

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2015-0079

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS TO ALLOW FOR
PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMS

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
STOCKTON PORT DISTRICT

FRESNO COUNTY
CITIES OF CLOVIS AND FRESNO, COUNTY OF FRESNO,
FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, AND
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO

KERN COUNTY
CITY OF BAKERSFIELD AND COUNTY OF KERN

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Central Valley Water Board) finds that:

1. Central Valley region waterbodies serve important roles supplying water for municipal, industrial and agricultural use for much of the State, and supporting critical ecosystems for fish and wildlife, including many rare and endangered species.
2. Understanding the current conditions of waterbodies (water quality and beneficial uses) within the Central Valley region and the potential impacts to those conditions, is important in order to preserve and enhance water quality, and provide for corresponding regulatory and management decisions, which should be based upon sound science.
3. Currently, many agencies and organizations are conducting monitoring and data evaluation in the Central Valley region, but there is an overall lack of coordinated monitoring and data evaluation for a variety of reasons. This lack of coordination results in the inability to conduct a regional assessment of the water quality and beneficial use conditions and may result in misdirected expenditure of funds for monitoring and water quality improvements.
4. A Region-wide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit is under development by the Central Valley Water Board which will propose allowing Permittees an option to participate in a Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) and reduce some of their required local water quality monitoring. The proposed Region-wide MS4 general permit is not expected to be considered for adoption by the Central Valley Water Board until at least December 2015. Therefore, these Permittees' MS4 permits are being amended to allow the option to participate in a RMP immediately, such as the Delta RMP for those Permittees who discharge to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, rather than having to wait until the proposed Region-wide MS4 general permit is adopted.

5. It is the intent of the Central Valley Water Board that the initial costs of RMP participation by permitted dischargers should be relatively “cost neutral,” in that financial or in-kind participation in the RMP should be reasonably equivalent to the cost of discontinued local water quality monitoring and study efforts. However, it is recognized that new and evolving water quality issues will continue to develop, and the costs of RMP participation may increase in the future, as would costs for local water quality monitoring.
6. It is the intent of the Central Valley Water Board that all waste dischargers with the potential to impact water quality in the Central Valley region will be encouraged to, and have the flexibility to, participate in a RMP.
7. Other sources of funding beyond permitted dischargers will be required to adequately fund a RMP. Agencies and groups who are not waste dischargers, but rely on or use or have an interest in waterbodies in the Central Valley region, are encouraged to participate in a RMP, including providing funding and/or in-kind services, participating in the steering or technical advisory committees, and coordinating their separate activities with a RMP.
8. Waste discharge requirements are amended to allow Permittees and Permittee groups to participate in a RMP to reduce some of their current local water quality monitoring efforts, when feasible and appropriate.
9. The Central Valley Water Board will consider reducing some of the required local water quality monitoring to participate in a RMP on a case-by-case basis.
10. Participation in a RMP by a Permittee or Permittee group will consist of providing funds and/or in-kind services to the RMP at least equivalent to discontinued local water quality monitoring and study efforts. Active participation by discharger representatives on a RMP Steering Committee or technical or other advisory committees that may be formed is encouraged.
11. If a Permittee or Permittee group fails to maintain adequate participation in the Delta RMP, as determined through criteria to be developed by a RMP steering committee, the steering committee will recommend to the Central Valley Water Board that a local water quality monitoring program be reinstated for that Permittee or Permittee group.
12. The following Central Valley region Dischargers’ NPDES Permits may be reopened and modified in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 122.62(a)(2):
 - A. Order R5-2011-0005-01
 - Stockton Port District (NPDES No. CAS0084077)
 - B. Order R5-2013-0080
 - Cities of Clovis and Fresno, County of Fresno, California State University Fresno, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (NPDES No. CA0083500)
 - C. Order R5-2013-0153
 - City of Bakersfield and County of Kern (NPDES No. CA0083399)
13. Issuance of modifications to the NPDES Permit are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Control Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.) in

accordance with California Water Code section 13389.

