and
    e. A description of measures that will be used for preventing fish kill when algaecides and aquatic herbicides will be used for algae and aquatic weed controls.
11. Examination of Possible Alternatives. Dischargers should examine the alternatives to algaecide and aquatic herbicide use to reduce the need for applying algaecides and herbicides. Such methods include:
    a. Evaluating the following management options, in which the impact to water quality, impact to non-target organisms including plants, algaecide and aquatic herbicide resistance, feasibility, and cost effectiveness should be considered:
        i. No action;
        ii. Prevention;
        iii. Mechanical or physical methods;
        iv. Cultural methods;
        v. Biological control agents; and
        vi. Algaecides and aquatic herbicides;

        If there are no alternatives to algaecides and aquatic herbicides, Dischargers shall use the minimum amount of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that is necessary to have an effective control program and is consistent with the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product label requirements.

b. Using the least intrusive method of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application; and

c. Applying a decision matrix concept to the choice of the most appropriate formulation.

D. APAP Processing, Approval, and Modifications

Upon receipt of an APAP, staff will post it on the State Water Board's website for a 30-day public comment period[2] and will distribute a notice via the State Water Board's Lyris list that an APAP has been posted. Staff will coordinate with Regional Water Board staff in reviewing the application package for completeness and applicability to this General Permit. If no comments are received and State and Regional Water Board staff deem the APAP complete, the Deputy Director will issue an NOA within five (5) working days of closure of the comment period. If comments are received, staff will work with Regional Water Board staff and the Discharger to address the comments to allow the Deputy Director to issue an NOA as expeditiously as possible. Permit coverage will begin when the Discharger receives the NOA.

Major changes to the APAP shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for approval. Examples of major changes include using a different product other than what is specified in the APAP, changing an application method that may result in different amounts of pesticides being applied, or adding or deleting BMPs.

E. Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Application Log

The Discharger shall maintain a log for each algaecide and aquatic herbicide application. The application log shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Date of application;
2. Location of application;
3. Name of applicator;
4. Type and amount of algaecide and aquatic herbicide used;
5. Application details, such as flow and level of water body, time application started and stopped, algaecide and aquatic herbicide application rate and concentration;
6. Visual monitoring assessment; and
7. Certification that applicator(s) followed the APAP.

[2] See Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. v. EPA, 399 F.3d 486 (2nd Cir. 2005).

IX. PROVISIONS

A. Standard Provisions

1. All Dischargers authorized to discharge under this General Permit shall comply with the Federal Standard Provisions included in Attachment B of this General Permit.
2. This General Permit does not authorize the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides or their degradation byproducts to waters of the United States that are impaired by the active ingredient of the algaecides and herbicides used. Impaired waters are those waters not meeting water quality standards pursuant to section 303(d) of the CWA. California impaired waters are listed on: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/2010state_ir_reports/2010_combo303d.xls.
3. This General Permit does not authorize any take of endangered species. The discharge is prohibited from adversely impacting biologically sensitive or critical habitats, including, but not limited to, habitat of species listed under federal or state endangered species laws. To ensure that endangered species issues are raised to the responsible agencies, the State Water Board has notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife of this General Permit.
4. The State Water Board may use this General Permit to regulate the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues to a surface water classified as Outstanding National Resource Waters or as a water body impaired by unknown toxicity only after the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the proposed project will comply with the limitations and discharge requirements specified in the General Permit; and (2) if required, the proposed algaecide and aquatic herbicide application qualifies for and has been granted a Basin Plan prohibition exception prior to discharge. The two bodies of water that are classified as Outstanding National Resource Waters in California are Lake Tahoe and Mono Lake.
5. The Discharger must follow all FIFRA pesticide label instructions and any Restricted Material Use Permits issued by a County Agricultural Commissioner.
6. All adjuvants used with the algaecides and aquatic herbicides must be labeled for aquatic use.
7. The Discharger must comply with effluent and receiving water limitations and must develop and implement an APAP.
8. To reduce the potential impacts to water quality, Dischargers shall implement the feasible alternatives to algaecide and aquatic herbicide use that are identified in the APAP.
9. All Dischargers authorized to discharge under this General Permit shall comply with discharge prohibitions and other requirements contained in Basin Plans, as implemented by the State and the nine Regional Water Boards.

10. All Dischargers authorized to discharge under this General Permit shall comply with the following provisions:

    a. After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this General Permit may be terminated or modified for cause, including, but not limited to:

        i. Violation of any term or condition contained in this General Permit;

        ii. Obtaining this General Permit by misrepresentation or by failing to disclose fully all relevant facts;

        iii. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge; and

        iv. A material change in the character, location, or volume of discharge (if applicable).

    b. The provisions of this General Permit are severable. If any provision of this General Permit is found invalid, the remainder of this General Permit shall not be affected.

    c. The Discharger shall maintain a copy of this General Permit and make it available at all times to operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with its content.

    d. Laboratories that perform sample analyses must be identified in all monitoring reports submitted to the State and Regional Water Boards.

    e. All monitoring and analysis instruments and devices used by the Discharger to fulfill the prescribed monitoring program shall be properly maintained and calibrated based on manufacturer's recommendations to ensure their continued accuracy.

    f. Each Discharger shall file with the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board technical reports on self monitoring* performed according to the detailed specifications contained in the Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to this General Permit.

    g. The State and Regional Water Board are authorized to enforce the terms of this General Permit under provisions of the California Water Code, including, but not limited to, sections 13385, 13386, and 13387.

B. Monitoring and Reporting Program Requirements

The Discharger shall comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program, and future revisions thereto, in Attachment C of this General Permit.

C. Special Provisions

1. Reopener Provisions

This General Permit may be reopened for modification and reissuance in accordance with the provisions contained in title 40 Code Federal Regulation (40 C.F.R.) section 122.62, and for the following reasons:

a. **Addition to the Public Entity List**. This General Permit may be reopened to modify Attachment G if any additional entity becomes qualified for a Policy section 5.3 exception.

b. **Addition of Aquatic Pesticide Active Ingredients**. This General Permit may be reopened to add additional algaecide and aquatic herbicide active ingredients if new active ingredients are registered by U.S. EPA and DPR.

c. **Acute and Chronic Toxicity.** If the State Water Board revises the Policy toxicity control provisions that would require new implementation procedures including the establishment of numeric chronic toxicity limitations, this General Permit may be reopened to include numeric acute and/or chronic toxicity receiving water limitations based on the new provisions.

d. **Receiving Water Limitations.** This General Permit may be reopened to add numeric Receiving Water Limitations for the residual algaecide and aquatic herbicides* exceeding the triggers if the additional investigation results show necessary.

e. **Endangered Species Act**. If U.S. EPA develops biological opinions regarding algaecides and aquatic herbicides included in this General Permit, this General Permit may be re-opened to add or modify Receiving Water Limitations/Monitoring Triggers for aquatic herbicides and algaecides and their residues of concern, if necessary.

2. **Change of Discharger**

In the event of any change in the Discharger that has obtained coverage under this General Permit, the previous Discharger shall notify the new Discharger of the existence of this General Permit by letter. A copy of the letter shall be immediately forwarded to the Deputy Director. After receipt of the letter, the Deputy Director will terminate the permit coverage to the previous Discharger. The new Discharger shall complete and submit to the Deputy Director a revised NOI form (Attachment E), and any revisions to the APAP prepared by the previous control entity or a new APAP.

3. **Application Package**

Dischargers who seek coverage under this General Permit shall file a complete application package at least 90 days before the expected date of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application. The application package shall include an NOI, APAP, and application fee. Enrolled Dischargers will be billed annually thereafter.

4. **Special Studies, Technical Reports, and Additional Monitoring Requirements**

a. **Additional Investigation**

Each Discharger must conduct additional investigations when the chemical monitoring shows exceedance of any receiving water limitation or monitoring trigger. The additional investigations shall identify corrective actions to

eliminate exceedance of receiving water limitations or monitoring triggers caused by the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application. The investigation shall include, but not be limited to evaluating the need to implement one or more of the following actions: revising and improving the existing BMPs, revising the mode of application, using less toxic algaecide and aquatic herbicide products, or selecting alternative methods for algae and aquatic weed control.

b. **Qualified Biologist Certification Following Project Completion**

Upon completion of an algaecide and aquatic herbicide project, public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G of this General Permit shall provide certification by a qualified biologist* that beneficial uses of receiving waters have been restored.

5. **Corrective Action**

a. **Exceedance of Receiving Water Limitations or Monitoring Triggers.**

If a Receiving Water Limitation in Table 3 or a Monitoring Trigger in Table 4 is exceeded in the Event or Post-Event sample, the Discharger shall perform the following actions: (1) initiate additional investigations for the cause of the exceedance, (2) implement appropriate BMPs to reduce the algaecide and aquatic herbicide concentration to be below the applicable receiving water limitation or monitoring triggers in future applications, and (3) evaluate the appropriateness of using alternative products.

b. **Revision of Control Measures.**

If any of the following situations occur, the Discharger must review and, as necessary, revise the evaluation and selection of the control measures to ensure that the situation is eliminated and will not be repeated in the future:

i. An unauthorized release or discharge associated with the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides (e.g., spill, leak, or discharge not authorized by this or another NPDES permit) occurs;

ii. The Discharger becomes aware, or the State Water Board concludes, that the control measures are not adequate/sufficient for the discharge to meet applicable water quality standards;

iii. Any monitoring activities indicate that the Discharger failed to:

a) Follow the label instructions for the product used;

b) Use the minimum amount of algaecide and aquatic herbicide product per application and optimum frequency of algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications that are necessary for an effective control program consistent with reducing the potential for development of resistance and the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product label requirements;

c) Perform regular maintenance activities to reduce leaks, spills, or other unintended discharges of algaecides and aquatic herbicides

associated with the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides covered under this General Permit; or

d) Maintain algaecide and aquatic herbicide application equipment in proper operating condition by adhering to any manufacturer's conditions and industry practices, and by calibrating, cleaning, and repairing such equipment on a regular basis to ensure effective algaecide and aquatic herbicide application and algae and aquatic weed control. The Discharger must ensure that the equipment's rate of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application is calibrated to deliver the minimum quantity of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that is needed to have an effective control program and is consistent with the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product label requirements.

c. **Corrective Action Deadlines**

If the Discharger determines that changes to the control measures are necessary to eliminate any situation identified above, the Discharger shall make such changes within 60 days. The Discharger shall take the corrective action before any further discharge of the algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues will be allowed.

d. **Effect of Corrective Action**

The occurrence of a situation identified in Section C.5.b above may constitute a violation of this General Permit. Correcting the situation according to Corrective Action Section C.5.c above does not absolve the Discharger of liability for any original violation. However, failure to comply with any Corrective Action as required by Section C.5.c above constitutes an additional permit violation. The State and Regional Water Boards will consider the appropriateness and promptness of corrective action in determining enforcement responses to permit violations.

The State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Boards may impose additional requirements and schedules of compliance, including requirements to submit additional information concerning the condition(s) triggering corrective action or schedules and requirements more stringent than specified in this General Permit. Those requirements and schedules will supersede those in the Corrective Action Section above if such requirements conflict.

6. **Adverse Incident to Threatened or Endangered Species or Critical Habitat**

If the Discharger becomes aware of an adverse incident* to a federally-listed threatened or endangered species or its federally-designated critical habitat, that may have resulted from the Discharger's algaecides and aquatic herbicides application, the Discharger must immediately notify the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Santa Rosa office by phone at (707) 575-6050 in the case of an anadromous or marine species, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at (916) 414-6600 in the case of a terrestrial or freshwater species. This notification must be made by telephone immediately when the Discharger becomes aware of the adverse incident and must include at least the following information:

a. The caller's name, telephone number, and e-mail address;

b. Applicator name and mailing address;

c. The name of the affected species;

d. How and when the Discharger became aware of the adverse incident;

e. Description of the location of the adverse incident;

f. Description of the adverse incident, including the U.S. EPA pesticide registration number for each product applied in the area of the adverse incident; and

g. Description of any steps that have been taken or will be taken to alleviate the adverse impact to the species.

Additional information on federally-listed threatened or endangered species and federally-designated critical habitat is available from NMFS (www.nmfs.noaa.gov) for anadromous or marine species or FWS (www.fws.gov) for terrestrial or freshwater species.

X. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Compliance with receiving water limitations and monitoring triggers shall be determined through event and post-event monitoring results.

Attachment A – Definitions

Active Ingredient
Active ingredients are ingredients disclosed by manufacturers that yield toxic effects* on target organisms.

Adjuvants
Adjuvants are ingredients that are mixed with herbicides prior to an application event and are often trade secrets. These ingredients are chosen by the Discharger, based on site characteristics, and typically increase the effectiveness of pesticides on target organisms.

Adverse Incident
Adverse Incident means a situation where the Discharger observes upon inspection or becomes aware of in which**:**

- A person or non-target organism may have been exposed to an algaecide or aquatic herbicide residue; and
- The person or non-target organism suffered an adverse or toxic effect.

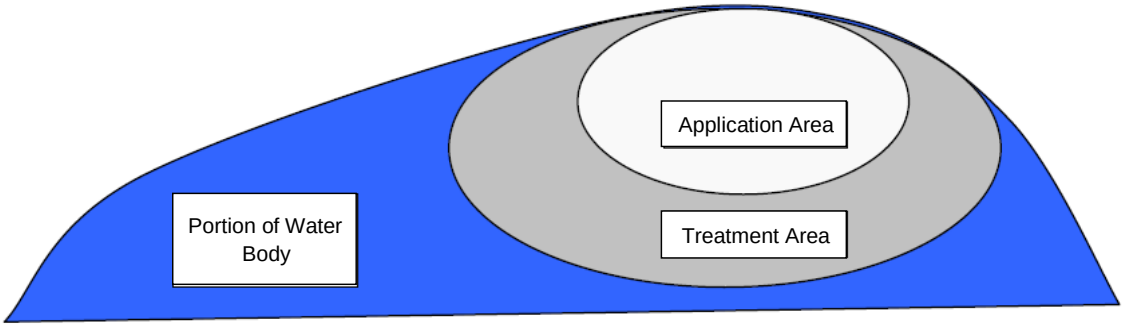
Adverse or Toxic Effect
An "adverse or toxic effect" includes any impact that occurs within waters of the United States on non-target organisms as a result of algaecide or aquatic herbicide residue discharge. Examples of these effects may include:

- Distressed or dead juvenile and small fishes
- Washed up or floating fish
- Fish swimming abnormally or erratically
- Fish lying lethargically at water surface or in shallow water
- Fish that are listless or nonresponsive to disturbance
- Stunting, wilting, or desiccation of non-target submerged or emergent aquatic plants
- Other dead or visibly distressed non-target aquatic organisms (amphibians, turtles, invertebrates, etc.)

An "adverse or toxic effect" also includes any adverse effects to humans (e.g., skin rashes) or domesticated animals that occur either directly or indirectly from a discharge to waters of the United States that are temporally and spatially related to exposure to an algaecide and aquatic herbicide residue (e.g., vomiting, lethargy).

Algae Control
Algae control means the treatment of filamentous algae, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), or algal species that have the potential to affect human or environmental health.

Application Area
The application area is the area to which aquatic pesticides are directly applied.



Application Event
The application event is the time that introduction of the algaecide or aquatic herbicide to the treatment area takes place, not the length of time that the environment is exposed to the algaecide or aquatic herbicide.

Aquatic Pesticides
Aquatic pesticides in this General Permit are limited to algaecides and aquatic herbicides labeled for aquatic use to control aquatic weeds or algae.

