



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 May 2024

Ryan Dodd [On behalf of SSJV Water Quality Coalitions]
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
P.O. Box 2840
Visalia, CA 93279

APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION REPORT TEMPLATE FOR SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITIONS

Thank you for your submittal regarding a proposed update to the Groundwater Management Practice Implementation Report (GW MPIR) Template for Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalitions. The template is intended to be completed by Coalition members beginning in 2026 to comply with Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120-09.

Central Valley Water Board staff review comments and summary of the submittal are provided in the enclosed memorandum. Based on staff's recommendation, I am approving the updated GW MPIR Template and 5-year submittal timeline to begin 1 March 2026.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Eric Warren at eric.warren@waterboards.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Pulupa".

For Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Central Valley Water Board Staff Review of the Updated GW MPIR Submittal & Template for Southern San Joaquin Valley Coalitions

CC's Next Page:

CC: via email

Tim Ashlock, Buena Vista Coalition
David Halopoff, Cawelo Water District Coalition
Donald Ikemiya, Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Nicole Bell, Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
Debra Dunn, Kings River Water Quality Coalition
David DeGroot, Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition
Morgan Campbell, Westside Water Quality Coalition

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Eric Warren, PE
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FROM: Dana Kulesza
Engineering Geologist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

DATE: 9 May 2024

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COALITIONS'
UPDATED GROUNDWATER MANANGEMENT PRACTICE
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT TEMPLATE**

On 31 August 2023, third-party agricultural coalitions approved to represent growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area¹ (SSJV, or Coalitions) submitted an updated Groundwater Management Practice Implementation Report template (GW MPIR) to the Central Valley Water Board. Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120-09 requires coalition members in areas subject to Groundwater Quality Management Plans² to submit GW MPIRs to their respective Coalitions. The GW MPIRs are intended to report management practices implemented by the grower to comply with a management plan.

The updated GW MPIR was circulated for a 30-day public comment on 3 October 2023 and reviewed concurrently by Central Valley Water Board staff (staff). No public comments were received. This memorandum provides a summary and staff comments on the updated GW MPIR.

GW MPIR SUMMARY

Background

The SSJV Coalitions elected to pursue a phased approach for collecting and reporting management practice and implementation information due to uncertainty regarding other program components, such as the Groundwater Protection Process, and limited Farm Evaluation and Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary

¹ These groups are collectively referred to as the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalitions.

² For the purpose of this review, "Groundwater Quality Management Plans" will be used to also refer to applicable Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plans.

Report data. The Phase I GW MPIR was approved by the Executive Officer in September 2020 and focused on implementation of the following three priority management practices:

1. Testing and accounting for nitrogen in irrigation water
2. Implementing proper wellhead protection measures
3. Proper destruction/abandonment of wells no longer in use.

The Phase I GW MPIR was designed to be informed by and supplement Farm Evaluations and INMP Summary Report worksheets. The GW MPIR submittal frequency was approved to coincide with Farm Evaluations, which occurs every five years, and all enrolled growers were first required to submit both reports by March 2021.

Updated GW MPIR Summary

The updated GW MPIR was provided as Attachment A to the submittal and is intended to provide a uniform reporting format for the Coalitions, and streamline the process for growers, regulators, and other stakeholders. In addition to the three priority practices covered in the Phase I GW MPIR, the updated GW MPIR includes an expanded list of management practices related to irrigation and nitrogen management that may be used by growers. The SSJV Coalitions propose to maintain the five-year reporting frequency, with the next GW MPIR due by 1 March 2026. Beginning with the 2026 submittal, the GW MPIRs will be completed and submitted along with Farm Evaluations.

Information gathered from the GW MPIR process is critical to support Groundwater Quality Management Plan objectives, while also aiding in identifying potential knowledge gaps and informing education and outreach programs.

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The updated GW MPIR template is adequate to document the priority management practices designated by the SSJV Coalitions. Staff recommends approval of the GW MPIR.