14. The Central Valley Water Board has notified the Permittees and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend Waste Discharge Requirements to allow for the participation in regional monitoring programs and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Waste Discharge Requirements listed in Attachments A through C are amended as shown in underline/strikeout format in those Attachments.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Resource Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with CWC section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday (including mandatory furlough days), the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, effective on **5 June 2015**.

Original signed by

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2011-0005-01 (NPDES No. CAS0084077) is amended solely to address a Regional Monitoring Program and minor modifications. **Effective immediately upon adoption of this Order**, Order R5-2011-0005-01 is amended as shown in Items 1-4 below.

1. **Waste Discharge Requirements, Monitoring and Reporting Program, Attachments E, and Fact Sheet.** Modify references to Order R5-2011-0050-01 as shown underlined below:

Order R5-2011-0005-02

2. **Waste Discharge Requirements.** The Executive Officer certification statement is modified as shown underlined below:

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on **3 February 2011, and amended on 10 October 2014 and 5 June 2015** by Order R5-2014-0130 and Order R5-2015-0079, respectively.

3. **Monitoring and Reporting Program.** Add the following text in Provision II, Monitoring Program, as shown in underline format below:

- a. Add the following text to Provisions as shown in underline format below:

Regional Monitoring Program

Permittees that elect to participate in a RMP may request a reduction in some of the local water quality monitoring specified in the MRP of this Order. Participation in a RMP by a Permittee shall consist of providing funds and/or in-kind services to the RMP at least equivalent to discontinued individual monitoring and study efforts.

If the Permittee proposes to reduce the local water quality monitoring and instead participate in a RMP, the Permittee shall submit a letter signed by an authorized representative informing the Central Valley Water Board that the Permittee will participate in a RMP, the date on which local water quality monitoring required under the MRP for this Order would cease, or be modified, and specific monitoring locations and constituent combinations that would no longer be conducted individually. To ensure consistency with this Order and this MRP, reductions in local water quality monitoring require the Executive Officer's prior written approval of the Permittee's request, including related SWMP modifications. Approval by the Executive Officer is not required prior to participating in the RMP.

If the Permittee is approved to participate in a RMP and reduce some local water quality monitoring, the Permittee shall continue to participate in a RMP until such time as the Permittee informs the Central Valley Water Board that participation in a RMP will cease and all local water quality monitoring will be reinstated. To the extent approved by the Executive Officer, some local water quality monitoring under the MRP, and related monitoring identified in the SWMP, required under this Order may be discontinued so long as the Permittee adequately support a RMP. Data from the RMP may be utilized to characterize the receiving water in the permit renewal. Alternatively, the Permittee may conduct any site-specific

receiving water monitoring deemed appropriate by the Permittee and submit that monitoring data with this characterization monitoring. If the Permittee fails to maintain adequate participation in a RMP by not providing funds and/or in-kind services, the Permittee shall reinstitute all previously required individual local water quality monitoring. During participation in the RMP, the Permittee may conduct and submit any or part of the monitoring included in this Monitoring and Reporting Program that is deemed appropriate by the Permittee, provided the modified monitoring program approved by the Executive Officer is conducted at a minimum.

Although RMP data is not intended to be used directly to represent receiving water quality for purposes of determining if a discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards, Permittees may be able to demonstrate that this data is usable for this purpose. RMP monitoring stations are established generally as "integrator sites" to evaluate the combined impacts on water quality of multiple sources; RMP monitoring stations would not normally be able to identify the source of any specific constituent, but would be used to identify water quality issues needing further evaluation. RMP monitoring data, along with local Permittee data, may be used to help establish ambient receiving water quality for a water quality data analysis after evaluation of the applicability of the data for that purpose. RMP data, as with all environmental monitoring data, can provide an assessment of water quality at a specific location and time that can be used in conjunction with other information, such as other receiving water monitoring data, spatial and temporal distribution and trends of receiving water data, point and non-point source discharges, receiving water flowrate and velocity, and to determine a potential source or sources of a constituent that contributed to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards.

