Indian Wells
(760) 568-2611
Irvine
(949) 263-2600
Los Angeles
(213) 617-8100
Ontario
(909) 989-8584

BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

500 Capitol Mall, Suite 1700, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 325-4000 | Fax: (916) 325-4010 | www.bbklaw.com

Riverside
(951) 686-1450
San Diego
(619) 525-1300
Walnut Creek
(925) 977-3300
Washington, DC
(202) 785-0600

William J. Thomas
(916) 551-2858
william.thomas@bbklaw.com
File No. 82418

RECEIVED
9-14-12
SWRCB Clerk

September 14, 2012

Via Email to:
Jeannette L. Bashaw, Legal Analyst
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Charlie Hoppin, Board Chair
Frances Spivy-Weber, Board Member
Tam Doduc, Board Member
Steven Moore, Board Member
Felicia Marcus, Board Member
Michael A.M. Lauffer, Chief Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Comments to SWRCB/OCC File A-2209(s)-(e) - September 19, 2012 Board Meeting**

Dear Ms. Bashaw, Board Chair, Members and Mr. Lauffer:

On behalf of Ocean Mist Farms and RC Farms, we submit this response to the draft order on the request for stay in the matter of the petitions of Ocean Mist and RC Farms, et al. regarding the Central Coast agricultural waiver. We are very appreciative of the day long hearing and the late night deliberations concerning this important matter, and likewise appreciate the thoughtful analysis that supported the decision. On balance, we support the decision, but hereby share with the Board some thoughts on clarifying the order to avoid confusion and address possible contingencies.

1. Provision 67, Tiers 2 and 3 MRP, Part 3, and Provisions 33 and 44. Compliance Forms.

There is considerable confusion in the field regarding what has actually been stayed in respect to compliance forms. Some of this confusion has to do with the inter-relationship between the various paragraphs of the order. This has been amplified as a result of a recent "Annual Compliance Form Instruction" distributed to growers (copy attached). This was "pre-stay," but very current and only instruction document. Some of these components will now be clearly stayed, some components will clearly not be stayed, and other components are in doubt.

Consequently, the Board's stay order should direct the Regional Board to pull back, revise and redistribute this guidance document immediately.

2. Provision 68, Tiers 2 and 3 MRP, Part 2, Section C. Nitrogen Applied.

The draft stay order did not stay the reporting of nitrate use because it is not specifically required until October 1, 2014.

Growers testified as to the sensitivity and proprietary nature of such management information and, based thereon, we have sought a different means of such reporting to protect the proprietary interest. It would be appropriated if the Board would include some language directing the Regional Board to consult with the grower community to explore how such reporting can be done to protect commercial interests. We would have a year to do so, but his Regional Board will not work with the agricultural community unless ordered to do so.

3. Provisions 72 and 73. Monitoring Discharge Water at the Field.

In respect to Provision 72, grower testimony, such as that by Dale Huss, clarified the impossibility of identifying and measuring the runoff of non-point source drainage. He spoke of this being particularly so in respect to storm sheet flow across fields. Just because the Board did not stay this provision does not make the impossible possible.

In respect to Provision 73, we note that the Board did not address the requirement of monitoring irrigation field water at the field's edge. This was because this unreasonable provision is not required until 2014, and the State Board will presumably provide a remedy in its ultimate order, which is expected prior thereto. We certainly hope both come to be true, but in the event the Board fails to make its ultimate decision by January 1, 2014, we encourage the Board to take steps to address this provision.

Sincerely,

William J. Thomas
for BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

WJT:lmg

attachment

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Annual Compliance Form - Instructions

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE FORM REQUIREMENT: The Annual Compliance Form (ACF) is required and must be submitted annually by October 1 (or as otherwise directed by the Executive Officer), for all Tier 2 and Tier 3 ranches/farms. The ACF is optional for Tier 1. This form is entirely online and must be accessed by logging into your operation's GeoTracker account. Growers should fill in the ACF completely and submit it by pressing the "save changes" button at the bottom. Growers can update the ACF as necessary. Navigate to the following website to login to GeoTracker.
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi

PURPOSE: The purpose of the electronic Annual Compliance Form is to provide up-to-date information to the Central Coast Water Board to assist in the evaluation of affect on water quality from agricultural waste discharges and evaluate progress towards compliance with this Order, including implementation of management practices, treatment or control measures, or changes in farming practices.

