
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 4, 2015

Via Email Only

Mr. Parry Klassen
Executive Director
Central Coast Groundwater Coalition
P.O. Box 828
Salinas, CA 93902
pklassen@unwiredbb.com

Dear Mr. Klassen:

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM - LANDOWNER RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPLY WITH GROUNDWATER MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS, ORDER NO. R3-2012-0011

This letter is to reiterate the responsibilities of landowners of properties enrolled in the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands, Order No. R3-2012-0011 (Order) and the related Monitoring and Reporting Programs. Both landowners and operators of any ranch/farm enrolled in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) are identified as responsible parties and must comply with the requirements of the Order, including conducting groundwater monitoring and reporting.

These requirements are described in the Order and the related Monitoring and Reporting Programs. At the time of enrollment, operators received detailed information regarding requirements and landowners received a postcard notifying them of the Order and enrollment of their properties. In addition, both landowners and operators are informed of any issues of noncompliance. While operators may have direct control of the farming operations and implement management practices, landowners are responsible for ensuring compliance of their enrolled properties.

If there is a failure to comply with any requirements of the Order, both the landowner and operator will be held responsible and may be subject to enforcement.

Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting

All ranches/farms enrolled in the ILRP must conduct groundwater monitoring and reporting of the primary irrigation well and ALL domestic use wells located on enrolled parcels. For the purpose of the Order and these monitoring requirements, a domestic well is any well which provides water to a residence, shop, office or similar structure where water can be accessed for domestic uses (drinking, cooking, or bathing) by residents, tenants, or visitors. All domestic wells located within the boundary of the enrolled County Tax Assessor Parcel number (APN)

must be sampled, even if an alternative water supply is used for drinking water and cooking purposes. Landowners and operators may comply with these requirements individually or by joining a groundwater monitoring cooperative¹.

Landowners must also provide access to any wells necessary to comply with monitoring requirements. If the landowner refuses to grant access to the operator and/or their consultant to conduct the required groundwater sampling of the domestic wells located on their enrolled property, the landowner must comply with groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements or they will be held responsible for noncompliance and may be subject to enforcement.

Failure to comply with monitoring and reporting requirements may subject landowners and operators to enforcement actions by the Central Coast Water Board, including imposition of penalties. California Water Code section 13350 authorizes penalties of up to \$5,000 per day for each day of noncompliance from the original due date. If the Water Board imposes a penalty for late monitoring and reporting, the reports are still required.

For More Information

Landowners and operators of any ranch/farm enrolled in the ILRP are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Order. To review the Order and related Monitoring and Reporting Programs requirements in detail, go to the Water Board's website below. Resources are also available to assist landowners and operators in achieving compliance. On the Water Board's web page, under the heading "Grower Workshops and Resources", you can also find specific info regarding groundwater monitoring guidance, a list of qualified laboratories, and information regarding responsible parties (landowner and operator).

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Hector Hernandez of our staff at: (805) 542-4641 or via e-mail at: Hector.Hernandez@waterboards.ca.gov, or Angela Schroeter at (805) 542-4644 or via e-mail at: Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

for John M. Robertson
Groundwater Section Manager

cc:

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Angela Schroeter, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
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¹ The Executive Officer approved the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) on July 11, 2013. Members must comply with the approved CCGC workplan.

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