During the period of participation in the RMP, the Permittee shall continue to report any individually conducted local water quality monitoring data in the Annual Report consistent with Provision I.B.4, Monitoring and Reporting Program. In addition, with each submitted Annual Report, the Permittee's shall include 1) a statement that the Permittee is participating in the RMP have reduced some of the local water quality monitoring program required by the permit, and 2) the Permittee shall continue to attach a copy of the letter originally submitted to the Central Valley Water Board describing the monitoring location(s) and constituents that will no longer be conducted individually.

- b. Add the following header as shown in underline format above Baseline Monitoring:

Local Water Quality Monitoring

- c. Modify the Executive Officer's certification statement as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 3 February 2011, and amended on 10 October 2014 and 5 June 2015 by Order R5-2014-0130 and Order R5-2015-0079, respectively.

Original signed by Pamela C. Creedon

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

Date

4. **Fact Sheet.** Add the following text in Section VI, Monitoring and Reporting Program, as shown in underline format below:

Regional Monitoring Program

The Central Valley Water Board requires individual Permittees and Permittee groups to conduct local water quality monitoring. The purpose of this local water quality monitoring is to provide information regarding the impacts of discharges on local receiving waters, and on the extant condition of those waterbodies. However, the equivalent funds spent on current local water quality monitoring efforts could be used more efficiently and productively to better characterize the spatial and temporal distribution of contaminants and physical conditions of Central Valley waterbodies on a regional scale or other regional water quality issues, if those funds were used for a coordinated monitoring effort, rather than continue to be used in individual, uncoordinated local water quality monitoring programs. Regional Monitoring Programs (RMPs), such as the Delta RMP,¹ provide data to better inform management and policy decisions regarding Central Valley region waterbodies.

With this Order, the Central Valley Water Board is authorizing Permittees that elect to participate in a RMP to reduce some of the local water quality monitoring required in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and related monitoring described in the SWMP. If the Permittee elects to reduce local water quality monitoring and participate in a RMP, the Permittee shall submit a letter signed by an authorized representative to the Executive Officer informing the Central Valley Water Board that the Permittee will participate in a RMP and the date on which local water quality monitoring, would be modified. To ensure consistency with this Order and the MRP, reductions in local water quality monitoring require the Executive Officer's prior written approval.

¹ Specific information regarding the Delta RMP is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/index.shtml.

RMP data is not intended to be used directly to represent receiving water quality for purposes of determining if a discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards. RMP monitoring stations are established generally as “integrator sites” to evaluate the combined impacts on water quality of multiple discharges into Central Valley region waterbodies; RMP monitoring stations would not normally be able to identify the source of any specific constituent, but would be used to identify water quality issues needing further evaluation. RMP monitoring data may be used to help establish receiving water quality for a water quality data analysis after evaluation of the applicability of the data for that purpose. In general, monitoring data from samples collected in the immediate vicinity of the discharge will be given greater weight in permitting decisions than receiving water monitoring data collected at greater distances from the discharge point. RMP data, as with all environmental monitoring data, can provide an assessment of water quality at a specific location and time that can be used in conjunction with other information, such as other receiving water monitoring data, spatial and temporal distribution and trends of receiving water data, point and non-point source discharges, receiving water flow rate and velocity, and to determine potential source or sources of a constituent that contributed to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards.

If the Permittee participates in a RMP and reduce some local water quality monitoring, the Permittees shall continue to participate in the RMP until such time as the Permittees inform the Central Valley Water Board that participation in the RMP will cease and all local water quality monitoring is reinstated. Some monitoring under Provision II, Monitoring and Reporting Program, is not required under this Order so long as the Permittee adequately support the RMP. Participation in the RMP by a Permittee shall consist of providing funds and/or in-kind services to a RMP at least equivalent to discontinued local water quality monitoring efforts as determined by the RMP Steering Committee. If the Permittee fails to maintain adequate participation in a RMP by not providing funds and/or in-kind services, the Permittee shall reinstitute all previously required individual local water quality monitoring.