ASSISTANCE:

If you have general questions, please contact Water Board staff at (805) 549-3147.

If you need assistance with your username and password, please contact Water Board staff at (805) 542-4645.

For growers that do not have an internet connection, there are opportunities and resources available to help with submitting this form, including:

1. Growers can schedule an appointment to meet with Water Board staff in person at the San Luis Obispo office.
2. Growers can attend a local grower assistance workshop.
3. Growers can receive assistance from a third party, such as technical assistance agency, industry group, or a consultant.
4. Growers can utilize computers and internet connections at local libraries, colleges, etc.

AGRICULTURAL ORDER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: For information about the regulatory requirements refer to the Agricutural Order, RB3–2012–0011 and associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs at the following website.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml
Frequently asked questions, grower resources, and grower tools are also available on the website.

INFORMATION GROWERS NEED TO KNOW TO FILL OUT THE ANNUAL COMPLIANCE FORM:

Unless otherwise stated in the instructions, all reporting should be based on the past 12 months and up to the present.

1. Primary source(s) of irrigation water
2. Maximum Nitrate Concentration (Nitrate as NO3 in mg/L) of the primary irrigation water source
3. Crop Type(s) and Irrigation Type(s)
4. Soil type(s), if applicable
5. Nitrate loading risk determined using either Table 4 of Monitoring and Reporting Program or the University of California Water Resources Center Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index Online Tool at http://wrc.ucanr.org/search2.php
6. Stormwater discharge characteristics
7. Irrigation discharge characteristics (i.e., location, estimated # runoff days/year, estimated volume)
8. Tile drain discharge characteristics (i.e., location, estimated # of tile drain days/year, estimated volume)
9. Water containment characteristics (i.e., types of treatment or control to manage wastes)
10. Water quality management practices (practices implemented in last 12 months, practice assessment and outcomes)
11. Water quality improvement projects (list type and scale)
12. Related permits, if applicable
13. Photo monitoring, if applicable for this ranch/farm.

Section A: General Requirements	**Respond appropriately to the question in this section.**
Access eNOI and verify/update information	GeoTracker Login Website: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi
Section B: Irrigation Water	**Respond appropriately to all the questions in this section and provide the required information regarding source of irrigation water. Select the range of the highest Nitrate Concentration (in Nitrate as NO3) of the primary irrigation water source for this ranch/farm. Please, refer to the maximum concentration result within the past twelve (12) months, if seasonal variations occur. The primary irrigation water source is the one that provides the greatest percentage of irrigation water for this ranch/farm.**

Section C: Groundwater Nitrate Loading Risk Determination	**Respond appropriately to all the questions in this section, select the method to be used for determination and report the required information. Select the crop type with the highest rating that is planned for rotation within the next 12 months. If future crop plantings are unknown, make your selection based on the best available knowledge and information at the time of submittal, including considering crops grown in the past 12 months. The same applies to irrigation system type and irrigation water nitrate concentration. Nitrate loading risk can be evaluated for the ranch/farm as a whole or broken up into individual units. Growers can use the following two methods to determine nitrate loading risk: Method 1 described in Table 4 of Monitoring and Reporting Program or Method 2 UCANR Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index Online Tool at** http://wrc.ucanr.org/search2.php
Definition: Individual nitrate loading risk unit(s)	A subdivided unit of the ranch/farm with different farming conditions (irrigation system, crop type, nitrate concentration in the irrigation water, etc.). If a Discharger chooses to subdivide the ranch/farm into individual nitrate loading risk units, the Discharger must maintain individual record keeping, and conduct monitoring and reporting for each nitrate loading risk unit.
METHOD 1: Central Coast Water Board Nitrate Loading Risk	Nitrate Loading Risk Factor Criteria and Risk Level Determination Refer to the MRP, p11, 2C, #3 and Table 4. Information required to use this method: 1) Crop type, 2) Irrigation system type, and 3) Irrigation water nitrate concentration. *Dischargers must determine the nitrate loading risk factor for each ranch/farm, based on the criteria associated with the highest risk activity existing at each ranch/farm. For example, if a Discharger uses both sprinkler and drip irrigation on the same crop, they must use the irrigation type "sprinkler" in the nitrate loading risk calculation.*
METHOD 2: Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index (HI)	UCANR Nitrate Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index Tool http://wrc.ucanr.org/search2.php Information required to use this method and online tool: 1) Crop type, 2) Soil type, and 3) Irrigation type. *Dischargers must determine the HI for each ranch/farm, based on the criteria associated with the highest risk activity existing at each ranch/farm. For example, if a Discharger uses both sprinkler and drip irrigation on the same crop, they must use the irrigation type "sprinkler" in the nitrate loading risk calculation. If either the crop type or the soil series, for a ranch/farm are not listed in the online tool, METHOD 1: Nitrate Loading Risk must be used.*
Section D: Stormwater Discharge Characersitics	**Respond appropriately to all the questions in this section and provide the required information.**
Section E: Irrigation Discharge Characersitics	**Respond appropriately to all the questions in this section and provide the required information.**
Definition: Irrigation Runoff	Surface water that leaves the field following application of irrigation water (i.e., Tailwater).
Section F: Tile Drain Discharge Characersitics	**Respond appropriately to all the questions in this section and provide the required information.**
Definition: Tile Drains	Subsurface drainage which removes excess water from the soil profile, usually through a network of perforated tile tubes installed 2 to 4 feet below the soil surface. This lowers the water table to the depth of the tile over the course of several days. Drain tiles allow excess water to leave the field. Once the water table has been lowered to the elevation of the tiles, no more water flows through the tiles.