Beneficial Uses
Beneficial uses of the waters of the state that may be protected against quality degradation include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves.

Coalition
Specifically refers to a monitoring coalition which is a collaborative monitoring partnership of dischargers to develop a monitoring plan that addresses the monitoring requirements of this General Permit. The Coalition's monitoring plan will be submitted for Coalition members in lieu of individual monitoring plans from each member.

Enclosed Bays
Enclosed Bays means indentations along the coast that enclose an area of oceanic water within distinct headlands or harbor works. Enclosed bays include all bays where the narrowest distance between the headlands or outermost harbor works is less than 75 percent of the greatest dimension of the enclosed portion of the bay. Enclosed bays do not include inland surface waters or ocean waters.

Estuaries
Estuaries means waters, including coastal lagoons, located at the mouths of streams that serve as areas of mixing for fresh and ocean waters. Coastal lagoons and mouths of streams that are temporarily separated from the ocean by sandbars shall be considered estuaries. Estuarine waters shall be considered to extend from a bay or the open ocean to a point upstream where there is no significant mixing of freshwater and seawater. Estuaries do not include inland surface waters or ocean waters.

Half-Life
Half-life is the time required for half of the compound introduced into an ecosystem to be eliminated or disintegrated by natural processes.

Inert Ingredients
Inert ingredients are additional ingredients and are often trade secrets; therefore, they are not always disclosed by the manufacturer.

Mutual Water Company
A mutual water company is defined in the Public Utilities Code, section 2725 as “[a]ny private corporation or association organized for the purpose of delivering water to its stockholders and members at cost, including use of works for conserving, treating, and reclaiming water."

Point Source
Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, or vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.

Priority Pollutants
Priority pollutants are listed within the California Toxics Rule in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, section 131.38(b)(1). Criteria to protect aquatic life and human health are set for priority pollutants in the California Toxics Rule.

Public Entity
Public entity includes the federal government or a state, county, city and county, city, district, public authority, or public agency.

Qualified Biologist
A qualified biologist is a biologist who has the knowledge and experience in the ecosystem where the algaecide or aquatic herbicide is applied so that he or she can adequately evaluate whether the beneficial uses of the receiving waters have been protected and/or restored upon completion of the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project.

Receiving Waters
Receiving waters are waters of the United States anywhere outside of the treatment area at anytime and anywhere inside the treatment area after completion of the treatment event.

Representative Monitoring Location
To be considered “representative,” at a minimum, a location must be similar in hydrology, algaecide or aquatic herbicide use, and other factors that affect the residual discharge to the areas being represented in that environmental setting.

Residual Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide
Residual algaecide and aquatic herbicide are those portions of the pesticides that remain in

the water after the application and its intended purpose (injury or elimination of targeted pests) have been completed.

Self Monitoring
Sampling and analysis performed by the Discharger or Coalition to determine compliance with the Permit. All laboratory analyses must be conducted by a laboratory certified by the California Department of Public Health.

Treatment Area
The treatment area is the area being treated by the algaecide or aquatic herbicide for algae and aquatic weed control and, therefore, the area being targeted to receive an appropriate rate of application consistent with product label requirements of algaecide or aquatic herbicide. It is the responsibility of the Discharger to define the treatment area for each specific algaecide and aquatic herbicide application.

Waters of the United States

1. All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
2. All interstate waters, including interstate “wetlands;”
3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sand flats, “wetlands,” sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
   a. Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;
   b. From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
   c. Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
4. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;
5. Tributaries of waters identified in items1 through 4 of this definition;
6. The territorial sea; and
7. "Wetlands" adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (1) through (6) of this definition. Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 C.F.R. section 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States. This exclusion applies only to manmade bodies of water which neither were originally created in waters of the United States (such as disposal area in wetlands) nor resulted from the impoundment of waters of the United States [See Note 1 of this Section.] Waters of the United States do not include prior converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with U.S. EPA.

Attachment B – Standard Provisions

I. STANDARD PROVISIONS – PERMIT COMPLIANCE (IF APPLICABLE)

A. Duty to Comply

1. The Discharger must comply with all of the conditions of this General Permit. Any noncompliance constitutes a violation of the CWA and the California Water Code and is grounds for enforcement action, for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(a).)
2. The Discharger shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the CWA for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if this General Permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(a)(1).)

B. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a Discharger in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(c).)

C. Duty to Mitigate

The Discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this General Permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(d).)

D. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(e).)

E. Property Rights

1. This General Permit does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(g).)
2. The issuance of this General Permit does not authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of state or local law or regulations. (40 C.F.R. §122.5(c).)

F. Inspection and Entry

The Discharger shall allow the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and/or their authorized

representatives (including an authorized contractor acting as their representative), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents, as may be required by law, (40 C.F.R. §122.41(i); Water Code, §13383) to:

1. Enter upon the Discharger's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept under the conditions of this General Permit;
2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit;
3. Inspect and photograph, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this General Permit; and
4. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring General Permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the CWA or the Water Code, any substances or parameters at any location.

II. STANDARD PROVISIONS – PERMIT ACTION

A. General

This General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Discharger for modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any General Permit condition. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(f).)

B. Duty to Reapply

If the Discharger wishes to continue an activity regulated by this General Permit after the expiration date of this General Permit, the Discharger must apply for and obtain authorization as required by the new permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(b).)

C. Transfers

This General Permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to the State Water Board. The State Water Board may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the General Permit to change the name of the Discharger and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the CWA and the Water Code. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(3); §122.61.)

D. Continuation of this Permit

If this permit is not reissued or replaced prior to the expiration date, it will be administratively continued in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.6 and remain in full force and effect.

III. STANDARD PROVISIONS – MONITORING

Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(1).)

Monitoring results must be conducted according to test procedures under 40 C.F.R. part 136 unless other test procedures have been specified in this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(4); §122.44(i)(1)(iv).)

IV. STANDARD PROVISIONS – RECORDS

A. Records Retention

The Discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records, copies of all reports required by this General Permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this General Permit, for a period of at least three (3) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the the State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality (Deputy Director) at any time. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(2).)

B. Records of monitoring information shall include:

1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(i).);
2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(ii).);
3. The date(s) analyses were performed (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(iii).);
4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(iv).);
5. The analytical techniques or methods used (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(v).); and
6. The results of such analyses. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(j)(3)(vi).)

C. Claims of confidentiality for the following information will be denied (40 C.F.R. §122.7(b).):

1. The name and address of any permit applicant or Discharger (40 C.F.R. §122.7(b)(1).); and
2. Permit applications and attachments, permits and effluent data. (40 C.F.R. §122.7(b)(2).)

V. STANDARD PROVISIONS – REPORTING

A. Duty to Provide Information

The Discharger shall furnish to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA within a reasonable time, any information which the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this General Permit or to determine compliance with this General Permit. Upon request, the Discharger shall also furnish to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA copies of records required to be kept by this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(h); Wat. Code, §13267.)

B. Signatory and Certification Requirements

1. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, and/or U.S. EPA shall be signed and certified in accordance with Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.2, V.B.3, V.B.4, V.B.5, and V.B.6 below. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(k).)

2. **For a corporation.** By a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means: (i) A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who perfoms similar policy- or decision-making functions for the corporation, or (ii) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided, the manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated facility including having the explicit or implicit duty of making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations; the manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; and where authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.

3. **For a partnership or sole proprietorship.** By a general partner or the proprietor, respectively;

4. **For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency:** All permit applications shall be signed by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this provision, a principal executive officer of a federal agency includes: (i) the chief executive officer of the agency, or (ii) a senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency (e.g., Regional Administrators of U.S. EPA). (40 C.F.R. §122.22(a)(3).)

5. All reports required by this General Permit and other information requested by the Regional Water Board, State Water Board, or U.S. EPA shall be signed by a person described in Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above, or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

   a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described in Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above (40 C.F.R. §122.22(b)(1).);

   b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity or an individual or a position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.) (40 C.F.R. §122.22(b)(2).); and

   c. The written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board and State Water Board. (40 C.F.R. §122.22(b)(3).)

6. If an authorization under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 above must be submitted to the Regional Water Board and State Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications, to be signed by an authorized representative. (40 C.F.R. §122.22(c).)

   Any person signing a document under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.B.1 or V.B.3 above shall make the following certification:

   "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations." (40 C.F.R. §122.22(d).)

C. Monitoring Reports

1. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment C) in this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.22(l)(4).)
2. Monitoring results must be reported on a Self Monitoring* Report (SMR) form as agreed to by the Deputy Director and the Discharger.
3. If the Discharger monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this General Permit using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R part 136 or as specified in this General Permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the SMR or a reporting form specified by the State Water Board. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(4)(ii).)
4. Calculations for all limitations, which require averaging of measurements, shall utilize an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified in this General Permit. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(4)(iii).)

D. Compliance Schedules

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this General Permit, shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(5).)

E. Planned Changes

The Discharger shall give notice to the State and the Regional Water Board as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted activity or discharge. Notice is required under this provision (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(1)) only when

the alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants that are subject neither to effluent limitations in this General Permit nor to notification requirements under 40 C.F.R. section 122.42(a)(1).

F. Anticipated Noncompliance

The Discharger shall give advance notice to the State and Regional Water Boards of any planned changes in the permitted discharge or activity that may result in noncompliance with General Permit requirements. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(2).)

G. Other Noncompliance

The Discharger shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under Standard Provisions – Reporting V.C, V.D, and V.E above at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Standard Provision – Reporting V.F above. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(7).)

H. Other Information

When the Discharger becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the State Water Board, Regional Water Board, or U.S. EPA, the Discharger shall promptly submit such facts or information. (40 C.F.R. §122.41(l)(8).)

VI. STANDARD PROVISIONS – ENFORCEMENT

The State and the Regional Water Boards are authorized to enforce the terms of this General Permit under several provisions of the Water Code, including, but not limited to, sections 13385, 13386, and 13387.

Attachment C – Monitoring and Reporting Program

Table of Contents

I. General Monitoring Provisions....C-2
II. Monitoring Locations and Sample Types....C-3
A. Monitoring Locations....C-3
B. Sample Types....C-4
III. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements – Surface Water....C-4
A. General Monitoring Requirements....C-4
B. Visual, Physical, and Chemical Monitoring Requirements....C-5
IV. Reporting Requirements....C-6
A. General Monitoring and Reporting Requirements....C-6
B. Annual Information Collection....C-7
C. Annual Report....C-8
D. Electronic Reporting....C-8
E. Reporting Protocols....C-8
F. Other Reporting Requirements....C-10

List of Tables

Table C-1. Monitoring Requirements....C-6
Table C-2. Reporting Schedule....C-8

ATTACHMENT C – MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Section 122.48 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R. §122.48) requires that all NPDES permits specify monitoring and reporting requirements. California Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 also authorize the State Water Resources Control Board (the State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) to require technical and monitoring reports. This Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) establishes monitoring and reporting requirements which implement federal and California State laws and regulations.

This MRP is designed to address the two key questions shown below. It also encourages Dischargers to form monitoring coalitions with others doing similar applications within a given watershed or doing applications of similar environmental settings (flowing water and non-flowing water). The Coalition or Discharger may select sites representing worst case scenarios or high-use areas for each active ingredient in each environmental setting. If the Discharger elects in its Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP) to undertake monitoring and reporting through a Coalition, then the Coalition will prepare and implement an MRP (pursuant to this Attachment C) and act on behalf of the Discharger with respect to monitoring and reporting. Otherwise, the Discharger will prepare and implement an individual MRP.

Question No. 1: Does the residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides discharge cause an exceedance of receiving water limitations?

Question No. 2: Does the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides, including active ingredients, inert ingredients, and degradation byproducts, in any combination cause or contribute to an exceedance of the “no toxics in toxic amount” narrative toxicity objective?

If the Discharger elects in its APAP to undertake monitoring and reporting through a Coalition, the APAP should reference and attach the Coalition’s monitoring plan.

I. GENERAL MONITORING PROVISIONS

A. Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the nature of the monitored discharge. All samples shall be taken at the anticipated monitoring locations specified in the Discharger’s or Coalition’s APAP.

B. All laboratory analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the California Department of Public Health in accordance with California Water Code section 13176. Laboratories that perform sample analyses shall be identified in all monitoring reports. The Discharger shall institute a Quality Assurance-Quality Control Program for any onsite field measurements such as electric conductivity, pH, turbidity, and temperature. A manual containing the steps followed in this program must be kept in the laboratory and shall be available for inspection by the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board staff. The Quality Assurance-Quality Control Program must conform to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) guidelines or to procedures approved by the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board.

C. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants," promulgated by the U.S. EPA in title 40 Code Federal Regulation (40 C.F.R.) 136 or equivalent methods that are commercially and reasonably available and that provide quantification of sampling parameters and constituents sufficient to evaluate compliance with applicable effluent limits and to perform reasonable potential analysis. Equivalent methods must be more sensitive than those specified in 40 C.F.R. 136 if the method is available in the 40 C.F.R. 136, and must be approved for use by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

   Any procedures to prevent the contamination of samples as described in the monitoring program in the APAP shall be implemented.

D. Records of monitoring information shall include the following:

   1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
   2. The individuals who performed the sampling or measurements;
   3. The dates analysis were performed;
   4. The individuals who performed the analyses;
   5. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
   6. Results of analyses.

E. All monitoring instruments and devices used to fulfill the prescribed monitoring program shall be properly maintained and calibrated as necessary to ensure their accuracy.

F. Monitoring results, including noncompliance, shall be reported at intervals and in a manner specified in this MRP.

II. MONITORING LOCATIONS AND SAMPLE TYPES

A. Monitoring Locations

Each Discharger or Coalition shall establish monitoring locations specified in the APAP to demonstrate compliance with the receiving water limitations, discharge specifications, and other requirements in this General Permit. The number and location of samples shall be selected to answer the two key questions. A Discharger or Coalition may use representative monitoring locations* to characterize water quality for all waters of the United States within the Discharger's or Coalition's boundaries for each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water). However, the Discharger or Coalition must provide justification for the selection of the representative monitoring locations. To be considered "representative," at a minimum, a location must be similar in hydrology, algaecides and aquatic herbicides use, and other factors that affect the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their residues to surface waters as a result of applications to the areas being represented in that environmental setting. Each Discharger or Coalition must provide technical justification and identify which areas are to be considered representative. Monitoring location information shall include a description of the treatment area, GPS

coordinates if feasible, and algaecides and aquatic herbicides being applied. The specific monitoring locations initially identified as representative monitoring locations may be changed based on surveillance of the Discharger or Coalition.

B. Sample Types

The following monitoring is required for each sampling:

1. **Background Monitoring.** Background monitoring samples shall be collected upstream at the time of the application event* or in the application area* just prior to (up to 24 hours in advance of) the application event.
2. **Event Monitoring.** Event monitoring samples shall be collected immediately downstream of the treatment area in flowing waters or immediately outside of the treatment area in non-flowing waters, immediately after the application event, but after sufficient time has elapsed such that treated water would have exited the treatment area.
3. **Post-Event Monitoring.** Post-event monitoring samples shall be collected within the treatment area within one week after application.

III. RECEIVING WATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS – SURFACE WATER

A. General Monitoring Requirements

The monitoring program described in the APAP shall be designed to answer the two key questions stated above. The monitoring program in the APAP shall describe the tasks and time schedules in which these two key questions will be addressed. Monitoring shall take place at locations that are being planned to be applied or may be applied as described in the Discharger's APAP.