Data from a RMP may be utilized to characterize the receiving water in the permit renewal. The Permittee may, however, conduct any site-specific monitoring deemed appropriate by the Permittee and submit that monitoring data to the Central Valley Water Board provided the modified monitoring program approved by the Executive Officer is conducted at a minimum. Historic receiving water monitoring data taken by the Permittees and from other sources may also be evaluated to determine whether or not that data is representative of current receiving water conditions. If found to be representative of current conditions, then that historic data may be used in characterizing receiving water quality.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2013-0080 (NPDES No. CA0083500) is amended solely to address a Regional Monitoring Program and minor modifications. **Effective immediately upon adoption**, Order R5-2013-0080 is amended as shown in Items 1-4 below.

1. **Waste Discharge Requirements, Monitoring and Reporting Program, Attachments A through C, and Fact Sheet.** Modify references to Order R5-2013-0080 as shown underlined below:

Order R5-2013-0080-01

2. **Waste Discharge Requirements.** Modify the Executive Officer's certification statement as shown underlined below:

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 31 May 2013, and amended on 5 June 2015.

3. **Monitoring and Reporting Program.** Add the following text in Provision II, Monitoring and Reporting Program, as shown in underline format below:

- a. Add the following text to Provisions as shown in underline format below:

II. Monitoring Program

Regional Monitoring Program

Permittees that elect to participate in a RMP may request a reduction in some of the local water quality monitoring specified in the MRP of this Order. Participation in a RMP by a Permittee shall consist of providing funds and/or in-kind services to the RMP at least equivalent to discontinued individual monitoring and study efforts.

If the Permittees propose to reduce the local water quality monitoring and instead participate in a RMP, the Permittees shall submit a letter signed by an authorized representative informing the Central Valley Water Board that the Permittees will participate in a RMP, the date on which local water quality monitoring required under the MRP for this Order would cease, or be modified, and specific monitoring locations and constituent combinations that would no longer be conducted individually. To ensure consistency with this Order and this MRP, reductions in local water quality monitoring require the Executive Officer's prior written approval of the Permittees' request including related SWMP modifications. Approval by the Executive Officer is not required prior to participating in the RMP.

If the Permittees are approved to participate in a RMP and reduce some local water quality monitoring, the Permittees shall continue to participate in a RMP until such time as the Permittees inform the Central Valley Water Board that participation in a RMP will cease and all local water quality monitoring will be reinstated. To the extent approved by the Executive Officer, some local water quality monitoring under the MRP, and related monitoring identified

in the SWMP, required under this Order may be discontinued so long as the Permittees adequately support a RMP. Data from the RMP may be utilized to characterize the receiving water in the permit renewal. Alternatively, the Permittees may conduct any site-specific receiving water monitoring deemed appropriate by the Permittees and submit that monitoring data with this characterization monitoring. If the Permittees fail to maintain adequate participation in a RMP by not providing funds and/or in-kind services, the Permittees shall reinstitute all previously required individual local water quality monitoring. During participation in the RMP, the Permittees may conduct and submit any or part of the monitoring included in this Monitoring and Reporting Program that is deemed appropriate by the Permittees, provided the modified monitoring program approved by the Executive Officer is conducted at a minimum.

Although RMP data is not intended to be used directly to represent receiving water quality for purposes of determining if a discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards, Permittees may be able to demonstrate that this data is usable for this purpose. RMP monitoring stations are established generally as "integrator sites" to evaluate the combined impacts on water quality of multiple sources; RMP monitoring stations would not normally be able to identify the source of any specific constituent, but would be used to identify water quality issues needing further evaluation. RMP monitoring data, along with local Permittees data, may be used to help establish ambient receiving water quality for a water quality data analysis after evaluation of the applicability of the data for that purpose. RMP data, as with all environmental monitoring data, can provide an assessment of water quality at a specific location and time that can be used in conjunction with other information, such as other receiving water monitoring data, spatial and temporal distribution and trends of receiving water data, point and non-point source discharges, receiving water flowrate and velocity, and to determine a potential source or sources of a constituent that contributed to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards.