Section G: Water Containment Characteristics	**Respond appropriately to all the questions in this section and provide the required information. If selections are not available on the list provided, growers must describe them in the Farm Plan and submit to the Water Board, upon request.**
Definition: Containment Structures	Refer to the Agricultural Order, page 20, condition 33. NOTE: Containment structures refer to any type of structure built to collect/contain any water, such as for frost control, irrigation storage, settling ponds, irrigation and/or stormwater runoff collection, other.
Section H: Water Quality Management Practices	**Growers should refer to their farm plan to help complete this section and should focus on identifying on-farm water quality practices to resolve water quality problems in their area. Check all the boxes that apply for each management category to identify: 1) Practices implemented in the last 12 months, 2) Methods to evaluate the effectiveness of practices, and 3) Results/outcome(s) to demonstrate progress towards water quality improvement resulting from practice implementation. If selections are not available on the list provided, growers must describe them in the Farm Plan and submit to the Water Board, upon request.**
Nutrient Management Irrigation Management Pesticide Management Sediment Management and Erosion Control	Practice Implementation: Identify management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented to protect water quality, in the last 12 months.
	Practice Assessment: Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), in the last 12 months.
	Practice Outcome(s): Identify outcome(s) that demonstrate progress towards reducing or elimination the discharge of pollutants as a result of practice implementation, in the last 12 months.
Section I: Water Quality Improvement Projects	**Respond appropriately to all the questions in this section and provide the required information. If selections are not available on the list provided, growers must describe them in the Farm Plan and submit to the Water Board, upon request.**
Section J: Related Permits	**Respond appropriately to the questions in this section.**
Section K: Photo Monitoring	**Photo monitoring is required for Tier 2 and Tier 3 ranches/farms that contain or are adjacent to a waterbody impaired for temperature, turbidity, or sediment. Photos must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Water Board, upon request. Refer to Photo Monitoring protocols at the following website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml**
Proprietary Information	**Information related to trade secrets or secret processes are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Water Code §13267. If the grower asserts that all or a portion of a report submitted is exempt from public disclosure, the grower must provide an explanation of how those portions of the reports are exempt from public disclosure. The grower must identify if any information reported in the Annual Compliance Form includes information related to trade secrets and/or secret process and provide a justification. Water Board staff will determine whether any such report or portion of a report qualifies for an exemption from public disclosure. If Water Board staff disagrees with the asserted exemption from public disclosure, staff will notify the grower prior to making such report or portions of such report available for public inspection.**
Authorization and Certification	**Read authorization and certification statement.**

List of Hazard Index (**HI**) Ratings for CropType(s)