The monitoring program described in the APAP must consider watershed specific attributes and waste constituents, based on the characteristics of applications within the Coalition's or Discharger's area, as well as the receiving water quality conditions. Developing the details of a monitoring design requires clearly defining several inputs to the design and then organizing these in a logical framework that supports effective decision making about indicators, monitoring locations, and monitoring frequency. The logical framework should describe:

1. The basic geographic and hydrographic features of the area, particularly application points and the pathways(s) of residue flows;
2. Algaecides and aquatic herbicides application practices and how they are distributed in space and time;
3. Relevant knowledge about the transport, fates, and effects of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, including best- and worst-case scenarios;
4. Description of the designated beneficial uses in each water body;
5. Relevant knowledge about the action of cumulative and indirect effects;

6. Mechanisms through which algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications could lead to designated use impacts, given the basic features of the area;
7. Known and potential impacts of algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications on water quality, ranked in terms of relative risk, based on factors such as magnitude, frequency and duration;
8. Sufficient number of sampling areas to assess the entire Discharger's or Coalition's area of influence; and
9. A description of sampling methods and a sampling schedule.

In conducting the receiving water sampling, a log shall be kept of the receiving water conditions throughout the reach bounded by the treatment area. Attention shall be given to the presence or absence of:

1. Floating or suspended matter;
2. Discoloration;
3. Bottom deposits;
4. Aquatic life;
5. Visible films, sheens, or coatings;
6. Fungi, slimes, or objectionable growths; and
7. Potential nuisance conditions.

Notes on receiving water conditions shall be summarized in the monitoring report.

B. Visual, Physical, and Chemical Monitoring Requirements

Monitoring shall take place at locations that are described and scheduled in the Coalition's or Discharger's APAP. Monitoring for all active ingredients must include frequent and routine monitoring on a pre-determined schedule, as summarized in the Table C-1 below:

Table C-1. Monitoring Requirements

Sample Type	Constituent/Parameter	Units	Sample Method	Minimum Sampling Frequency	Sample Type Requirement	Required Analytical Test Method
Visual	1. Monitoring area description (pond, lake, open waterway, channel, etc.) 2. Appearance of waterway (sheen, color, clarity, etc.) 3. Weather conditions (fog, rain, wind, etc.)	Not applicable	Visual Observation	[1]	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	Not applicable
Physical	1. Temperature[2]	ºF	Grab[4]	[5]	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	[6]
	2. pH[3]	Number				
	3. Turbidity[3]	NTU				
	4. Electric Conductivity[3] @ 25°C	µmhos/cm				
Chemical	1. Active Ingredient[7]	µg/L	Grab[4]	[5]	Background, Event and Post-event Monitoring	[6]
	2. Nonylphenol[8]	µg/L				
	3. Hardness (if copper is monitored)	mg/L				
	4. Dissolved Oxygen[2]	mg/L				

[1] All applications at all sites.
[2] Field testing.
[3] Field or laboratory testing.
[4] Samples shall be collected at three feet below the surface of the water body or at mid water column depth if the depth is less than three feet.
[5] Collect samples from a minimum of six application events for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) per year, except for glyphosate. If there are less than six application events in a year, collect samples during each application event for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water). If the results from six consecutive sampling events show concentrations that are less than the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in an environmental setting, sampling shall be reduced to one application event per year for that active ingredient in that environmental setting. If the yearly sampling event shows exceedance of the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in an environmental setting, then sampling shall return to six application events for that active ingredient in each environmental setting. For glyphosate, collect samples from one application event from each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) per year.
[6] Pollutants shall be analyzed using the analytical methods described in 40 C.F.R. part 136.
[7] 2,4-D, acrolein, dissolved copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone, glyphosate, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, and triclopyr.
[8] It is required only when a surfactant is used.

IV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. General Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

1. The Coalition or Discharger shall comply with all Standard Provisions (Attachment B) related to monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping.

2. Upon written direction of the State Water Board or the Regional Water Board, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit information as specified.
3. The Coalition or Discharger shall report to the State Water Board and appropriate Regional Water Board any toxic chemical release data that are reported to the State Emergency Response Commission within 15 days of reporting the data to the Commission pursuant to section 313 of the "Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act" of 1986 (42 U.S.C. §11001 et. seq.).

B. Annual Information Collection

The Coalition or Discharger shall complete and retain all information on the previous reporting year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. When requested by the Deputy Director or Executive Officer of the applicable Regional Water Board, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit the annual information which must include the following:

1. An executive summary discussing compliance or violation of this General Permit and the effectiveness of the APAP to reduce or prevent the discharge of pollutants associated with algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications;
2. A summary of monitoring data, including the identification of water quality improvements or degradation as a result of the algaecide or aquatic pesticide application, if appropriate, and recommendations for improvements to the APAP [including proposed best management practices (BMPs)] and monitoring program based on the monitoring results. All receiving water monitoring data shall be compared to receiving water limitations and receiving water monitoring triggers;
3. Identification of BMPs currently in use and a discussion of their effectiveness in meeting the requirements in this General Permit;
4. A discussion of BMP modifications addressing violations of this General Permit;
5. A map showing the location of each treatment area;
6. Types and amounts of algaecides and aquatic herbicides used at each application event;*
7. Information on surface area and/or volume of treatment areas and any other information used to calculate dosage, concentration, and quantity of each algaecide and aquatic herbicide used;
8. Sampling results shall indicate the name of the sampling agency or organization, detailed sampling location information (including latitude and longitude or township/range/section if available), detailed map or description of each sampling area (address, cross roads, etc.), collection date, name of constituent/parameter and its concentration detected, minimum levels, method detection limits for each constituent analysis, name or description of water body sampled, and a comparison with applicable water quality standards, description of analytical QA/quality control plan. Sampling results shall be tabulated so that they are readily discernible; and
9. Summary of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application log.

C. Annual Report

The Coalition or Discharger shall submit to the Deputy Director and the appropriate Regional Water Board Executive Officer an annual report consisting of a summary of the past year's activities, and certify compliance with all requirements of this General Permit. If there is no discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, their residues, or their degradation byproducts, the Coalition or Discharger shall provide the Deputy Director and the appropriate Regional Water Board Executive Officer a certification that algaecide and aquatic herbicide application activities did not result in a discharge to any water body. The annual report shall contain the following information:

1. An executive summary discussing compliance or violation of this General Permit and the effectiveness of the APAP; and
2. A summary of monitoring data, including the identification of water quality improvements or degradation as a result of the algaecide or aquatic pesticide application,
3. Dischargers shall submit the annual report according to the following schedule:

Table C-2. Reporting Schedule

Reporting Frequency	Reporting Period	Annual Report Due
Annual	January 1 through December 31	March 1

D. Electronic Reporting

At any time during the term of this General Permit, the State Water Board or the appropriate Regional Water Board may notify the Coalition or Discharger of the requirement to submit electronically Self Monitoring Reports (SMRs) using the State Water Board's California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) Program (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/index.html). Until such notification is given, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit hardcopy SMRs. The CIWQS website will provide additional directions for SMR submittal in the event there will be service interruption for electronic submittal.

The Coalition or Discharger shall report the results for all monitoring specified in this MRP in the SMR. The Coalition or Discharger shall submit annual SMRs including the results of all required monitoring using U.S. EPA-approved test methods or other test methods specified in this General Permit. If the Coalition or Discharger monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this General Permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculations and reporting of the data submitted in the SMR.

E. Reporting Protocols

The Coalition or Discharger shall report with each sample result the applicable reported Minimum Level (ML) and the current Minimum Detection Limit, as determined by the procedure in 40 C.F.R. part 136.

The Coalition or Discharger shall report the results of analytical determinations for the presence of chemical constituents in a sample using the following reporting protocols:

1. Sample results greater than or equal to the reported ML shall be reported as measured by the laboratory (i.e., the measured chemical concentration in the sample).
2. Sample results less than the Report Limit, but greater than or equal to the laboratory's MDL, shall be reported as "Detected, but Not Quantified," or DNQ. The estimated chemical concentration of the sample shall also be reported.

   For the purposes of data collection, the laboratory shall write the estimated chemical concentration next to DNQ as well as the words "Estimated Concentration" (may be shortened to "Est. Conc."). The laboratory may, if such information is available, include numerical estimates of the data quality for the reported result. Numerical estimates of data quality may be percent accuracy (plus a percentage of the reported value), numerical ranges (low to high), or any other means considered appropriate by the laboratory.
3. Sample results less than the laboratory's MDL shall be reported as "<" followed by the MDL.
4. The Coalition or Discharger shall instruct laboratories to establish calibration standards so that the ML value (or its equivalent if there is differential treatment of samples relative to calibration standards) is the lowest calibration standard. At no time is the Coalition or Discharger to use analytical data derived from extrapolation beyond the lowest point of the calibration curve.
5. Multiple Sample Data: If two or more sample results are available, the Coalition or Discharger shall compute the arithmetic mean unless the data set contains one or more reported determinations of DNQ or "Not Detected" (ND). In those cases, the Coalition or Discharger shall compute the median in place of the arithmetic mean in accordance with the following procedure:
   a. The data set shall be ranked from low to high, ranking the reported ND determinations lowest, DNQ determinations next, followed by quantified values (if any). The order of the individual ND or DNQ determinations is unimportant.
   b. The median value of the data set shall be determined. If the data set has an odd number of data points, then the median is the middle value. If the data set has an even number of data points, then the median is the average of the two values around the middle unless one or both of the points are ND or DNQ, in which case the median value shall be the lower of the two data points where DNQ is lower than a value and ND is lower than DNQ.
6. The annual report shall comply with the following requirements:
   a. The Coalition or Discharger shall arrange all reported data in a tabular format. The data shall be summarized to clearly illustrate whether the algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications are conducted in compliance

with effluent and receiving water limitations. The Coalition or Discharger is not required to duplicate the submittal of data that are entered in a tabular format within CIWQS. When electronic submittal of data is required and CIWQS does not provide for entry into a tabular format within the system, the Coalition or Discharger shall submit electronically the data in a tabular format as an attachment.

b. The Coalition or Discharger shall attach a cover letter to the annual report that clearly identifies violations of the permit; discusses corrective actions taken or planned; and provides a time schedule for corrective actions. Identified violations must include a description of the requirement that was violated and a description of the violation.

c. The annual report must be submitted to the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board, signed and certified as required by the Standard Provisions (Attachment B).

F. Other Reporting Requirements

1. Twenty-Four Hour Report

The Coalition or Discharger shall report to the State Water Board and appropriate Regional Water Board any noncompliance, including any unexpected or unintended effect of an algaecide or aquatic herbicide use that may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the Coalition or Discharger becomes aware of the circumstances and must include the following information:

a. The caller's name and telephone number;

b. Applicator name and mailing address;

c. Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) number;

d. The name and telephone number of a contact person;

e. How and when the Coalition or Discharger become aware of the noncompliance;

f. Description of the location of the noncompliance;

g. Description of the noncompliance identified and the U.S. EPA pesticide registration number for each product the Discharger applied in the area of the noncompliance; and

h. Description of any steps that the Coalition or Discharger has taken or will take to correct, repair, remedy, cleanup, or otherwise address any adverse effects.

If the Coalition or Discharger is unable to notify the State and the appropriate Regional Water Board within 24 hours, the Coalition or Discharger must do so as soon as possible and also provide the rationale for why the Discharger was unable to provide such notification within 24 hours.

2. **Five-Day Written Report**

The Coalition or Discharger shall also provide a written submission within five (5) days of the time the Discharger becomes aware of the noncompliance. The written submission shall contain the following information:

a. Date and time the Coalition or Discharger contacted the State Water Board and the appropriate Regional Water Board notifying of the noncompliance and any instructions received from the State and/or Regional Water Board; information required to be provided in Section D.1 (24-Hour Reporting);

b. A description of the noncompliance and its cause, including exact date and time and species affected, estimated number of individual and approximate size of dead or distressed organisms (other than the pests to be eliminated);

c. Location of incident, including the names of any waters affected and appearance of those waters (sheen, color, clarity, etc);

d. Magnitude and scope of the affected area (e.g. aquatic square area or total stream distance affected);

e. Algaecide and aquatic herbicide application rate, intended use site (e.g., banks, above, or direct to water), method of application, and name of algaecide and herbicide product, description of algaecide and herbicide ingredients, and U.S. EPA registration number;

f. Description of the habitat and the circumstances under which the noncompliance activity occurred (including any available ambient water data for aquatic algaecides and aquatic herbicides applied);

g. Laboratory tests performed, if any, and timing of tests. Provide a summary of the test results within five days after they become available;

h. If applicable, explain why the Coalition or Discharger believes the noncompliance could not have been caused by exposure to the algaecides or aquatic herbicides from the Coalition's or Discharger's application; and

i. Actions to be taken to prevent recurrence of adverse incidents.

The State Water Board staff or Regional Water Board staff may waive the above-required written report under this provision on a case-by-case basis if an oral report has been received within 24 hours.

Attachment D – Fact Sheet

Table of Contents

I. Permit Information D-3
A. Background D-3
B. General Criteria D-7
II. Notification Requirements D-8
A. General Permit Application D-8
B. Fee D-9
C. Public Notification D-9
III. Discharge Description D-9
A. Existing Discharge Description D-9
B. Annual Report Review D-10
C. Receiving Water Description D-11
IV. Applicable Plans, Policies, and Regulations D-11
A. Legal Authorities D-11
B. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) D-11
C. State and Federal Regulations, Policies, and Plans D-11
V. Rationale For Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications D-15
A. Discharge Prohibitions D-16
B. Effluent Limitations D-17
VI. Rationale for Receiving Water Limitations and Monitoring Triggers D-21
A. Groundwater D-21
B. Surface Water D-21
VII. Rationale for Monitoring and Reporting Requirements D-30
A. MRP Goals D-30
B. Effluent Monitoring D-31
C. Toxicity Testing Requirements D-31
D. Receiving Water Monitoring D-32
VIII. Rationale for Aquatic Pesticide Use Requirements D-32
A. Application Schedule D-32
B. Application Notification Requirements D-33
C. APAP D-33
D. APAP Processing, Approval, and Modifications D-33
E. Aquatic Pesticide Application Log D-33
IX. Rationale for Provisions D-33
A. Standard Provisions D-33
B. Special Provisions D-34
X. Compliance Determination D-35
XI. Public Participation D-36
A. Notification of Interested Parties D-36
B. Written Comments D-36
C. Public Hearing and Meeting D-36
D. Information and Copying D-37
E. Register of Interested Persons D-37
F. Additional Information D-37

List of Tables

Table D-1. Monitoring Data Summary, 2004-2008, Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ.....D-10
Table D-2. Summary of Receiving Water Limitations D-23
Table D-3. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazamox (CAS# 114311-32-9) D-25
Table D-4. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazapyr (CAS#81334-34-1).....D-26
Table D-5. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazapyr Isopropylamine Salt (CAS#81510-83-0)...D-27
Table D-6. Toxicity Data Summary for Penoxsulam (CAS#219714-96-2) D-28
Table D-7. Toxicity Data Summary for Triclopyr TEA Salt (CAS#57213-69-1).....D-29

Attachment D – Fact Sheet

As described in Section III, Findings, of this General Permit, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) incorporates this Fact Sheet as findings of the State Water Board that support the issuance of this General Permit. This Fact Sheet includes the legal requirements and technical rationale that serve as the basis for the requirements of this General Permit.

This General Permit has been prepared under a standardized format to accommodate a broad range of discharge requirements for Dischargers in California.

I. PERMIT INFORMATION

A. Background

1. The Regulatory Background

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act or CWA) was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source is effectively prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

On September 22, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) granted the State of California, through the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), the authority to issue general NPDES permits pursuant to title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.) 122 and 123.