During the period of participation in the RMP, the Permittees shall continue to report any individually conducted local water quality monitoring data in the Annual Report consistent with Provision I.B.4, Monitoring and Reporting Program. In addition, with each submitted Annual Report, the Permittees shall include 1) a statement that the Permittees are participating in the RMP and have reduced some of the local water quality monitoring program required by the permit, and 2) the Permittees shall continue to attach a copy of the letter originally submitted to the Central Valley Water Board describing the monitoring location(s) and constituents that will no longer be conducted individually.

- b. Add the following header as shown in underline format above Baseline Monitoring:

Local Water Quality Monitoring

- c. Modify the Executive Officer's certification statement as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 13 May 2013, and amended on 5 June 2015.

Original signed by Pamela C. Creedon

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

Date

4. **Fact Sheet.** Add the following text to Section VI. Monitoring Program, as shown in underline format below:

Regional Monitoring Program

The Central Valley Water Board requires individual Permittees and Permittee groups to conduct local water quality monitoring. The purpose of this local water quality monitoring is to provide information regarding the impacts of discharges on local receiving waters, and on the extant condition of those waterbodies. However, the equivalent funds spent on current local water quality monitoring efforts could be used more efficiently and productively, to better characterize the spatial and temporal distribution of contaminants and physical conditions of Central Valley waterbodies on a regional scale or other regional water quality issues, if those funds were used for a coordinated monitoring effort, rather than continue to be used in individual, uncoordinated local water quality monitoring programs. Regional Monitoring Programs (RMPs), such as the Delta RMP,¹ provide data to better inform management and policy decisions regarding Central Valley region waterbodies.

With this Order, the Central Valley Water Board is authorizing Permittees that elect to participate in a RMP to reduce some of the local water quality monitoring required in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and related monitoring described in the SWMP. If the Permittees elect to reduce local water quality monitoring and participate in a RMP, the Permittees shall submit a letter signed by an authorized representative to the Executive Officer informing the Central Valley Water Board that the Permittee will participate in a RMP and the date on which local water quality monitoring, would be modified. To ensure consistency with this Order and the MRP, reductions in local water quality monitoring require the Executive Officer's prior written approval.

RMP data is not intended to be used directly to represent receiving water quality for purposes of determining if a discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of any applicable

¹ Specific information regarding the Delta RMP is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/index.shtml.

water quality standards. RMP monitoring stations are established generally as “integrator sites” to evaluate the combined impacts on water quality of multiple discharges into Central Valley region waterbodies; RMP monitoring stations would not normally be able to identify the source of any specific constituent, but would be used to identify water quality issues needing further evaluation. RMP monitoring data may be used to help establish receiving water quality for a water quality data analysis after evaluation of the applicability of the data for that purpose. In general, monitoring data from samples collected in the immediate vicinity of the discharge will be given greater weight in permitting decisions than receiving water monitoring data collected at greater distances from the discharge point. RMP data, as with all environmental monitoring data, can provide an assessment of water quality at a specific location and time that can be used in conjunction with other information, such as other receiving water monitoring data, spatial and temporal distribution and trends of receiving water data, point and non-point source discharges, receiving water flow rate and velocity, and to determine potential source or sources of a constituent that contributed to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards.

If the Permittees participate in a RMP and reduce some local water quality monitoring, the Permittees shall continue to participate in the RMP until such time as the Permittees inform the Central Valley Water Board that participation in the RMP will cease and all local water quality monitoring is reinstated. Some monitoring under Provision II, Monitoring and Reporting Program, is not required under this Order so long as the Permittees adequately support the RMP. Participation in the RMP by a Permittees shall consist of providing funds and/or in-kind services to a RMP at least equivalent to discontinued local water quality monitoring efforts as determined by the RMP Steering Committee. If the Permittees fail to maintain adequate participation in a RMP by not providing funds and/or in-kind services, the Permittees shall reinstitute individual local water quality monitoring.

Data from a RMP may be utilized to characterize the receiving water in the permit renewal. The Permittees may, however, conduct any site-specific monitoring deemed appropriate by the Permittee and submit that monitoring data to the Central Valley Water Board provided the modified monitoring program approved by the Executive Officer is conducted at a minimum. Historic receiving water monitoring data taken by the Permittees and from other sources may also be evaluated to determine whether or not that data is representative of current receiving water conditions. If found to be representative of current conditions, then that historic data may be used in characterizing receiving water quality.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2013-0153 (NPDES No. CA0083399) is amended solely to address a Regional Monitoring Program and minor modifications. **Effective immediately upon adoption**, Order R5-2013-0153 is amended as shown in Items 1-4 below.