HI	Crop
1	Alfalfa Hay
2	Alfalfa Seed
2	Almonds
2	Apples
1	Apricots
3	Artichokes
3	Asparagus
2	Avocados
3	Banana
2	Barley
1	Bean, Dry
3	Bean, Unspecified
3	Beans (Snap)
3	Beans Green Lima
1	Beans, Blackeye
4	Beets, Red
3	Bermuda Grass Hay
3	Bermuda Grass, Seed
2	Blackberries
2	Blueberries
3	Boysenberries
4	Broccoli
2	Brome Grass
3	Brussels Sprouts
4	Cabbage, Chinese
4	Cabbage, Head
2	Canola/Rape seed
3	Cantaloupe
2	Carrots
2	Cashew
4	Cauliflower
4	Celery
2	Cherries, Sweet
2	Cherries, Tart
2	Chestnut
2	Chicory
2	Chinese Peas
2	Citrus
2	Citrus (Blood Orange)
2	Citrus (Mandarin)
2	Citrus (Minneola)
2	Citrus (Pummelos)
4	Collards
3	Corn (Sweet)
2	Corn, Silage
2	Cotton, Lint
1	Cowpeas, Green
1	Cowpeas, Other Southern Peas
3	Cucumbers
2	Currants
3	Daikon

HI	Crop
1	Dates
3	Eggplant
4	Escarole/Endive
1	Figs
3	Garlic
3	Grapefruit
1	Grapes, Fresh
1	Grapes, Raisins
1	Grapes, Wine
2	Grass Silage
2	Hazelnut/Filberts
3	Honeydew Melon
1	Jojoba
4	Kale Greens
2	Kentucky bluegrass
3	Kiwifruit
3	Kleingrass hay
3	Kohlrabi
3	Kumquats
2	Ladino clover, seed
4	Leek
2	Lemons
4	Lettuce, Head
4	Lettuce, Leaf
4	Lettuce, Romaine
1	Lima Beans, Dry
2	Limes
2	Loquat
2	Macadamia
2	Maize/Corn, Grain
4	Mango
3	Mint for oil
4	Mustard, Greens
2	Nectarines
2	Oat
3	Okra
1	Olives
4	Onions, Dry
4	Onions, Green
4	Onions, Seed
2	Oranges
2	Orchard Grass
4	Papaya
4	Parsley
2	Passion Fruit
2	Pasture
2	Peaches
2	Pears
1	Peas, Dry Edible
3	Peas, Green
2	Pecans

HI	Crop
4	Peppers, Bell
3	Peppers, Chili
2	Persimmon
3	Pimientos
4	Pineapple
2	Pistachios
2	Plums
2	Pomegranate
3	Popcorn
3	Potatoes
2	Prunes
3	Pumpkins
2	Quack grass
3	Radishes
2	Raspberries
1	Red Clover, hay
2	Red Clover, seed
2	Reed Canary Grass
2	Rhubarb
1	Rice
3	Rutabaga
2	Rye
2	Ryegrass, hay
3	Ryegrass, seed
2	Safflower
2	Small Grain, hay
3	Sorghum, Forage
2	Sorghum, Grain
4	Spinach
3	Squash (Total)
4	Strawberries
1	Sudangrass, forage
2	Sudangrass, seed
2	Sugar Beets
2	Sugar Beets, seed
2	Sunflower, seed
1	Sweet Clover
2	Sweet Potatoes
2	Tall Fescue
2	Tame Grass hay
3	Tomatoes
3	Turnip
4	Turnip, Greens
1	Vetch, seed
2	Walnuts, English
3	Watermelon
2	Wheat
2	Wheat Durum
2	Wild Grass hay
1	Wild Rice
2	Winter Forage

Agricultural Regulatory Program
SAMPLE ANNUAL COMPLIANCE FORM

Section A: General Requirements

Is the information reported in the electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI) accurate and up to date for this ranch/farm? ○ YES ○ NO

Section B: Irrigation Water

What is the primary source of irrigation water on this ranch/farm?:

What is the maximum Nitrate Concentration (Nitrate as NO3 in mg/L) of the primary irrigation water source on this ranch/farm?

What method was used to determine the maximum Nitrate Concentration (Nitrate as NO3 in mg/L)?