Section 122.28 of 40 C.F.R. provides for issuance of general permits to regulate a category of point sources if the sources involve the same or substantially similar types of operations; discharge the same type of waste; require the same type of effluent limitations or operating conditions; require similar monitoring; and are more appropriately regulated under a general permit rather than individual permits.

On March 12, 2001, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that discharges of pollutants from the use of aquatic pesticides in waters of the United States require coverage under an NPDES permit. (*Headwaters, Inc. v. Talent Irrigation District).*[3] The *Talent* decision was issued just prior to the major season for applying aquatic pesticides.

Because of the serious public health, safety, and economic implications of delaying pesticide applications, in 2001 the State Water Board adopted Water Quality Order (Order) No. 2001-12-DWQ, Statewide General NPDES Permit for

[3] 243 F.3d 526 (9th Cir., 2001).

Discharges of Aquatic Pesticides to Waters of the United States on an emergency basis to provide immediate NPDES permit coverage for broad categories of aquatic pesticide use in California.

Order No. 2001-12-DWQ imposed requirements on any discharge of aquatic pesticides by public entities to waters of the United States in accordance with the Policy which establishes procedures for implementing water quality standards for priority pollutants* in NPDES permits.

Section 5.3 of the State Water Board Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (Policy) allows for short-term or seasonal exceptions from its requirements for resource or pest management conducted by public entities or mutual water companies. In order to qualify for an exception from meeting priority pollutant standards, a public entity must fulfill the requirements listed in section 5.3 and the State Water Board must decide to grant the exception. Among other requirements, entities seeking an exception to complying with water quality standards for priority pollutants must submit documents in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).[4] Because of the emergency adoption of Order No. 2001-12-DWQ, the State Water Board invoked an exemption to the requirements of section 5.3 of the Policy and issued the permit incorporating a categorical exception to water quality standards for priority pollutants.

Order No. 2001-12-DWQ required that Dischargers develop a best management practices (BMPs) plan that minimizes adverse impacts to receiving waters and a monitoring and reporting plan that is representative of each type of aquatic pesticide application.

In August 2001, Waterkeepers Northern California (Waterkeepers) filed a lawsuit against the State Water Board challenging several aspects of Order No. 2001-12-DWQ. Major aspects of the challenge included the emergency adoption of the Order without compliance with CEQA and other exception requirements of the Policy; failure to address cumulative impacts; and failure to comply with the California Toxics Rule (CTR).[5]

In a settlement of the Waterkeepers' lawsuit, the State Water Board agreed to fund a comprehensive aquatic pesticide monitoring program that would assess receiving water toxicity caused by aquatic pesticides and alternatives for pesticide use. The State Water Board contracted with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) to conduct the program. SFEI published the final report on February 5, 2004.

In November 2002, the Ninth Circuit issued another opinion concerning the need for an NPDES permit for pesticide application. (*League of Wilderness Defenders*

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[4] Cal. Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et. seq.
[5] 40 C.F.R. Section 131.38.

v. Forsgren.[6]) In this case, the court held that the USDA Forest Service must obtain an NPDES permit before it sprays insecticides* from an aircraft directly into or over rivers as part of silviculture activities. The court found that the insecticides are pollutants under the CWA. The court also defined the exemption for silvicultural pest control from the definition of "point source" in U.S. EPA's regulations to be limited to pest control activities from which there is natural runoff.

Also in 2002, the Second Circuit issued an unpublished decision regarding the need for an NPDES permit for application of pesticides for mosquito control in federal wetland areas. (*Altman v. Town of Amherst*.) The lower court had dismissed a citizens' suit, holding that pesticides, when used for their intended purpose, do not constitute a "pollutant" for purposes of the CWA, and are more appropriately regulated under Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The appeals court vacated the trial court's decision and remanded the matter. In its unpublished decision, the Second Circuit expressed concern that: "[u]ntil the EPA articulates a clear interpretation of current law - among other things, whether properly used pesticides released into or over waters of the United States can trigger the requirements for NPDES permits - the question of whether properly used pesticides can become pollutants that violate the [Clean Water Act] will remain open."

Order No. 2001-12-DWQ expired on January 31, 2004. In 2004, it was replaced by two general permits: a vector control permit for larvicides (Order No. 2004-0008-DWQ) and a weed control permit (Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ). The State Water Board determined that adoption of these two permits was consistent with the Ninth Circuit decisions.

In 2005, the Ninth Circuit held that a pesticide that is applied consistent with FIFRA is not a "chemical waste" (*Fairhurst v. Hagener),*[7] but also stated that it would not change its decision in *Headwaters.* The court stated that whether an NPDES permit was required depends on whether there was any "residue or unintended effect" from application of the pesticide. In *Fairhurst*, the court found neither residue nor unintended effect was present. Therefore, the pesticide application at issue did not require an NPDES permit.

U.S. EPA's Final Rule: On November 20, 2006, U.S. EPA adopted a final regulation providing that NPDES permits are not required for pesticide applications as long as the Discharger follows FIFRA label instructions. According to the regulation, pesticides applied under the following two circumstances are not pollutants and, therefore, are not subject to NPDES permitting requirements:

a. The application of pesticides directly to waters of the United States in order to control pests. Examples of such applications include applications to control

[6] 309 F.3d 1181 (9th Cir., 2002).
[7] 422 F.3d 1146 (9th Cir., 2005).

mosquito larvae, aquatic weeds, or other pests that are present in waters of the United States; and

b. The application of pesticides to control pests that are present over waters of the United States, including near such waters, where a portion of the pesticides will unavoidably be deposited to waters of the United States in order to target the pests effectively; for example, when insecticides are aerially applied to a forest canopy where waters of the United States may be present below the canopy or when pesticides are applied over or near water for control of adult mosquitoes or other pests.

Lawsuits Against U.S. EPA's Final Rule: After U.S. EPA's new regulation was adopted in 2006, lawsuits were filed by both the pesticide industry and environmental groups in 11 of the 13 Circuits, including the Ninth Circuit Court, challenging U.S. EPA's Final Rule.

The National Cotton Council of America v. U.S. EPA:[8] The petitions for review were consolidated in the Sixth Circuit Court by an order of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.

On January 11, 2009, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals determined that U.S. EPA's Final Rule is not a reasonable interpretation of the CWA and vacated the Final Rule. U.S. EPA did not request reconsideration of the decision, but did file a motion for a two-year stay of the effect of the decision in order to provide agencies time to develop, propose, and issue NPDES general permits for pesticide applications covered by the ruling. On June 8, 2009, the Sixth Circuit granted the motion, such that the U.S. EPA exemption was to remain in place until April 9, 2011. Subsequently, U.S. EPA was granted an extension of the stay, which allowed the exemption to continue until October 31, 2011.

2. **Related Pesticide Regulation Information**

Pesticide formulations may include "active ingredients" and "inert ingredients." Adjuvants or surfactants may be added to the ingredients in the application equipment that is used in the delivery of the aquatic pesticide.

As part of the registration process of pesticides for use in California, U.S. EPA and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) evaluate data submitted by registrants to ensure that a product used according to label instructions will cause no harm or adverse impact on non-target organisms that cannot be reduced or mitigated with protective measures or use restrictions. Registrants are required to submit data on the effects of pesticides on target pests (efficacy) as well as non-target effects. Data on non-target effects include plant effects (phytotoxicity), fish and wildlife hazards (ecotoxicity), impacts on endangered species, effects on the environment, environmental fate, degradation byproducts, leachability, and persistence. Requirements that are specific to use in California are included in many pesticide labels that are approved by U.S. EPA.

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[8] 553 F.3d 927 (6th Cir., 2009).

Use must be reported to the County Agricultural Commissioner where required by law or by agreement with DPR.

The CWA, at section 301(a), broadly prohibits the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States, except in compliance with an NPDES permit. Since FIFRA is not necessarily as protective of water quality as the CWA, pesticides discharged into surface waters may constitute pollutants within the meaning of the CWA even if the discharge is in compliance with the registration requirements of FIFRA, thus, requiring coverage under a valid NPDES permit.

DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners regulate the sale and use of pesticides in California. Pesticide applications subject to this General Permit must be consistent with permits issued by County Agricultural Commissioners and the pesticide label instructions approved by U.S. EPA under FIFRA. According to federal law, pesticide label language is under the sole jurisdiction of U.S. EPA. Label language and any changes thereto must be approved by U.S. EPA before the product can be sold in this country. DPR cannot require manufacturers to make changes on labels; however, DPR can refuse to register products unless manufacturers address unmitigated hazards by amending the pesticide label.

State regulations require that the County Agricultural Commissioners determine if a substantial adverse environmental impact will result from the proposed use of a restricted material. If the County Agricultural Commissioner determines that this is likely, the commissioner may deny the restricted pesticide use permit or may issue it under the condition that site-specific use practices be followed (beyond the label and applicable regulations) to mitigate potentially adverse effects. DPR conducts scientific evaluations of potential health and environmental impacts and provides commissioners with information in the form of suggested permit conditions. DPR's suggested permit conditions reflect minimum measures necessary to protect people and the environment. County Agricultural Commissioners use this information and its evaluation of local conditions to set site-specific limits in permits.

B. General Criteria

1. This General Permit serves as a general NPDES Permit for the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides to surface waters as a result of algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications for algae and aquatic weed controls.
2. Dischargers who submit a complete application under this General Permit are not required to submit an individual permit application. The State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality (Deputy Director) may request additional information or determine that a Discharger is not eligible for coverage under this General Permit and would be better regulated under an individual permit or other general NPDES permit adopted by the appropriate Regional Water Board. If the discharge becomes covered by an individual or another general permit, the applicability of this General Permit to the specified discharge

will be immediately terminated on the effective date of the individual permit or coverage under the other general permit.

II. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. General Permit Application

To obtain authorization under this General Permit, Dischargers must submit to the State Water Board a complete application at least 90 days prior to their first application of the season. This is to allow posting of the Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP) for a 30-day comment period, staff to review APAP and respond to comments, and the Deputy Director to issue the Notice of Applicability (NOA). Following are the application information requirements:

1. A Notice of Intent (NOI shown as Attachment E) signed in accordance with the signatory requirements of the Standard Provisions in Attachment B;
2. An application fee. A fee is required only for new Dischargers. Dischargers that are enrolled under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ and are applying for coverage under this Permit will be billed during the regular billing cycle; and
3. An APAP.

State Water Board staff will post the APAP on the State Water Board's website for 30 days for public review. In the meantime, the State and Regional Water Board staff will review the application package for completeness and applicability to this General Permit. After the application has been deemed complete, the Deputy Director will issue an NOA. The NOA will specify the permitted active ingredients of algaecides and aquatic herbicides that may be used, and any Regional Water Board specific conditions and requirements not stated in this General Permit. Any such region-specific conditions and requirements shall be enforceable. The Discharger is authorized to discharge starting on the date of the NOA. If comments are received, staff will immediately work to resolve them in order to issue an NOA within 90 days of receipt of the application.

This General Permit specifices an effective date of December 1, 2013. The effective date is delayed because, with the impending start of the 2013 application season, Dischargers may be unable to comply with the requirement to submit their applications 90 days prior to their first pesticide application.The delay will allow enrollees under Water Quality Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ to have continued permit coverage throughout the 2013 application season while preparing their new application for coverage under this General Permit; new enrollees to prepare and submit their applications as well; and Water Boards' staff to process the applications and issue NOAs.

Alternatively, the Deputy Director may issue a Notice of Exclusion**,** which either terminates permit coverage or requires submittal of an application for an individual permit or alternative general permit.

B. Fee

The annual fee for enrollment under this General Permit, shall be based on Category 3 in section 2200(b)(9) of title 23, California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs.). This category is appropriate because algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications incorporate BMPs to control potential impacts to beneficial uses, and this General Permit prohibits pollutant discharge associated with algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications from causing exceedance of CTR criteria or water quality objectives. Information concerning the applicable fees can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/docs/fy1112fee_schdl_npdes_prmt.pdf

C. Public Notification

The State Water Board has notified interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements in this General Permit and provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations.

III. DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

This General Permit covers the point source discharge to waters of the United States of pesticide residues resulting from applications using products containing 2,4-D, acrolein, copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone, glyphosate, imazamox, imazapyr, penoxsulam, sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, and triclopyr-based algaecides and aquatic herbicides, and adjuvants containing ingredients represented by the surrogate nonylphenol. This General Permit covers only discharges of algaecides, aquatic herbicides, and adjuvants that are currently registered for use in California, or that become registered for use and contain the above-listed active ingredients and ingredients represented by the surrogate of nonylphenol.

A. Existing Discharge Description

As of January 11, 2013, there were 153 active enrollees under Water Quality Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, Statewide General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Discharge of Aquatic Pesticides for Aquatic Weed Control in Waters of the United States, General Permit No. CAG990005 (Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ). Most of the enrollees are local public agencies such as cities and irrigation, flood control, or reclamation districts. The other enrollees include six state of California agencies: the Departments of Boating and Waterways, Fish and Wildlife, Food and Agriculture, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Water Resources; a federal agency, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service; and a few private entities such as home owner associations and mobile home park owners.

The State Water Board granted exceptions to public agencies and mutual water companies that met the criteria stated in section 5.3 of the Policy for short-term or seasonal exceptions from meeting the receiving water limitations for priority pollutants of acrolein and copper.

Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ permits the discharge of aquatic pesticides with the following active ingredients: 2,4-D, acrolein, copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone, glyphosate, and triclopyr. The State Water Board reopened Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ after its adoption to add two more active ingredients: (1) imazapyr, a non-selective herbicide, for control of cordgrass and broadleaf weeds and other emergent aquatic species; and (2) sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate as an alternative to copper for algae control.*

B. Annual Report Review

State Water Board staff reviewed annual reports from 2004 through 2008[9] submitted under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ. The data are summarized in Table D-1 below. As shown in Table D-1, all constituent concentrations from post-event application samples were below receiving water limitations except for the following: three exceedances each for acrolein and glyphosate and 82 exceedances for copper out of 288 monitoring events. For glyphosate, it is likely that the three exceedances were not the result of aquatic pesticide applications because the pre-application samples also showed exceedances and the remaining 151 sampling events showed no exceedance. For copper, 43 of the 82 exceedances were from public agencies or mutual water companies that were excepted from meeting priority pollutant limitations during the exception period. Thus, staff did not consider these exceedances as violations of the receiving water limitations. However, 39 of the exceedances were from entities that did not have a Policy exception. Therefore, staff considered these exceedances as true violations of the receiving water limitations.

Table D-1. Monitoring Data Summary, 2004-2008, Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ

Pollutant	Number of Samples	Number of Exceedance
2,4-D	3	0
Acrolein	213	3
Copper	288	85
Diquat	17	0
Endothall	6	0
Fluridone	12	0
Glyphosate	154	3
Nonylphenol	53	0

Under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, the most commonly used aquatic pesticide products contained copper, acrolein, and glyphosate in descending order.

[9] The data are submitted to the Regional Water Boards per Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ. When State Water Board staff started collecting data from the Regional Water Boards, the data available covered only this period.

C. Receiving Water Description

The annual reports showed that most algae and aquatic weed control applications were performed in fresh inland surface waters such as lakes, ponds, flood control and drainage channels, or canals. Some applications were performed in coastal waters, marina lagoons, and slough with brackish water.

IV. APPLICABLE PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

The requirements contained in this General Permit are based on the applicable plans, policies, and regulations identified below.