1. **Waste Discharge Requirements, Monitoring and Reporting Program, Attachments A through C, and Fact Sheet.** Modify references to Order R5-2013-0153 as shown underlined below:

Order R5-2013-0153-01

2. **Waste Discharge Requirements.** Modify the Executive Officer's certification statement as shown underlined below:

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on **6 December 2013, and amended on 5 June 2015.**

3. **Monitoring and Reporting Program.** Add the following text in Provision II, Monitoring and Reporting Program, as shown in underline format below:

- a. Add the following text to Provisions as shown in underline format below:

II. Monitoring Program

Regional Monitoring Program

Permittees that elect to participate in a RMP may request a reduction in some of the local water quality monitoring specified in the MRP of this Order. Participation in a RMP by a Permittee shall consist of providing funds and/or in-kind services to the RMP at least equivalent to discontinued individual monitoring and study efforts.

If the Permittees propose to reduce the local water quality monitoring and instead participate in a RMP, the Permittees shall submit a letter signed by an authorized representative informing the Central Valley Water Board that the Permittees will participate in a RMP, the date on which local water quality monitoring required under the MRP for this Order would cease, or be modified, and specific monitoring locations and constituent combinations that would no longer be conducted individually. To ensure consistency with this Order and this MRP, reductions in local water quality monitoring require the Executive Officer's prior written approval of the Permittees' request including related SWMP modifications. Approval by the Executive Officer is not required prior to participating in the RMP.

If the Permittees are approved to participate in a RMP and reduce some local water quality monitoring, the Permittees shall continue to participate in a RMP until such time as the Permittees inform the Central Valley Water Board that participation in a RMP will cease and all local water quality monitoring will be reinstated. To the

extent approved by the Executive Officer, some local water quality monitoring under the MRP, and related monitoring identified in the SWMP, required under this Order may be discontinued so long as the Permittees adequately support a RMP. Data from the RMP may be utilized to characterize the receiving water in the permit renewal. Alternatively, the Permittees may conduct any site-specific receiving water monitoring deemed appropriate by the Permittees and submit that monitoring data with this characterization monitoring. If the Permittees fail to maintain adequate participation in a RMP by not providing funds and/or in-kind services, the Permittees shall reinstitute individual local water quality monitoring. During participation in the RMP, the Permittees may conduct and submit any or part of the monitoring included in this Monitoring and Reporting Program that is deemed appropriate by the Permittees, provided the modified monitoring program approved by the Executive Officer is conducted at a minimum.

Although RMP data is not intended to be used directly to represent receiving water quality for purposes of determining if a discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards, Permittees may be able to demonstrate that this data is usable for this purpose. RMP monitoring stations are established generally as "integrator sites" to evaluate the combined impacts on water quality of multiple sources; RMP monitoring stations would not normally be able to identify the source of any specific constituent, but would be used to identify water quality issues needing further evaluation. RMP monitoring data, along with local Permittees data, may be used to help establish ambient receiving water quality for a water quality data analysis after evaluation of the applicability of the data for that purpose. RMP data, as with all environmental monitoring data, can provide an assessment of water quality at a specific location and time that can be used in conjunction with other information, such as other receiving water monitoring data, spatial and temporal distribution and trends of receiving water data, point and non-point source discharges, receiving water flowrate and velocity, and to determine a potential source or sources of a constituent that contributed to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards.

During the period of participation in the RMP, the Permittees shall continue to report any individually conducted local water quality monitoring data in the Annual Report consistent with Provision I.B.4, Monitoring and Reporting Program. In addition, with each submitted Annual Report, the Permittees shall include 1) a statement that the Permittees are participating in the RMP and have reduced some of the local water quality monitoring program required by the permit, and 2) the Permittees shall continue to attach a copy of the letter originally submitted to the Central Valley Water Board describing the monitoring location(s) and constituents that will no longer be conducted individually.

