



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 17, 2013

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
Central Coast Groundwater Coalition
512 Pajaro St.
Salinas, CA 93901
pklassen@unwiredbb.com

Dear Mr. Klassen:

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM – APPROVAL OF CENTRAL COAST GROUNDWATER COALITION UPDATED WORK PLAN FOR THE NORTHERN COUNTIES

On November 1, 2013, the Central Coast Groundwater Coaliton (Coalition) submitted an updated version of the final workplan, approved by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) on July 11, 2013 to comply with Order No. R3-2012-0011 and associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRPs). The revised workplan is titled, "*Central Coast Groundwater Coalition Work Plan for Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties*" (workplan). The most significant changes to the revised workplan include the incorporation of the groundwater monitoring and reporting changes set forth in Order WQ 2013-0101, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on September 24, 2013. The revised workplan also includes changes in the dates of sampling and reporting activities that resulted from an extension of the enrollment period to November 1, 2013. The Coalition will complete sampling in three different phases, according to basin: Phase 1 - Salinas Valley and Lockwood Valley, Phase 2 – Pajaro Valley, and Phase 3 – Gilroy and Hollister area. Although the revised workplan includes several date changes to the deliverable schedule, there is no change in the overall implementation schedule and sampling activities must be completed for all phases by September 1, 2014 (with the exception of repeat sampling ordered by State Board Order WQ-2013-0101).

Additionally, State Board Order WQ-2013-0101 also included specific requirements related to drinking water notifications for situations where results for domestic drinking water wells indicate an exceedance for the drinking water standard for nitrate as NO₃ or nitrate+nitrite as nitrogen. While the revised workplan includes an Addendum titled "Member Notification", the specific requirements are described below and included as a condition of our approval of the revised workplan.

This letter is to approve the revisions to the workplan for the Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties with the specific conditions described below. Please note that the conditions for approval set forth in the Central Coast Water Board's July 11, 2013 letter to the Coalition remain in effect for activities not addressed in the revised workplan. These conditions are important and required to clarify and confirm our expectations about how you will

JEFFREY S. YOUNG, CHAIR | KENNETH A. HARRIS JR., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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comply with the Order No. R3-2012-0011 and associated MRPs on behalf of individual landowners and growers who participate in your cooperative program.

CONDITIONS

The revised workplan includes an Addendum which describes a member notification system that the Coalition intends to use to identify wells that exceed the drinking water standard and to ensure that users of the water are notified, in compliance with State Board Order WQ 2013-0101. If the Coalition determines that water in any well that is used or may be used for drinking water exceeds or is projected to exceed the drinking water standard, the Coalition must do the following:

1. Within 24 hours of learning of the exceedance or projected exceedance of the drinking water standard, provide notice to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board);
2. Within 48 hours of learning of the exceedance or projected exceedance of the drinking water standard, notify Coalition members that they are required by the Central Coast Water Board to notify the landowner and well users of the exceedance within 10 days. The content of the notifications must be consistent with that described in State Board Order WQ-2013-0101.
3. Within 10 days of learning of the exceedance or projected exceedance of the drinking water standard, provide a copy of the template notification letter, list of members notified, and the date the member was notified to the Central Coast Water Board. Additionally, at that time, the Coalition must also provide the Central Coast Water Board with the names and contact information for any member not successfully notified by the Coalition. The Coalition must also provide copies of the individual notification letters sent to Coalition members informing them of the exceedance of the drinking water standards, upon request of the Central Coast Water Board.
4. Within 30 days of completing notifications for an individual phase of the workplan (Salinas-Lockwood, Pajaro, Gilroy-Hollister), the Coalition must provide to the Central Coast Water Board a summary of any follow-up actions taken by Coalition members to provide treatment or alternative drinking water supplies for well users affected by drinking water exceedances. In addition, upon request by the Central Coast Water Board, the Coalition must provide a list of Coalition members who have not provided information about follow-up actions or who have not taken actions to provide treatment or alternative drinking water supplies for well users affected by drinking water exceedances. The Central Coast Water Board will contact these members directly.

Additionally, pursuant to a telephone conversation between your consultant Michael L. Johnson and Hector Hernandez of our staff, we have corrected Table 8 (Summary Table) of the updated Work Plan to show that the submission date of the "Initial Characterization of the Shallow Groundwater Aquifer" is due December 15, 2014, as specified in the text on page 13 of the Work Plan (paragraph following Table 5).

I appreciate the Coalition's efforts and progress made thus far to comply with the cooperative groundwater monitoring requirements. The above conditions are important and required to clarify and confirm our expectations related to how the Coalition will ensure that well users are notified in the case of drinking water exceedances, as required by State Board Order WQ-2013-0101. Additionally, implementation of these notification requirements will ensure that the Coalition's drinking water notification process is consistent with the notification process that is

presently followed by the Central Coast Water Board for dischargers who comply with individual groundwater monitoring requirements.

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

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Kenneth A Harris Jr.
DN: cn=Kenneth A Harris Jr., o=Central
Coast Regional Water Quality Control
Board, ou=Executive Officer,
email=Ken.Harris@waterboards.ca.gov,
c=US
Date: 2013.12.17 13:18:45 -08'00'

Kenneth A. Harris Jr.
Executive Officer

cc:

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