A. Legal Authorities

This General Permit is issued pursuant to section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and implementing regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and chapter 5.5, division 7 of the California Water Code, commencing with section 13370. It shall serve as an NPDES permit for point source discharges of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides to surface waters. This General Permit also serves as WDRs pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, division 7 of the California Water Code (commencing with §13260).

This General Permit shall serve as a General NPDES permit for point source discharges of residues from algaecides and aquatic herbicide applications for algae and aquatic weed control. This General Permit also serves as general Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, and division 7 of the California Water Code (commencing with §13260).

B. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Pursuant to California Water Code section 13389, State and Regional Water Boards are exempt from the requirement to comply with Chapter 3, Division 13 of the Public Resources Code when adopting NPDES permits.

C. State and Federal Regulations, Policies, and Plans

1. Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans)

The Regional Water Boards have adopted Basin Plans that designate beneficial uses, establish water quality objectives, and contain implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the plans. In addition, the Basin Plans implement State Water Board Resolution No. 88-63, which established state policy that all waters, with certain exceptions, should be considered suitable or potentially suitable for municipal or domestic supply. The Basin Plans identify typical beneficial uses as follows: municipal and domestic supply, agricultural irrigation, stock watering, process supply, service supply, hydropower supply, water contact recreation, canoeing and rafting recreation, other non-contact water recreation,* warm freshwater aquatic habitat, cold freshwater habitat,* warm fish migration habitat, cold fish migration habitat,

warm and cold spawning habitat, wildlife habitat, navigation, rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat, groundwater recharge,* and freshwater replenishment.

Requirements of this General Permit implement provisions contained in the applicable Basin Plans.

2. **National Toxics Rule (NTR) and California Toxics Rule (CTR)**

U.S. EPA adopted the NTR on December 22, 1992, and later amended it on May 4, 1995 and November 9, 1999. About 40 criteria in the NTR applied in California. On May 18, 2000, U.S. EPA adopted the CTR. The CTR promulgated new toxics criteria for California and, in addition, incorporated the previously adopted NTR criteria that were applicable in the state. The CTR was amended on February 13, 2001. These rules contain water quality criteria for priority pollutants.

3. **State Implementation Policy (Policy)**

On March 2, 2000, the State Water Board adopted the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (Policy). The Policy became effective on April 28, 2000 with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated for California by U.S. EPA through the NTR and to the priority pollutant objectives established by the Regional Water Board in the Basin Plans. The Policy became effective on May 18, 2000 with respect to the priority pollutant criteria promulgated by U.S. EPA through the CTR. The State Water Board adopted amendments to the Policy on February 24, 2005 that became effective on July 13, 2005. The Policy establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria and objectives and provisions for chronic toxicity control. Requirements of this General Permit implement the Policy.

Policy Exception

The Policy provides categorical exceptions allowing short-term or seasonal exceptions from meeting the priority pollutant criteria/objectives if it is determined to be necessary to implement control measures for resource or pest management conducted by public entities or mutual water companies to fulfill statutory requirements. The Policy specifically refers to vector or weed control, pest eradication, or fishery management as the basis for categorical exceptions. The exceptions are only granted to public entities or mutual water companies that have adequately provided the following information as required by the Policy:

a. A detailed description of the proposed action which includes the proposed method of completing the action;

c. A time schedule;

d. A discharge and receiving water monitoring plan that specifies monitoring prior to application events,* during application events, and after completion with the appropriate quality control procedures;

e. CEQA documentation including notifying potentially affected public and government agencies; and

f. Any necessary contingency plans.

The public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G have met the above requirements before the issuance or during the term of the Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ.

The final Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declarations (ND/MND) prepared by the public entities or mutual water companies have determined that the water quality impacts identified in the environmental assessments of the ND/MND from algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications are less than significant, and would not have a significant effect on the environment. The boards of each public entity and mutual water company*, as the lead agencies under CEQA, approved the final ND/MND. Therefore, each public entity or mutual water company is not required to meet priority pollutant criteria during the exception period.

During the issuance of the Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, as required in section 15096 of the CEQA Guidelines, the State Water Board, as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, considered the ND/MND approved by the board of each public entity or mutual water company. The State Water Board found that the projects will have less than significant water quality impact if the Dischargers meet the requirements in this General Permit. Accordingly, the Policy 5.3 exception granted previously will continue to be valid under this Order.

Any Discharger not listed in Attachment G is required to meet all applicable priority pollutant criteria for receiving waters.

4. **Antidegradation Policy**

Section 131.12 of 40 C.F.R. requires that the state water quality standards include an antidegradation policy consistent with the federal policy. The State Water Board established California's antidegradation policy in State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Resolution No. 68-16 incorporates the federal antidegradation policy where the federal policy applies under federal law. Resolution No. 68-16 requires that existing water quality be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings. The Basin Plans implement, and incorporate by reference, both the state and federal antidegradation policies.

The permitted discharge must be consistent with the antidegradation provision of 40 C.F.R. section 131.12 and Resolution No. 68-16. The conditions of this General Permit require residual algaecide and aquatic herbicide discharges to meet applicable water quality objectives. Specifically, the General Permit sets receiving water limitations for 2,4-D, acrolein, copper, diquat, endothall, fluridone glyphosate, and nonylphenol. It also sets receiving water monitoring triggers for imazapyr and triclopyr triethylamine (TEA).

The BMPs and other controls required pursuant to the General Permit constitute Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT).

The General Permit requirements are protective of the broad range of beneficial uses set forth in basin plans throughout the state, constituting best control available consistent with the purposes of the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application in order to ensure that pollution or nuisance will not occur. The nature of pesticides is to be toxic in order to protect beneficial uses such as human health or long-term viability of aquatic life. For example, blue-green algae are bacteria that live in both fresh and marine waters. In California, certain forms of blue-green algae have been a particular problem in the Klamath River watershed and on the Central Coast. Blooms of these bacteria can poison livestock, wildlife, and humans; they can also damage drinking water sources. The use of an algaecide is one of the effective ways to control the harmful blooms of blue-green algae. Although algaecide application will temporarily degrade the water quality and result in short-term toxicity in the receiving water, it prevents the toxicities in the entire water body for a long period of time. While surface waters may be temporarily degraded; water quality standards and objectives will not be exceeded after project completion.

Another example of benefits of pesticide application is the control of aquatic weeds in flood control channels. Aquatic herbicides used to control emerging aquatic weeds in a flood control channel will effectively prevent full growth and bloom of aquatic weeds that may block the channel and cause flooding in the surrounding communities. Although the water quality is temporarily degraded while the herbicide is taking its effect in eliminating the weeds, the water quality will not be exceeded after the project is completed. In addition, the receiving water limitations and other requirements of this General Permit will ensure maintenance of the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state.

Given the nature of a General Permit and the broad range of beneficial uses to be protected across the state, data analysis of specific water bodies is infeasible. While surface waters may be temporarily degraded, water quality standards and objectives will not be exceeded. The nature of pesticides is to be toxic in order to protect human health and water resources. However, compliance with receiving water limitations is required. Therefore, this General Permit is consistent with state and federal antidegradation policies.

5. **Endangered Species Act**

This General Permit does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a threatened or endangered species or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code §2050 et. seq) or the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.A. §1531 et. seq). This General Permit requires compliance with effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and other requirements to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state. The Discharger is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable Endangered Species Act.

6. **Impaired Water Bodies on CWA 303(d) List**

   This General Permit does not authorize the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides and their degradation byproducts to waters of the United States that are impaired by the same active ingredients and their degradation byproducts. The links to California's impaired waters bodies are provided at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtm.

7. **Other Plans, Policies, and Regulations**

   The State Water Board adopted the *Water Quality Control Policy for the Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California*. The requirements within this General Permit are consistent with the policy.

V. RATIONALE FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS

Effluent limitations and toxic and pretreatment effluent standards established pursuant to sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 304 (Information and Guidelines), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the CWA and amendments thereto are applicable to the discharge.

The control of pollutants discharged is established through effluent limitations and other requirements in NPDES permits. There are two principal bases for effluent limitations: (1) 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(a) requires that permits include applicable technology-based limitations and standards; and (2) 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d) requires that permits include water quality-based effluent limitations to attain and maintain applicable numeric and narrative water quality criteria to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water where numeric water quality objectives have not been established.

The CWA mandates the implementation of effluent limitations that are as stringent as necessary to meet water quality standards established pursuant to state or federal law (33 U.S.C., §1311(b)(1)(C); 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)). NPDES permits must incorporate discharge limits necessary to ensure that water quality standards are met. This requirement applies to narrative criteria as well as to numeric criteria specifying maximum amounts of particular pollutants. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d)(1)(i), NPDES permits must contain limits that control all pollutants that "*are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any state water quality standard, including state narrative criteria for water quality*." Section 122.44(d)(1)(vi) of 40 C.F.R. further provides that "[w]*here a state has not established a water quality criterion for a specific chemical pollutant that is present in an effluent at a concentration that causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an excursion above a narrative criterion within an applicable State water quality standard, the permitting authority must establish effluent limits.*"

The CWA requires point source dischargers to control the amount of conventional, non-conventional, and toxic pollutants that are discharged into the waters of the United States. The control of pollutants discharged is established through effluent limitations and other requirements in NPDES permits. There are two principal bases for effluent limitations: 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(a) requires that permits include applicable technology-based

limitations and standards; and section 122.44(d) requires that permits include water quality-based effluent limitations to attain and maintain applicable numeric and narrative water quality criteria to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water where numeric water quality objectives have not been established.

With respect to narrative objectives, the State Water Board must establish effluent limitations using one or more of three specified sources: (1) U.S. EPA's published water quality criteria; (2) a proposed state criterion (i.e., water quality objective) or an explicit state policy interpreting its narrative water quality criteria; or (3) an indicator parameter (i.e., 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d)(1)(vi)(A), (B) or (C)). Basin Plans contain a narrative objective requiring that: "*All waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life.*" Basin Plans require the application of the most stringent objective necessary to ensure that surface water and groundwater do not contain chemical constituents, discoloration, toxic substances, radionuclides, or taste and odor producing substances that adversely affect beneficial uses. Basin Plans state that material and relevant information, including numeric criteria, and recommendations from other agencies and scientific literature will be utilized in evaluating compliance with the narrative toxicity objective. Basin Plans also limit chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect surface water beneficial uses. Basin Plans further state that, to protect all beneficial uses, the Regional Water Board may apply limits more stringent than MCLs.

A. Discharge Prohibitions

1. The discharge of residual algaecides, residual aquatic herbicides, and their degradation byproducts in a manner different from that described in this General Permit is prohibited.

   This prohibition is based on 40 C.F.R. 122.21(a), "Duty to Apply," and California Water Code section 13260, which requires filing a Report of Waste Discharge before discharges can occur. Discharges not described in the NOI, and subsequently not discharged in the manner permitted by this General Permit, are prohibited.

2. The discharge of residual algaecides, residual aquatic herbicides, and their degradation byproducts shall not create a nuisance as defined in section 13050 of the California Water Code.

   This prohibition is based on California Water Code section 13050 for water quality control for achieving water quality objectives.

3. The discharge shall not cause, have a reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above any applicable standard or criterion promulgated by U.S. EPA pursuant to section 303 of the CWA, or water quality objective adopted by the State or Regional Water Boards.

   This prohibition is based on CWA section 301 and California Water Code.

4. All pesticides are prohibited from the waters of the Lahontan Region (Region 6). The use of this permit is invalid in the Lahontan Region unless the discharger has

requested a prohibition exemption from the Lahontan Water Board and the Lahontan Water Board has granted an exemption for the use of algaecides or aquatic herbicides.

This prohibition is based on the Lahontan Water Board's region-wide waste discharge prohibition for pesticides in water with exemption criteria to allow certain uses of aquatic pesticides.

B. Effluent Limitations

1. Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

The intent of technology-based effluent limitations in NPDES permits is to require a minimum level of treatment of pollutants based on available treatment technologies while allowing the Discharger to use any available control technique to meet the limitations. For industrial and other non-municipal facilities, technology-based effluent limitations are derived by using: (1) national effluent limitations guidelines and standards established by U.S. EPA; or best professional judgment on a case-by-case basis in the absence of national effluent limitations guidelines and standards. In the case of pesticide applications, U.S. EPA has not developed guidelines and standards other than the requirement to follow the labels when applying pesticides. At this point, it is not appropriate to establish technology-based effluent limitations other than following the label when applying algaecides and aquatic herbicides.

Therefore, the effluent limitations contained in this General Permit are narrative and include requirements to develop and implement an APAP that describes appropriate BMPs, including compliance with all algaecide and aquatic herbicide label instructions, and to comply with numeric receiving water limitations and actions required if monitoring triggers are exceeded.

The BMPs required herein constitute BAT and BCT and will be implemented to minimize the area and duration of impacts caused by the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides in the treatment area and to allow for restoration of water quality and protection of beneficial uses of the receiving waters to pre-application quality following completion of an application event.* In addition, for those enrollees that have been granted an exception to meeting receiving water limitations for acrolein and copper, in accordance with the Policy, this General Permit requires that upon completion of a pesticide application project, the Discharger shall provide certification by a qualified biologist that the receiving water beneficial uses have been restored.

The development of BMPs provides the flexibility necessary to establish controls to minimize the area extent and duration of impacts caused by the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides. This flexibility allows Dischargers to implement appropriate BMPs for different types of applications and different types of waters.

Much of the BMP development has been incorporated into the algaecide and aquatic herbicide regulation process by U.S. EPA, DPR, and County Agricultural

Commissioners. The Dischargers must be licensed by DPR if such licensing is required for the algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project. The algaecide and aquatic herbicide use must be consistent with the algaecide and aquatic herbicide label instructions and any Restricted Material Use Permits issued by County Agricultural Commissioners.

U.S. EPA and DPR scientists review algaecide and aquatic herbicide labels to ensure that a product used according to label instructions will cause no harm (or "adverse impact") on non-target organisms that cannot be reduced (or "mitigated") with protective measures or use restrictions. Many of the label directions constitute BMPs to protect water quality and beneficial uses. Label directions may include: precautionary statements regarding toxicity and environmental hazards; directions for proper handling, dosage, application, and disposal practices; prohibited activities; spill prevention and response measures; and restrictions on type of water body and flow conditions.

A Restricted Material Use Permit issued by the County Agricultural Commissioner incorporates applicable suggested permit conditions from DPR and local site-specific conditions necessary to protect the environment. State regulations require that specific types of information be provided in an application to the County Agricultural Commissioners for a Restricted Material Use Permit. The County Agricultural Commissioners review the application to ensure that appropriate alternatives were considered and that any potential adverse effects are mitigated. The County Agricultural Commissioners also conduct pre-project inspections on at least five percent of projects.

This General Permit requires that Dischargers use BMPs when implementing control programs in order to mitigate effects to water quality resulting from algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications. Dischargers are required to consider alternative control measures to determine if there are feasible alternatives to the selected algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project that could reduce potential water quality impacts. If the Discharger identifies alternative control measures to the selected algaecide and aquatic herbicide application project that could reduce potential water quality impacts and that are also feasible, practicable, and cost-effective, the Discharger shall implement the identified alternative measures. The selection of control measures that use non-toxic and less toxic alternatives is an example of an effective BMP.

2. **Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs)**

a. **Scope and Authority**

Section 122.44(d)(1)(i) of 40 C.F.R. mandates that permits include effluent limitations for all pollutants that are or may be discharged at levels that have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality standard, including numeric and narrative objectives within a standard. Where reasonable potential has been established for a pollutant, but there is no numeric criterion or objective for the pollutant, WQBELs must be established using: (1) U.S. EPA criteria under CWA section 304(a), supplemented where necessary by other relevant information; (2) an

indicator parameter for the pollutant of concern; or (3) a calculated numeric water quality criterion, such as a proposed state criterion or policy interpreting the state's narrative criterion, supplemented with other relevant information, as provided in 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(d)(1)(vi).