- b. Add the following header as shown in underline format above Baseline Monitoring:

Local Water Quality Monitoring

- c. Modify the Executive Officer's certification statement as shown in underline/strikeout format below:

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of any Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 6 December 2013, and amended on 5 June 2015.

Original signed by Pamela C. Creedon

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

Date

4. **Fact Sheet.** Add the following text to Section VIII, Monitoring Program, as shown in underline format below:

Regional Monitoring Program

The Central Valley Water Board requires individual Permittees and Permittee groups to conduct local water quality monitoring. The purpose of this local water quality monitoring is to provide information regarding the impacts of discharges on local receiving waters, and on the extant condition of those waterbodies. However, the equivalent funds spent on current local water quality monitoring efforts could be used more efficiently and productively, to better characterize the spatial and temporal distribution of contaminants and physical conditions of Central Valley waterbodies on a regional scale or other regional water quality issues, if those funds were used for a coordinated monitoring effort, rather than continue to be used in individual, uncoordinated local water quality monitoring programs. Regional Monitoring Programs (RMPs), such as the Delta RMP,¹ provide data to better inform management and policy decisions regarding Central Valley region waterbodies.

With this Order, the Central Valley Water Board is authorizing Permittees that elect to participate in a RMP to reduce some of the local water quality monitoring required in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and related monitoring described in the SWMP. If the Permittees elect to reduce local water quality monitoring and participate in a RMP, the Permittees shall submit a letter signed by an authorized representative to the Executive Officer informing the Central Valley Water Board that the Permittee will participate in a RMP and the date on which local water quality monitoring, would be modified. To ensure consistency with this Order and the MRP, reductions in local water quality monitoring require the Executive Officer's prior written approval.

RMP data is not intended to be used directly to represent receiving water quality for purposes of determining if a discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards. RMP monitoring stations are established

¹ Specific information regarding the Delta RMP is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/index.shtml.

generally as “integrator sites” to evaluate the combined impacts on water quality of multiple discharges into Central Valley region waterbodies; RMP monitoring stations would not normally be able to identify the source of any specific constituent, but would be used to identify water quality issues needing further evaluation. RMP monitoring data may be used to help establish receiving water quality for a water quality data analysis after evaluation of the applicability of the data for that purpose. In general, monitoring data from samples collected in the immediate vicinity of the discharge will be given greater weight in permitting decisions than receiving water monitoring data collected at greater distances from the discharge point. RMP data, as with all environmental monitoring data, can provide an assessment of water quality at a specific location and time that can be used in conjunction with other information, such as other receiving water monitoring data, spatial and temporal distribution and trends of receiving water data, point and non-point source discharges, receiving water flow rate and velocity, and to determine potential source or sources of a constituent that contributed to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards.

If the Permittees participate in a RMP and reduce some local water quality monitoring, the Permittees shall continue to participate in the RMP until such time as the Permittees inform the Central Valley Water Board that participation in the RMP will cease and all local water quality monitoring is reinstated. Some monitoring under Provision II, Monitoring and Reporting Program, is not required under this Order so long as the Permittees adequately support the RMP. Participation in the RMP by a Permittees shall consist of providing funds and/or in-kind services to a RMP at least equivalent to discontinued local water quality monitoring efforts as determined by the RMP Steering Committee. If the Permittees fail to maintain adequate participation in a RMP by not providing funds and/or in-kind services, the Permittees shall reinstate individual local water quality monitoring.

Data from a RMP may be utilized to characterize the receiving water in the permit renewal. The Permittees may, however, conduct any site-specific monitoring deemed appropriate by the Permittee and submit that monitoring data to the Central Valley Water Board provided the modified monitoring program approved by the Executive Officer is conducted at a minimum. Historic receiving water monitoring data taken by the Permittees and from other sources may also be evaluated to determine whether or not that data is representative of current receiving water conditions. If found to be representative of current conditions, then that historic data may be used in characterizing receiving water quality.