Section C: Groundwater Nitrate Loading Risk Determination

State if the the nitrate loading risk was determined for the ranch/farm or individual units? * For Individual Risk Units, you must upload a spreadsheet to report results

Which method was used to determine the nitrate loading risk for this ranch/farm? (see instructions for Individual Risk Unit reporting)

For BOTH Method 1 and Method 2, identify the crop type used for the determination

For Method 2 ONLY, identify the soil series used for the determination

Report Results of the Nitrate Loading Risk Determination for this ranch/farm:

Method 1 Results

Method 2 Results

Section D: Stormwater Discharge Characteristics

Does stormwater leave this ranch / farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES, under what conditions does stormwater leave this ranch/farm during storm events?

If YES, what is the estimated acreage that produces stormwater runoff (doesn't infiltrate) and ends up leaving this ranch/farm during storm events?

Section E: Irrigation Discharge Characteristics

Does irrigation runoff leave this ranch / farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES provide the following information:

Where is the closest drainage point from this ranch/farm to any surface water body (e.g., Stream, Lake, Bay, and/or Ocean)?

State the number of locations where irrigation runoff leaves this ranch/farm.

State the estimated total number of days/year when irrigation runs off/leaves this ranch / farm at any location(s).

This form must be submitted online. Login to your GeoTracker account to complete.

State the primary season(s) when irrigation runoff leaves this ranch / farm:

- ☐ Summer (June 21 - September 20)
- ☐ Fall (September 21 - December 20)
- ☐ Winter (December 21 - March 20)
- ☐ Spring (March 21 - June 20)

State the estimated maximum total volume of irrigation runoff leaving from your ranch / farm on the highest flow day of the year. Report in gallons per day.

Section F: Tile Drain Discharge Characteristics

Does tile drain water leave this ranch / farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES provide the following information:

Where is the closest drainage point from this ranch/farm to any surface water body (e.g., Stream, Lake, Bay, and/or Ocean)?

State the number of locations where tile drain water leaves this ranch/farm.

State the estimated total number of days/year when tile drain water leaves this ranch / farm at any location(s).

State the primary season(s) when tile drain water leaves this ranch / farm:

- ☐ Summer (June 21 - September 20)
- ☐ Fall (September 21 - December 20)
- ☐ Winter (December 21 - March 20)
- ☐ Spring (March 21 - June 20)

State the total estimated maximum volume of tile drain water leaving from your ranch / farm on the highest flow day of the year. Report in gallons per day.

Section G: Water Containment Characteristics

Are there water containment structure(s) (i.e., ponds, reservoirs) on this ranch/farm? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES, state the type of treatment or control that is used to minimize and/or prevent the percolation of waste to groundwater.

Section H: Water Quality Management Practices (select all that apply)

Nutrient Management - Practice Implementation

Identify nutrient management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Evaluated how much fertilizer crop needs and timing of application.
- ☐ Scheduled fertilizer applications to match crop requirements.
- ☐ Measured nitrogen concentration in irrigation water and adjusted fertilizer nitrogen applications accordingly.
- ☐ Measured soil nitrate or soil solution nitrate and adjusted fertilizer nitrogen applications accordingly.
- ☐ Used precision techniques to place fertilizer in the root zone, to ensure crop uptake, with minimal runoff and deep percolation (e.g. fertigation).
- ☐ Measured nitrogen in plant tissue and adjusted fertilizer nitrogen applications.
- ☐ Measured phosphorus in soil and adjusted fertilizer phosphorus applications.

- ☐ Measured nitrogen and phosphorous content of applied manures and other organic amendments.
- ☐ Mixed and loaded fertilizers on low runoff hazard sites (e.g. away from creeks and wells)
- ☐ Used urease inhibitors and/or nitrification inhibitors.
- ☐ Modified crop rotation to use beneficial cover crops, deep rooted species, or perennials to utilize nitrogen.
- ☐ Used treatment systems to remove nitrogen from irrigation runoff or drainage water (e.g. wood chip bioreactor).
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Nutrient Management - Practice Assessment

Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s) / practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- ☐ Not Assessed
- ☐ Compared amount of nitrogen applied in fertilizer and in irrigation water to crop need.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration below the root zone.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Estimated/measured nitrate load in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Estimated/measured nitrate load in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Estimated/measured nitrate loading to groundwater.
- ☐ Measured nitrate concentration in groundwater.
- ☐ Modeled or studied nitrate in surface water or groundwater.
- ☐ Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or other).
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Nutrient Management - Practice Outcome(s)

Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Annual fertilizer nitrogen application reduced.
- ☐ Total nitrogen applied as fertilizer and in irrigation water matches crop need.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate concentration or load, in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate concentration or load, in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate loading to groundwater.
- ☐ Reduction in nitrate concentration in groundwater.
- ☐ Water quality standards achieved.
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Irrigation Management - Practice Implementation

Identify irrigation management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Determined amount of crop water uptake and applied irrigation water accordingly.
- ☐ Installed more efficient irrigation system (e.g. microirrigation).
- ☐ Improved irrigation distribution uniformity (DU) based on results of mobile lab or similar assessment.
- ☐ Scheduled irrigation events using soil moisture measurements.
- ☐ Scheduled irrigation events using weather information (e.g., evapo-transpiration, crop coefficient).
- ☐ Maintained irrigation system to maximize efficiency and minimize losses (e.g. system components are replaced and/or flushed/cleaned).

☐ Selected sprinkler heads,nozzles, and drip tape/emitter with application rate(s) that match system layout, system pressure, and infiltration rates.
☐ Installed a variable speed pump and/or control system to improve irrigation distribution uniformity (DU).
☐ Recycled or reused excess irrigation water.
☐ Contained and/or treated irrigation water runoff prior to discharge off the farm/ranch.
☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Irrigation Management - Practice Assessment

Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

☐ Not Assessed
☐ Walked the perimeter of the property and cropped areas to verify irrigation runoff has been reduced or eliminated.
☐ Recorded amount of irrigation water applied.
☐ Recorded and reduced number of tailwater days/year.
☐ Compared amount of irrigation water applied to crop water uptake
☐ Estimated/measured volume of irrigation runoff.
☐ Conducted field quick tests or used handheld meters to determine waste concentrations in irrigation runoff or tile drain water.
☐ Conducted laboratory analysis to determine waste concentrations in irrigation runoff.
☐ Modeled or studied amount of irrigation water losses (runoff or deep percolation).
☐ Conducted photo monitoring before and after practice implementation.
☐ Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or other).
☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Irrigation Management - Practice Outcome(s)

Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

☐ None
☐ Volume of water applied matches crop needs.
☐ Annual volume of irrigation water applied reduced.
☐ Number of tailwater days/year reduced.
☐ Reduction in volume of irrigation runoff.
☐ Elimination of irrigation runoff.
☐ Reduction in volume of tile drain discharge.
☐ Reduction in water infiltration/percolation losses.
☐ Reduction in pollutant concentration in irrigation runoff and/or tile drain discharge.
☐ Water quality standards achieved.
☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Pesticide Management - Practice Implementation

Identify pesticide management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months.

☐ None
☐ Utilized Integrated Pest Management to reduce pesticide use (e.g., pest scouting, beneficial insects other).
☐ Selected lower risk pesticides to minimize risk to water quality (e.g. based on toxicity, runoff

potential, leaching potential).

- ☐ Followed specific label instructions and any local use restrictions.
- ☐ Avoided pesticide applications prior to rain events to prevent runoff.
- ☐ Avoided pesticide applications during windy conditions to prevent drift.
- ☐ Avoided pesticide application in areas adjacent to streams, creeks, or other surface water bodies.
- ☐ Eliminated or controlled irrigation runoff during and after pesticide applications.
- ☐ Eliminated or controlled sediment erosion and movement to avoid transport of pesticides.
- ☐ Treated irrigation runoff with enzymes or other products to breakdown pesticides.
- ☐ Used filter strips, vegetated treatment or other systems to remove pesticides and pollutants from irrigation runoff or tile drain water.
- ☐ Mixed and loaded pesticides on low runoff hazard sites (e.g. away from creeks and wells)
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Pesticide Management - Practice Assessment

Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- ☐ Not Assessed
- ☐ Conducted field quick tests or used handheld meters to determine pesticide concentrations or toxicity in irrigation runoff or tile drain water.
- ☐ Conducted laboratory analysis to determine pesticide concentrations or toxicity in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Measured pesticide concentrations or toxicity in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Measured pesticide concentrations or toxicity in tile drain water
- ☐ Modeled or studied pesticides or toxicity in surface water or groundwater.
- ☐ Conducted photo monitoring before and after practice implementation.
- ☐ Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or other).
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Pesticide Management - Practice Outcome(s)

Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Annual pesticide application reduced.
- ☐ Reduction in pesticide concentration or toxicity in irrigation runoff.
- ☐ Reduction in pesticide concentration or toxicity in surface receiving water.
- ☐ Water quality standards achieved.
- ☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Sediment Management - Practice Implementation

Identify sediment management measure(s)/practice(s) implemented on this ranch / farm to protect water quality in the last 12 months.