The process for determining reasonable potential and calculating WQBELs when necessary is intended to protect the designated uses of the receiving water as specified in the Basin Plans, and achieve applicable water quality objectives and criteria that are contained in other state plans and policies, or any applicable water quality criteria contained in the CTR and NTR.

Section 122.44(k)(3) of 40 C.F.R. allows the use of other requirements such as BMPs in lieu of numeric effluent limits if the latter are infeasible. It is infeasible for the State Water Board to establish numeric effluent limitations in this General Permit because:

i. The application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides is not necessarily considered a discharge of pollutants according to the *National Cotton Council of America v. U.S. EPA*[10] and other applicable case law. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that residual pesticides associated with the application of pesticides at, over, or near water constitute pollutants within the meaning of the CWA and that the discharge must be regulated under an NPDES permit;

ii. This General Permit regulates the discharge of residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides used for algae and aquatic weed control to waters of the United States. These are algaecides and herbicides with registration labels that explicitly allow direct application to water bodies. In algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications to control pests, any algaecides and aquatic herbicides residue or degradation byproduct that is deposited in waters of the United States is a pollutant. However, at what point the algaecides and aquatic herbicides become a residue is not precisely known and varies depending on the type of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, application method and quantity, water chemistry, etc. Therefore, in the application of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, the exact effluent is unknown;

iii. It would be impractical to provide effective treatment of the algaecides and aquatic herbicides residue to protect water quality, given typically, algaecides and aquatic herbicides applications consist of numerous short duration intermittent algaecides and aquatic herbicides residue releases to surface waters from many different locations; and

iv. Treatment may render the algaecides and aquatic herbicides useless for algae and aquatic weed control.

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[10] 553 F.3d 927 (6th Cir., 2009)

Therefore, as stated in Technology-Based Effluent Limitations, Section V.B.1 above, the effluent limitations contained in this General Permit are narrative and include requirements to develop and implement an APAP that describes appropriate BMPs, including compliance with all algaecides and aquatic herbicides label instructions, and to comply with narrative receiving water limitations and triggers.

b. **Receiving Water Beneficial Uses**

Algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications for algae and aquatic weed control may potentially deposit residual algaecides and aquatic herbicides to surface waters. Beneficial uses of receiving waters are as follows: municipal and domestic supply, agricultural irrigation, agricultural stock watering, process water supply, service water supply, and hydropower supply, water contact recreation, canoeing and rafting recreation, other non-contact water recreation, warm freshwater aquatic habitat, cold freshwater aquatic habitat, warm fish migration habitat, cold fish migration habitat, warm and cold spawning habitat, wildlife habitat, navigation, groundwater recharge, and freshwater replenishment. Requirements of this General Permit implement the applicable Basin Plans.

c. **Determining the Need for WQBELs**

Water quality standards include Regional Water Board Basin Plan beneficial uses and narrative and numeric water quality objectives, State Water Board-adopted standards, and federal standards, including the CTR and NTR, as well as antidegradation policies. The Basin Plans include numeric site-specific water quality objectives and narrative objectives for toxicity, chemical constituents, and tastes and odors. The narrative toxicity objective states: "*All waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life*." With regard to the narrative chemical constituent objective, the Basin Plans state that waters shall not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses. At minimum, "…*water designated for use as domestic or municipal supply (MUN) shall not contain concentrations of chemical constituents in excess of the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs)" in title 22 of CCR.* The narrative tastes and odors objective states: *"Water shall not contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that impart undesirable tastes or odors to domestic or municipal water supplies or to fish flesh or other edible products of aquatic origin, or that cause nuisance, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses*."

Federal regulations require effluent limitations for all pollutants that are or may be discharged at a level that will cause or have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an in-stream excursion above a narrative or numerical water quality standard.

d. **Antidegradation Policy**

The permitted discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provisions of 40 C.F.R. section 131.12 and State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16. Compliance with these requirements will result in the use of best practicable treatment or control of the discharge. Due to the low volume of discharge expected from discharges regulated under this General Permit, the impact on existing water quality will be insignificant. Dischargers seeking authorization to discharge under this General Permit are required to demonstrate compliance with receiving water limitations during the application. If, however, the appropriate Regional Water Board, subsequent to review of any application, finds that the impact of a discharge will be significant, then authorization for coverage under this General Permit will be denied and coverage under an individual permit will be required (including preparation of an antidegradation analysis).

VI. RATIONALE FOR RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING TRIGGERS

A. Groundwater

[Not Applicable]

B. Surface Water

CWA section 303(a-c), requires states to adopt water quality standards, including criteria necessary to protect beneficial uses. Regional Water Boards adopted water quality criteria as water quality objectives in the Basin Plans. The Basin Plans state that "[t]*he numerical and narrative water quality objectives define the least stringent standards that the Regional Water Board will apply to regional waters in order to protect the beneficial uses.*" The Basin Plans include numeric and narrative water quality objectives for various beneficial uses and water bodies. This General Permit contains receiving water limitations based on the Basin Plans' numerical and narrative water quality objectives for bio-stimulatory substances, chemical constituents, color, temperature, floating material, settleable substances, suspended material, tastes and odors, and toxicity. This General Permit also requires compliance with any amendment or revision to the water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plans adopted by Regional Water Boards subsequent to adoption of this General Permit.

Once algaecides and aquatic herbicides have been applied to a treatment area, the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product can actively control pests within the treatment area. The discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, their residues, and their degradation byproducts from the applications to surface water must meet applicable water quality criteria and objectives. The receiving water limitations ensure that an application event* does not result in an exceedance of a water quality standard in the receiving water.

To protect all designated beneficial uses of the receiving water, the most protective (lowest) and appropriate (to implement the CTR criteria and WQOs in the Basin

Plans) criteria should be selected as the permit limitation for a particular water body and constituent. In many cases, water quality standards include narrative, rather than numerical, water quality objectives. In such cases, numeric water quality limits from the literature or publicly available information may be used to ascertain compliance with water quality criteria.

Algaecide and aquatic herbicide formulations contain disclosed “active” ingredients that yield toxic effects* on target organisms and may also have toxic effects on non-target organisms. Algaecide and aquatic herbicide active ingredients that do not contain pollutants for which there are applicable numeric CTR criteria may still have toxic effects on receiving water bodies. In addition, the inactive or “inert” ingredients of algaecides and aquatic herbicides, which are trade secrets and have not been publicly disclosed, may also contain toxic pollutants or pollutants that could affect water quality.

DPR is responsible for reviewing toxic effects of product formulations and determining whether an algaecide or aquatic herbicide is suitable for use in California’s waters. In this General Permit, inert ingredients are also considered on a constituent-by-constituent basis. U.S. EPA regulates pesticide use through strict labeling requirements in order to mitigate negative impacts to human health and the environment, and DPR environmental and medical toxicologists review toxicity data on formulations and can deny registration or work with registrants or County Agricultural Commissioners to impose additional requirements in order to protect human health or the environment.

U.S. EPA and DPR require that pesticides undergo toxicity testing and meet specific toxicity requirements before registering the pesticide for application to surface waters. U.S. EPA has found that the application of properly registered pesticides pose a minimal threat to people and the environment. In addition, the effects of these pesticides on water quality will be mitigated through compliance with FIFRA label requirements, application of BMPs, and monitoring.

Basin Plan water quality objectives to protect the beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater include numeric objectives and narrative objectives, including objectives for chemical constituents, toxicity, and tastes and odors. The toxicity objective requires that surface water and groundwater be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in humans, plants, animals, or aquatic life. The chemical constituent objective requires that surface water and groundwater shall not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect any beneficial use or that exceed the MCLs set forth in title 22, Cal. Code Regs. The tastes and odors objective states that surface water and groundwater shall not contain taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. The Basin Plans require the application of the most stringent objective necessary to ensure that surface water and groundwater do not contain chemical constituents, toxic substances, radionuclides, or taste and odor producing substances in concentrations that adversely affect domestic drinking water supply, agricultural supply, or any other beneficial use.

1. **Receiving Water Limitations**

The instantaneous maximum receiving water limitations are based on promulgated water quality criteria such as those provided in the CTR, water quality objectives adopted by the State and Regional Water Boards in their Basin Plans, water quality criteria adopted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, water quality standards such as drinking water standards adopted by U.S. EPA or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), or U.S. EPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria.

This General Permit provides receiving water limitations based on the lowest water quality criteria/objectives to protect all designated beneficial uses of the receiving water. The receiving water limitations in this General Permit are the same as those in Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ. The rationale for each limitation is summarized below.

Table D-2. Summary of Receiving Water Limitations

Constituent/ Parameter	BENEFICIAL USE[1]				Basis
	MUN, µg/L	WARM or COLD, µg/L	Other than MUN, WARM, or COLD, µg/L	All Designations	
2,4,-D	70				U.S. EPA MCL
Acrolein[2]	320	21	780		U.S. EPA Water Quality Criteria, 1986.
Copper[2]				Dissolved Freshwater[3] Copper Chronic = 0.960exp{0.8545 [ln(hardness[4])] – 1.702} [5, 6] Dissolved saltwater[3] Copper Chronic = 0.83exp{0.8545 [ln(hardness[4])] – 1.702} [5,6]	California Toxics Rule
Diquat	20				U.S. EPA MCL
Endothall	100				U.S. EPA MCL
Fluridone	560				U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System
Glyphosate	700				U.S. EPA MCL
Nonylphenol				Freshwater Chronic Criterion = 6.6 µg/L Saltwater Chronic Criterion = 1.7 µg/L	U.S. EPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria
Toxicity	Algaecide and aquatic herbicide applications shall not cause or contribute to toxicity in receiving water(s).				Regional Water Boards' Basin Plans

Notes
1. See Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans) for beneficial use definitions.
2. Public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G are not required to meet this receiving water limitation during the exception period described in Section VIII.C.10, Limitations and Discharge Requirements, Aquatic Pesticides Application Plan (APAP).

3. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or less than 1 part per thousand 95% or more of the time, the freshwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is equal to or greater than 10 parts per thousand 95% or more of the time, saltwater criteria apply. For waters in which the salinity is between 1 and 10 parts per thousand, the applicable criteria are the more stringent of the freshwater or saltwater criteria.
4. For freshwater aquatic life criteria, waters with a hardness 400 mg/L or less as calcium carbonate, the actual ambient hardness of surface water shall be used. For waters with a hardness of over 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate, a hardness of 400 mg/L as calcium carbonate shall be used with a default Water-Effect Ratio of 1.
5. Values should be rounded to two significant figures.
6. This limitation does not apply to the Sacramento River and its tributaries above the State Highway 32 Bridge at Hamilton City. See Table III-1 of the Basin Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins for copper limitation.

The copper limitation in Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ was based on the CTR's Criteria Continuous Concentration (CCC) expressed in total recoverable concentration. This General Permit also uses CCC from the CTR as the basis of the copper limitations; however, the copper limitation is now expressed in dissolved concentration. Since the copper criterion in the CTR is expressed in dissolved concentration, the receiving water limitation must also be expressed in dissolved rather than total concentration since it is the dissolved portion of copper that is bioavailable to aquatic life.

Based on Policy section 5.3, this General Permit grants public entities and mutual water companies listed in Attachment G a short-term or seasonal exception from meeting receiving water limitations for acrolein and copper during treatment. As a condition of the exception, this General Permit requires Dischargers to provide the length and justification of required exception periods in their APAPs. There is no discrete definition for short-term; but the intent is to allow the exception to apply during the treatment period. It is up to the Discharger to make this demonstration.

The receiving water dissolved oxygen limitation is based on the Regional Water Board Basin Plans' dissolved oxygen objectives.

2. **Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers**

In algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications, it is reasonable to conclude that some residual algaecides or aquatic herbicides will remain in the receiving waters. These residual algaecides or aquatic herbicides may cause toxicity to aquatic life. However, information regarding the specific amount of algaecide or aquatic herbicide residues (described below) in the receiving water as a result of direct applications for weed control is not adequate to develop receiving water limitations for these algaecides and aquatic herbicides. Therefore, this General Permit only contains Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers and/or monitoring requirements for these algaecides or aquatic herbicides. The monitoring triggers and monitoring data will be used to assess whether the discharges of these algaecide or aquatic herbicide residues have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion of a water quality standard, including numeric and narrative objectives within a standard.

In the absence of adopted criteria, objectives, or standards, the State Water Board used U.S. EPA's Ambient Criteria for the Protection of Freshwater Aquatic

Life (Ambient Water Quality Criteria) which are directly applicable as a regulatory level to implement narrative toxicity limitations included in all Regional Water Board Basin Plans. Where adopted criteria, objectives, standards, or Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable, the State Water Board used data from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to develop the Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers to protect all beneficial uses of the receiving water.

For constituents that do not have Ambient Water Quality Criteria, the Instantaneous Maximum Receiving Water Monitoring Trigger is based on one-tenth of the lowest 50 Percent Lethal Concentration (LC50) from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*. Using one-tenth of the lowest LC50 as the receiving water monitoring trigger is consistent with the Central Valley Regional Water Board's Basin Plan approach when developing the Daily Maximum Limitation for algaecides or aquatic herbicides that do not have water quality criteria.

This General Permit may be re-opened to add receiving water limitations to the algaecides or aquatic herbicides listed below if the monitoring triggers are exceeded or the monitoring data indicate re-opening of the permit is appropriate. The following is a detailed discussion of toxicity data, applicable water quality criteria, and Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers, if applicable, for these algaecide or aquatic herbicide:

a. Imazamox

Imazamox is a derivative of the active ingredient, ammonium salt of imazamox for the aquatic herbicide Clearcast, which DPR registered for use in California in October 2012. It is labeled for application to water for the control of submerged aquatic plants species and some emergent and floating species.

Imazamox is an herbicide that inhibits an enzyme in aquatic plants that is essential for the synthesis of three-branched chain amino acids.

Staff obtained toxicity data for imazamox from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess its toxicity to freshwater aquatic life. However, U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* contains toxicity data only for imazamox, but not for its salt. Table D-3 summarizes the toxicity data for imazamox below.

Table D-3. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazamox (CAS# 114311-32-9)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Mysid	96 h	1998	> 100
		1998	> 94.3
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1994	> 119
Rainbow trout	96 h	1994	> 122
Sheephead mino	96 h	1998	> 94.2
		1998	> 94.2
Lowest LC50/10 > 9.4 mg/L			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for imazamox and imazamox salt. Table D-3 shows that one-tenth of the lowest LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for imazamox is greater than 9.4 mg/l.

Due to the absence of water quality criteria for imazamox and its low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, this General Permit does not have a receiving water monitoring trigger for imazamox. However, this General Permit requires receiving water monitoring for imazamox to collect data, which will provide information on whether the use of imazamox has water quality impacts.

b. Imazapyr

The active ingredient imazapyr is marketed by the trade names Arsenal, Chopper, and Assault. Upon contact, imazapyr can interfere with DNA synthesis and cell growth of the plants. The target weed species are grasses, broad-leaves, vines, brambles, shrubs and trees, and riparian and emerged aquatics. The result of exposure is death of new leaves. It was first registered in the United States in 1984.

Imazapyr is a slow-acting amino acid synthesis inhibitor. It has an average water half-life* of four days with photodegradation as the primary form of degradation in water. Imazapyr acts more quickly and is less toxic than other low-volume herbicides. According to the San Francisco Estuary* Invasive Spartina Project's May 4, 2005 report titled *Use of Imazapyr Herbicide to Control Invasive Cordgrass (Spartina spp.) in the San Francisco Estuary*, imazapyr in water rapidly degrades via photolysis. The report further states that a number of field studies demonstrated that imazapyr rapidly dissipated from water within several days, and no detectable residues of imazapyr were found in either water or sediment within two months; in estuarine systems, dilution of imazapyr with the incoming tides contributes to its rapid dissipation, suggesting that imazapyr is not environmentally persistent in the estuarine environment and does not result in significant impacts to water quality. The report concludes that imazapyr herbicides can be a safe, highly effective treatment for control and eradication of non-native *Spartina* species in the San Francisco Estuary and offers an improved risk scenario over the existing treatment regime with glyphosate herbicides. On August 30, 2005, DPR registered imazapyr for aquatic application as an aquatic herbicide.

Toxicity data for imazapyr were obtained from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess the toxicity of imazapyr to freshwater aquatic life. Tables D-4 and D-5 summarize the toxicity data for imazapyr and imazapyr salt.

Table D-4. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazapyr (CAS#81334-34-1)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Pink shrimp	96 h	1988	> 189
Atlantic silverside	96 h	1988	> 184
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1983	> 100
		1983	> 100

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Channel catfish	96 h	1983	> 100
Rainbow trout	96 h	1983	> 100
		1995	> 110
Lowest LC50/10 > 10			

Table D-5. Toxicity Data Summary for Imazapyr Isopropylamine Salt (CAS#81510-83-0)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Water flea	48 h	1984	350
Rainbow trout	96 h	1984	**112**
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1984	> 1000
Lowest LC50/10 = 11.2			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for imazapyr and imazapyr salt. Tables D-4 and D-5 show that the lowest one-tenth of LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for imazapyr is 11.2 mg/l.

Due to its safe use in the environment and low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, this General Permit does not have a receiving water limitation for imazapyr. However, this General Permit contains a monitoring trigger of 11.2 mg/l based on one-tenth of the lowest LC50 from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* and requires receiving water monitoring to collect data, which will provide information on whether imazapyr has water quality impacts.

c. Penoxsulam

Penoxsulam is the active ingredient for Galleon SC, a selective systemic aquatic herbicide for management of freshwater aquatic vegetation in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, marshes, wetlands, non-irrigation canals, slow-moving water bodies, etc. Penoxsulam is a post-emergence acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitor developed by Dow AgroSciences to be used as a foliar spray on dry-seeded rice crops. The mode of action is to inhibit the acetolactate synthases enzyme in the target weed.

The U.S. EPA Pesticide Fact Sheet states that penoxsulam is expected to be very mobile, but not very persistent, in either aqueous or terrestrial environments. Penoxsulam exists almost exclusively in a disassociated state at pH values normally found in rice paddy water (averaging about eight), but not in terrestrial environments where lower pH values may be found. Penoxsulam degrades by two different transformation mechanisms, producing 13 different identified transformation products, 11 of which meet

the criteria to be classified as major degradation byproducts,[11] six of which reached peak concentrations at study termination, indicating a greater degree of persistence than penoxsulam and a potential to reach concentrations even greater than those reported at study termination. The results of the screening-level risk assessment suggest that penoxsulam will not pose a threat to aquatic or terrestrial animals, however, this conclusion must be tempered by the fact that testing has not been conducted on several major degradation byproducts.

Toxicity data for penoxsulam were obtained from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess the toxicity of penoxsulam to freshwater aquatic life. Table D-6 summarizes the toxicity data for penoxsulam.

Table D-6. Toxicity Data Summary for Penoxsulam (CAS#219714-96-2)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	2000	> 103
Common carp fish	96 h	2001	> **101**
Mysid	96 h	2000	> 114
Rainbow trout	96 h	2002	> 147
		2000	> 102
Scud	96 h	2000	> 126
Lowest LC50/10 > 10.1			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for penoxsulam. Table D-6 shows that the lowest one-tenth of LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for penoxsulam is greater than 10.1 mg/l.

Due to its safe use in the environment, low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database,* and lack of accurate toxicity value, this General Permit does not have a receiving water monitoring trigger. However, this General Permit requires receiving water monitoring to collect data, which will provide information on whether penoxsulam has water quality impacts.

d. Sodium Carbonate Peroxyhydrate

Sodium carbonate hydroxyhydrate has been registered as an algaecide since early 2006. The most common brand names are PAK 27, Phycomycin, and Green Clean. It is an alternative to traditional copper based algaecides. It acts as an oxidizing agent and thus kills the target algae. When it is

[11] U.S. EPA defines major degradation byproducts to be BSA, 2-amino-TP, TPSA, BSTCA methyl, BSTCA, 2-amino-TCA,5-OH-penoxsulam, SFA, sulfonamide, 5,8-di-OH and 5-OH, 2 aminoTP.

applied into water, the compound quickly breaks down into hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and sodium carbonate. The hydrogen peroxide oxidizes and thus kills the target pests. After contact, the hydrogen peroxide breaks down into water and oxygen.

U.S. EPA has waived toxicity testing for freshwater fish and invertebrate during the registration process. According to the U.S. EPA fact sheet, when the pesticide is applied in accordance with directions on the label, no harm is expected to freshwater fish or freshwater invertebrates.

There are no toxicity data for sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database.* Therefore, this General Permit does not have a monitoring trigger or a monitoring requirement for sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate.

e. Triclopyr Triethylamine (TEA) Salt

Triclopyr TEA is a systemic herbicide used to control broad-leaf weeds and woody plants.

U.S. EPA concluded in its re-registration document that triclopyr TEA is practically non-toxic to freshwater fish and aquatic invertebrates on an acute basis and triclopyr TEA is slightly toxic to practically non-toxic to estuarine/marine fish and invertebrates on an acute basis.

Triclopyr produces the metabolite or degradate 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP). Based on its analysis, U.S. EPA concludes that the existing uses of triclopyr are unlikely to result in acute or chronic dietary risks from TCP. Based on limited available data and modeling estimates, with less certainty, the U.S. EPA concluded that existing uses of triclopyr are unlikely to result in acute or chronic drinking water risks from TCP.

Toxicity data for triclopyr TEA were obtained from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* to assess the toxicity of triclopyr TEA to freshwater aquatic life. Table D-7 summarizes the toxicity data for Triclopyr TEA.

Table D-7. Toxicity Data Summary for Triclopyr TEA Salt (CAS#57213-69-1)

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Bluegill sunfish	96 h	1978	891
	96 h	1973	471
Fathead minnow	96 h	1978	947
	96 h	1983	546
	96 h	1983	279
Grass shrimp	96 h	1992	326
Inland Silverside fish	96 h	1989	**130**
Pink shrimp	96 h	1975	895
Rainbow trout	96 h	1973	240
	96 h	1978	552

Type of Organism	Study Length	Study Date	LC50 (mg/L)
Lowest LC50/10 = 13.0			

Ambient Water Quality Criteria are unavailable for triclopyr TEA. Table D-7 shows that the lowest one-tenth of LC50 to protect the most sensitive freshwater aquatic life for triclopyr TEA is 13 mg/l.

Due to its safe use in the environment and low toxicity to aquatic life as indicated in U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database*, this General Permit does not have a receiving water limitation for triclopyr TEA. However, this General Permit contains a monitoring trigger of 13.0 mg/l based on one-tenth of the lowest LC50 from U.S. EPA's *Ecotoxicity Database* and requires receiving water monitoring to collect data, which will provide information on whether triclopyr TEA has water quality impacts.

VII. RATIONALE FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. MRP Goals

Section 122.48 of 40 C.F.R. requires that all NPDES permits specify requirements for recording and reporting monitoring results. Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 authorize the State and Regional Water Boards to require technical and monitoring reports. The Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in Attachment C of this General Permit establishes monitoring and reporting requirements to implement federal and state requirements.

The goals of the MRP are to:

1. Identify and characterize algaecide or aquatic herbicide application projects conducted by the Discharger;
2. Determine compliance with the receiving water limitations and other requirements specified in this General Permit;
3. Measure and improve the effectiveness of the APAP;
4. Support the development, implementation, and effectiveness of BMPs;
5. Assess the chemical, physical, and biological impacts on receiving waters resulting from algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications;
6. Assess the overall health and evaluate long-term trends in receiving water quality;
7. Demonstrate that water quality of the receiving waters following completion of resource or weed management projects are equivalent to pre-application conditions; and
8. Ensure that projects that are monitored are representative of all algaecide or aquatic herbicide and application methods used by the Discharger.

The MRP in the Attachment C of this General Permit is considered as baseline monitoring requirements. Monitoring plans proposed by Dischargers in their APAP must meet the minimum requirements prescribed in the MRP. Public entities and mutual water companies that have a Policy section 5.3 exception should comply with the MRP in this General Permit as well as monitoring plan proposed in their CEQA document where the two plans differ.

B. Effluent Monitoring

Pursuant to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. section 122.44(i), effluent monitoring is required for all constituents with effluent limitations. Effluent monitoring is necessary to assess compliance with effluent limitations, assess the effectiveness of the treatment process, and assess the impacts of the discharge on the receiving water and groundwater.

The application of pesticides for pest control is not necessarily considered a discharge of pollutants according to the *National Cotton Council of America v. U.S. EPA* decision and other applicable case law. The regulated discharge is the discharge of residual pesticides. At what point the pesticide becomes a residue is not precisely known. Therefore, in the application of pesticides, the exact effluent is unknown. Thus, the effluent monitoring requirement is not applicable for algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications.

C. Toxicity Testing Requirements

The State Water Board, pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act and the federal CWA, customarily requires the Discharger to conduct toxicity monitoring. In fact, both Acts anticipate Discharger self monitoring. However, this General Permit does not require toxicity testing based on the 2004 toxicity study funded by the State Water Board and data collected from 2004 to 2008. The toxicity study found the following: (1) There was no toxicity with the use of 2,4-D, glyphosate, and triclopyr; (2) Toxicity testing was difficult for acrolein due to its volatility; (3) Results were inconclusive for diquat and fluridone; and (4) Peak copper concentrations did not exceed toxicity values. The monitoring data collected under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ from 2004 to 2008 showed that all constituent concentrations from post-event application samples were below receiving water limitations except for the following: three exceedances each for acrolein and glyphosate and 82 exceedances for copper out of 288 monitoring events. For glyphosate, it is likely that the three exceedances were not the result of aquatic herbicide applications because the pre-application samples also showed exceedances and the remaining 151 samples showed no exceedance. For copper, 43 of the 82 exceedances were from public agencies or mutual water companies that were excepted from meeting priority pollutant limitations during the exception period. The Policy allows the exception. Thus, staff did not consider these exceedances as violations of the receiving water limitations. However, 39 of the exceedances were from entities that did not have a Policy exception. Although staff considered these exceedances as true violations of the receiving water limitations, staff is not aware of any long-term impacts from these exceedances. Long-term impacts from

exceedances are likely not going to occur for the following reasons: (1) water quality criteria, which are used directly as receiving water limitations in this General Permit, have built-in factors of safety; (2) as shown in the 2004 toxicity study, the actual peak concentrations after applications of copper did not exceed toxicity values; and (3) the applications are short-term in duration. All of the foregoing information indicates that widespread acute ecosystem impacts will not occur from algaecide or aquatic herbicides applied according to their label instructions and requirements of this General Permit. Therefore, toxicity monitoring requirements are not necessary.

D. Receiving Water Monitoring

Receiving water monitoring is necessary to determine the impacts of the discharge on the receiving stream.

All forms of testing have some degree of uncertainty associated with them. The more limited the amount of test data available, the larger the uncertainty. The intent of this General Permit's sampling program is to select a number that will detect most events of noncompliance without requiring needless or burdensome monitoring.

Staff also used EPA's Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control (TSD) to determine the appropriate number of samples that would be needed to characterize the impacts of the residual pesticide discharge from pesticide applications. Page 53 of the TSD recommends using a coefficient of variation (CV) 0.6 when the data set contains less than 10 samples. Table 3-1 of the TSD shows that with a CV of 0.6, the multiplying factors used to determine whether a discharge causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an excursion above a state water quality standard begin to stabilize when the sample number is six. Thus, this General Permit requires six samples per year for each active ingredient in each environmental setting (flowing water and non-flowing water) to characterize the effects of residual pesticide discharge from pesticide applications. However, after a Discharger or Coalition has provided results from six consecutive sampling events showing concentrations that are less than the receiving water limitation/trigger for an active ingredient in a specific environmental setting, sampling shall be reduced to one application event per year for that active ingredient in that environmental setting.

Similarly, this General Permit contains a reduced monitoring frequency of once per year (instead of six) at each environmental setting for glyphosate. The reduced monitoring frequency is based on staff’s review of available data from 2004 to 2008 that showed no exceedance of the permit limitation for glyphosate under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ.

VIII. RATIONALE FOR AQUATIC PESTICIDE USE REQUIREMENTS

A. Application Schedule

The Discharger shall provide a phone number or other specific contact information for all persons who request the Discharger’s application schedule.

B. Application Notification Requirements

The Policy section 5.3, Categorical Exception, requires public agencies and mutual water companies that have been granted the short-term or seasonal exception for compliance with priority pollutant limitations to notify potentially affected public and government agencies of algaecide or aquatic herbicide application.

C. APAP

This General Permit contains narrative effluent limitations, which include implementing BMPs described in the APAP, which is a requirement of this General Permit. See Section VI, Rationale for Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications, for more detailed explanation of the need for an APAP.

D. APAP Processing, Approval, and Modifications

Upon receipt of a new or an amended APAP, staff will post it on the State Water Board's website. Major changes to the APAP shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for approval. Examples of major changes include using a different product other than what is specified in the APAP, changing an application method that may result in different amounts of algaecide or aquatic herbicides being applied, or adding or deleting BMPs. Since the APAP shall include ALL (1) the water bodies or water body systems in which algaecide or aquatic herbicides are being planned to be applied or may be applied to control algae and aquatic weeds and (2) the application areas and the target areas in the system that are being planned to be applied or may be applied, changes in monitoring locations are not considered major changes. However, these changes need to be reported in the annual report.

In preparing for the reissuance of the General Permit, staff will evaluate review periods and comments received during the life of this permit and look for efficiencies. Based on this information, staff will propose revisions to the public comment process for APAPs.

E. Aquatic Pesticide Application Log

An application log to record all algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications is necessary. This application log will help Dischargers and the Water Boards' staff to investigate any exceedance of receiving water limitations or receiving water monitoring triggers.

IX. RATIONALE FOR PROVISIONS

A. Standard Provisions

1. Standard Provisions in Attachment B

Standard Provisions, which apply to all NPDES permits in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.41, and additional conditions applicable to specified categories of permits in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.42, are provided

in Attachment B. The Discharger must comply with applicable standard provisions and with those additional conditions that are applicable under 40 C.F.R. section 122.42.

Sections 122.41(a)(1) and (b) through (n) of 40 C.F.R. establish conditions that apply to all state-issued NPDES permits. These conditions must be incorporated into the permits either expressly or by reference. If incorporated by reference, a specific citation to the regulations must be included in the General Permit. Section 123.25(a)(12) of 40 C.F.R. allows the state to omit or modify conditions to impose more stringent requirements. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. Section 123.25, this General Permit omits federal conditions that address enforcement authority specified in 40 C.F.R. section 122.41(j)(5) and (k)(2) because the enforcement authority under the California Water Code is more stringent. In lieu of these conditions, this General Permit incorporates by reference California Water Code section 13387(e).