- ☐ None
- ☐ Avoided disturbance of soils adjacent to streams, creeks, and other surface water bodies.
- ☐ Minimized presence of bare soil in non-cropped areas.
- ☐ Minimized presence of bare soil in cropped areas.
- ☐ Minimized tillage to protect soil structure and cover soil.
- ☐ Used soil amendments to protect soil structure.
- ☐ Planted cover crops.
- ☐ Aligned rows for proper drainage and to reduce erosion.

☐ Diverted runoff and concentrated flows to grassed areas.
☐ Controlled concentrated drainage on roads by grading to reduce erosion or installing culverts, rolling dips, underground outlet pipe(s).
☐ Installed filter strips, vegetated treatment or other systems to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff.
☐ Installed sediment basin(s), pond(s), reservoir(s) or other sediment trapping structures to remove sediments from discharge
☐ Applied Polyacrylamide (PAM) in irrigation water
☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Sediment Management - Practice Assessment

Identify methods used to assess the effectiveness of the implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

☐ Not Assessed
☐ Walked the perimeter of the property to verify erosion controls and that sediment doesn't leave the ranch/farm during irrigation events and/or storm events.
☐ Conducted laboratory analysis, field quick tests or used handheld meters to measure turbidity in irrigation runoff.
☐ Estimated sediment load in irrigation and.or stormwater runoff.
☐ Conducted laboratory analysis, field quick tests or used handheld meters to measure turbidity in stormwater runoff.
☐ Modeled or studied sediment load in surface water.
☐ Conducted photo monitoring before and after practice implementation.
☐ Consulted with a qualified professional to assess practice implementation (e.g. CCA, PCA, UCCE Specialist, NRCS, RCD, agronomist or other).
☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Sediment Management - Practice Outcome(s)

Identify outcomes that demonstrate progress towards reducing or eliminating the discharge of wastes off this ranch / farm in the last 12 months.

☐ None
☐ Soil coverage increased and amount of bare soil reduced.
☐ Reduction in turbidity or sediment load in irrigation runoff.
☐ Reduction in turbidity or sediment load in stormwater runoff.
☐ Reduction in turbidity or sediment load in surface receiving water.
☐ Reduction in stormwater flow and/or volume.
☐ Water quality standards achieved.
☐ Other, describe in Farm Plan and submit upon request.

Section I: Water Quality Improvement Projects

Is this ranch/farm participating in a specific water quality improvement project with other growers? ○ YES ○ NO

If YES provide the following information:

Identify the type of project.

Describe the scale of the project.

Section J: Related Permits

Has any work activity been completed and/or proposed within the bed, bank or channel

of a lake or stream, including riparian areas, within the last 12 months on this ranch / farm, ? (includes water diversions and routine maintenance of canals, channels, culverts, and ditches) ○ YES ○ NO

Section K: Photo Monitoring

Photo monitoring is required for Tier 2 and Tier 3 ranches/farms that contain or are adjacent to a waterbody impaired for temperature, turbidity, or sediment (applies to this ranch/farm if the words Monitoring Required are seen next to the Section K: Photo Monitoring title). Photos must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Water Board, upon request. Refer to Photo Monitoring protocols at the following website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml

If required, has photo monitoring been completed for this ranch or farm? ○ YES ○ NO

Proprietary Information

Information related to trade secrets or secret processes are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Water Code §13267. If the Discharger asserts that all or a portion of a report submitted is exempt from public disclosure the Discharger must provide an explanation of how those portions of the reports are exempt from public disclosure.

Does this Annual Compliance Form contain information related to trade secrets or secret processes)? ○ YES ○ NO

Authorization and Certification

By submitting this Annual Compliance Form, in compliance with Water Code § 13267, I certify under penalty of perjury that this document was prepared by me, or under my direction or supervision, following a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this document is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.