2. **Discharge to Impaired Water Bodies**

Impaired water bodies are water quality limited segments listed under CWA 303(d) listings. The water bodies on these lists do not meet water quality standards, even if the discharge itself meets water quality standards. The Basin Plans state that "*Additional treatment beyond minimum federal standards will be imposed on dischargers to Water Quality Limit Segments. Dischargers will be assigned or allocated a maximum allowable load of critical pollutants so that water quality objectives can be met in the segment.*" The allocated loads are Discharger and receiving water specific. It is infeasible to assign a uniform load in a statewide general permit. Therefore, this General Permit does not authorize the discharge of active ingredients of algaecides or aquatic herbicides, their residues, and their degradation byproducts to water bodies that are already impaired due to the same product active ingredients, their residues, and their degradation byproducts.

B. Special Provisions

1. **Reopener Provisions**

The reopener provisions allow future modification to this General Permit in accordance with 40 C.F.R. section 122.62.

a. Addition to Policy Exception List in Attachment G

This General Permit may be reopened to add a public entity or a mutual water company which may not otherwise meet the receiving water limitations for acrolein and copper and meets the requirements for an exception from meeting those limitations, consistent with section 5.3 of the Policy.

b. Addition of Aquatic Pesticide Active Ingredients

This General Permit may be reopened to add newly registered algaecide or aquatic herbicide active ingredients so that Dischargers can be covered by this General Permit when they apply the algaecide or aquatic herbicide products with the new active ingredients.

c. Acute and Chronic Toxicity

When the State Water Board revises the Policy's toxicity control provisions that would require the establishment of numeric chronic toxicity limitations or other actions, this General Permit may be reopened to comply with those requirements.

d. Receiving Water Limitations

If monitoring data for residual pesticides show exceedance of monitoring triggers, the Discharger or Coalition shall conduct additional investigations to determine the cause of exceedance. At a minimum, the Discharger or Coalition shall evaluate its application methods, BMPs, and the appropriateness of using alternative products. As a result of the evaluation, this General Permit may be re-opened to add numeric Receiving Water Limitations for the residual pesticides exceeding the triggers.

e. Endangered Species Act

If U.S. EPA develops biological opinions regarding pesticides included in this General Permit, this General Permit may be re-opened to add or modify Receiving Water Limitations/Monitoring Triggers for residual pesticides of concern, if necessary.

2. **Special Studies, Technical Reports, and Additional Monitoring Requirements**

a. Additional Investigation

This General Permit requires Dischargers to conduct additional investigations if the monitoring results exceed the receiving water monitoring limitations. These investigations are necessary in order to address the exceedance caused by the algaecide or aquatic herbicide application and meet the General Permit's limitations and requirements including Basin Plans' narrative water quality objective of no toxics in toxic amount.

b. Qualified Biologist Certification Following Project Completion

The requirement is retained from Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ and is based on Policy section 5.3 exception.

3. **Corrective Action**

When receiving water limitations or triggers are exceeded, Dischargers are expected to assess the cause of exceedance and take appropriate actions as necessary to prevent recurrence of the problem.

X. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This General Permit specifies that compliance be based on event and post-event sampling results. The event sample results will determine if exceedance occurred outside the Treatment Area* during treatment. Post-event samples will determine if exceedance occurred in the Application or Treatment Area after treatment. Since the minimum effective concentration and time needed to effectively kill or control target weeds or algae vary due

to site specific conditions, such as flow, target species, water chemistry, and type of algaecides or aquatic herbicides, this General Permit allows Dischargers to determine when treatment is completed.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The State Water Board is considering the issuance of WDRs that will serve as a general NPDES permit for algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications. As a step in the WDR adoption process, the State Water Board staff has developed tentative WDRs. The State Water Board encourages public participation in the WDR adoption process.

A. Notification of Interested Parties

The State Water Board has notified interested agencies, parties, and persons of its intent to prescribe general WDRs for algaecide or aquatic herbicide applications and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations. Notification was provided to interested parties through specific mailings and publication in major newspapers throughout California. The State Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to discharges to be regulated by this General Permit. Details of the Public Hearing are provided in the Fact Sheet of this General Permit.

B. Written Comments

Interested persons were invited to submit written comments concerning this tentative WDR. Comments were due at the State Water Board offices by 12:00 noon on **August 21, 2012**. Seven comment letters were received.

C. Public Hearing and Meeting

The State Water Board held a public hearing on the tentative WDRs during its regular Board meeting on **August 7, 2012**. The State Water Board will consider adoption of the WDRs at a public meeting on the following date, time, and location:

Date:	**February 19, 2013**
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Location:	State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Interested persons are invited to attend. At the public meeting, the State Water Board will hear comments, if any, limited to changes on the draft General Permit.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. The State Water Board's website address is www.waterboards.ca.gov where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

D. Information and Copying

The tentative effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and special provisions, comments received, and other information are on file and may be inspected at the address above at any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copying of documents may be arranged through the State Water Board by calling (916) 379-9152.

E. Register of Interested Persons

Any person interested in being placed on the mailing list for information regarding this general WDR and NPDES permit should contact the State Water Board, reference the general WDR and NPDES permit, and provide a name, address, and phone number.

F. Additional Information

Requests for additional information or questions regarding this General Permit should be directed to NPDES_Wastewater@waterboards.ca.gov.

Attachment E – Notice of Intent

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

I. NOTICE OF INTENT STATUS (see Instructions)

Mark only one item	A. New Applicator	B. Change of Information: WDID# _____
	C. ☐ Change of ownership or responsibility: WDID# _____	

II. DISCHARGER INFORMATION

A. Name			
B. Mailing Address			
C. City	D. County	E. State	F. Zip
G. Contact Person	H. E-mail address	I. Title	J. Phone

III. BILLING ADDRESS (Enter Information *only* if different from Section II above)

A. Name			
B. Mailing Address			
C. City	D. County	E. State	F. Zip
G. E-mail address	H. Title	I. Phone	

IV. RECEIVING WATER INFORMATION

A. Algaecide and aquatic herbicides are used to treat (check all that apply):

1. ☐ Canals, ditches, or other constructed conveyance facilities owned and controlled by Discharger.
   Name of the conveyance system: _____
2. ☐ Canals, ditches, or other constructed conveyance facilities owned and controlled by an entity other than the Discharger.
   Owner's name:_____
   Name of the conveyance system: _____
3. Directly to river, lake, creek, stream, bay, ocean, etc.
   Name of water body: _____

B. Regional Water Quality Control Board(s) where treatment areas are located (REGION 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9): Region _____
(List all regions where algaecide and aquatic herbicide application is proposed.)

V. ALGAECIDE AND AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION INFORMATION

A. Target Organisms: ____

B. Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Used: List Name and Active ingredients

C. Period of Application: Start Date_____ End Date_____

D. Types of Adjuvants Used:

VI. AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATION PLAN

Has an Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan been prepared and is the applicator familiar with its contents?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, when will it be prepared? _____

VII. NOTIFICATION

Have potentially affected public and governmental agencies been notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No

VIII. FEE

Have you included payment of the filing fee (for first-time enrollees only) with this submittal?
☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NA

IX. CERTIFICATION

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction and supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment. Additionally, I certify that the provisions of the General Permit, including developing and implementing a monitoring program, will be complied with."

A. Printed Name: _____

B. Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

C. Title: _____

XI. FOR STATE WATER BOARD STAFF USE ONLY

WDID:	**Date NOI Received:**	**Date NOI Processed:**
Case Handler's Initial:	**Fee Amount Received:** **$**	**Check #:**
☐ **Lyris List Notification of Posting of APAP**	**Date** _____	**Confirmation Sent** _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING NOI

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

These instructions are intended to help you, the Discharger, to complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) form for the Statewide General NPDES permit. **Please type or print clearly when completing the NOI form**. For any field, if more space is needed, submit a supplemental letter with the NOI.

Send the completed and signed form along with the filing fee and supporting documentation to the Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board. Please also send a copy of the form and supporting documentation to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board).

Section I – Notice of Intent Status

Indicate whether this request is for the first time coverage under this General Permit or a change of information for the discharge already covered under this General Permit. Dischargers that are covered under Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ before effective date of this General Permit should check the box for change of information. For a change of information or ownership, please supply the eleven-digit Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) number for the discharge.

Section II – Discharger Information

Enter the name of the Discharger.
Enter the street number and street name where correspondence should be sent (P.O. Box is acceptable).
Enter the city that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the county that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the state that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the zip code that applies to the mailing address given.
Enter the name (first and last) of the contact person.
Enter the e-mail address of the contact person.
Enter the contact person's title.
Enter the daytime telephone number of the contact person

Section III – Billing Address

Enter the information **only** if it is different from Section II above.

A. Enter the name (first and last) of the person who will be responsible for the billing.

B. Enter the street number and street name where the billing should be sent (P.O. Box is acceptable).
C. Enter the city that applies to the billing address.
D. Enter the county that applies to the billing address.
E. Enter the state that applies to the billing address.
F. Enter the zip code that applies to the billing address.
G. Enter the e-mail address of the person responsible for billing.
H. Enter the title of the person responsible for billing.
I. Enter the daytime telephone number of the person responsible for billing.

Section IV – Receiving Water Information

Please be reminded that this General Permit does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a threatened or endangered species or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code §2050 et. seq) or the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.A. §1531 et. seq). This General Permit requires compliance with effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and other requirements to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state. The Discharger is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable Endangered Species Act.

Additional information on federally-listed threatened or endangered species and federally-designated critical habitat is available from NMFS (www.nmfs.noaa.gov) for anadromous or marine species or FWS (www.fws.gov) for terrestrial or freshwater species.

A. Check all boxes that apply. At least one box must be checked.
1. Check this box if the treatment area is a canal, ditch, or other constructed conveyance system owned and controlled by Discharger. Print the name of the conveyance system.
2. Check this box if the treatment area is a canal, ditch, or other constructed conveyance system owned and controlled by an entity other than the Discharger. Print the owner's name and names of the conveyance system.
3. Check this box if the treatment area is not a constructed conveyance system (including application to river, lake, creek, stream, bay, or ocean) and enter the name(s) of the water body(s).

B. List all Regional Water Board numbers where algaecide and aquatic herbicide application is proposed. Regional Water Board boundaries are defined in section 13200 of the California Water Code. The boundaries can also be found on our website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml

Regional Water Board Numbers	Regional Water Board Names
1	North Coast
2	San Francisco Bay
3	Central Coast

Regional Water Board Numbers	Regional Water Board Names
4	Los Angeles
5	Central Valley (Includes Sacramento, Fresno, Redding Offices)
6	Lahontan (South Lake Tahoe, Victorville offices)
7	Colorado River Basin
8	Santa Ana
9	San Diego

Section V – Algaecide and Aquatic Herbicide Application Information

A. List the appropriate target organism(s).
B. List the name and active ingredients of each algaecide and aquatic herbicide to be used.
C. List the start and end date of proposed aquatic algaecide and aquatic herbicide application event.
D. List the name(s) and type(s) of adjuvants that will be used.

The Discharger must submit a new NOI if any information stated in this section will be changed. If the Discharger plans to use an algaecide and aquatic herbicide product not currently covered under its Notice of Applicability (NOA), and the algaecide and aquatic herbicide product may be discharged to a water of the United States as a result of algaecide and aquatic herbicide application, the Discharger must receive a revised NOA from the State Water Board's Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality before using that product.

Section VI – Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan

The Coalition or Discharger must prepare and complete an Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan (APAP). The minimum contents of APAP are specified in the permit under Section VIII.C, Limitations and Discharge Requirements, of the General Permit. The Discharger must ensure that its applicator is familiar with the APAP contents before algaecide and aquatic herbicide application.

If an APAP is not complete at the time of application, enter the date by which it will be completed.

Section VII – Notification

Indicate if you have notified potentially affected public and governmental agencies, as required under item VIII.B of the General Permit.

Section VIII – Fee

The amount of Annual fee shall be based on Category 3 discharge specified in section 2200(b)(9) of title 23, California Code of Regulations. Fee information can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/docs/fy1112fee_schdl_npdes_prmt.pdf.

Check the YES box if you have included payment of the annual fee. Check the NO box if you have not included this payment. **NOTE:** You will be billed annually and payment is required to continue coverage.

Section IX– Certification

A. Print the name of the appropriate official. The person who signs the NOI must meet the signatory and certification requirements stated in Attachment B Standard Provisions item V.B.
B. The person whose name is printed above must sign and date the NOI.
C. Enter the title of the person signing the NOI.

Attachment F – Notice of Termination

WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 2013-0002-DWQ
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAG990005

STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR RESIDUAL AQUATIC PESTICIDE DISCHARGES TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS

I. WDID

WDID# _____

II. DISCHARGER INFORMATION

A. Name			
B. Mailing Address			
C. City	D. County	E. State	F. Zip
G. Contact Person	H. E-mail address	I. Title	J. Phone

III. BASIS FOR TERMINATION

IV. CERTIFICATION

"I certify under penalty of law that 1) I am not required to be permitted under this General Permit No.CAG990005, and 2) this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction and supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment. Additionally, I understand that the submittal of this Notice of Termination does not release an algaecide or aquatic herbicide applicator from liability for any violations of the Clean Water Act."

A. Printed Name: _____

B. Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

C. Title: _____

V. FOR STATE WATER BOARD USE ONLY

☐ **Approved for Termination** ☐ **Denied and Returned to the Discharger**

A. Printed Name: _____

B. Signature: _____

C. Date: _____

NOT Effective Date: / /

Attachment G – Exception List

LIST OF PUBLIC AGENCIES AND MUTAL WATER COMPANIES GRANTED AN EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD POLICY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TOXICS STANDARDS FOR INLAND SURFACE WATERS, ENCLOSED BAYS, AND ESTUARIES OF CALIFORNIA

The public entities and mutual water companies listed herein have prepared Initial Studies, Negative Declarations (ND), Mitigated Negative Declarations (MND), and Notices of Determination for the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.)) to comply with the exception requirements of section 5.3 of the Policy. The boards of each public entity, as the lead agencies under CEQA, approved the Final ND/MND and determined that the discharge of algaecides and aquatic herbicides in their respective projects would not have a significant effect on the environment. These public entities and mutual water companies have determined that the water quality or related water quality impacts identified in the environmental assessments of the ND/MND are less than significant.

In addition to submitting the CEQA documentation, these public entities and mutual water companies have also complied with the other exception requirements of section 5.3 of the Policy.

As required in section 15096 of the CEQA Guidelines, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, considered the ND/MND approved by the board of each public entity and finds that the projects will have less than significant water quality impact if the waste discharge requirements in this General Permit are followed. Accordingly, the public entities and mutual water companies listed herein are hereby granted an exception pursuant to section 5.3 of the Policy.

1. Byron-Bethany Irrigation District
2. City of Antioch Department of Public Works
3. Contra Costa Water District
4. Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
5. Department of Food and Agriculture
6. Department of Water Resources
7. Friant Water Users Authority
8. Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
9. Maine Prairie Water District
10. Marin Municipal Water District
11. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
12. Modesto Irrigation District
13. Nevada Irrigation District

14. North Marin Water District
15. Oakdale Irrigation District
16. Placer County Water Agency
17. Potter Valley Irrigation District
18. Princeton-Cordora-Glenn Irrigation District
19. Provident Irrigation District
20. Reclamation District 1004
21. Santa Cruz Water Department
22. Solano Irrigation District
23. South Feather Water and Power Agency
24. South Sutter Water District
25. Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
26. Turlock Irrigation District
27. Woodbridge Irrigation District
28. Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District