

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS**

**ORDER NO. R3-2021-0040-A1
as amended by State Water Board Order WQ 2023-0081**

**April 15, 2021
Revised on **October XX, 2026****

**ATTACHMENT C
ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND DEFINITIONS**

A. Acronyms and Abbreviations

atm	Atmosphere
ACF	Annual Compliance Form
AGL	Ranch identification number for Irrigated Lands Program
Antidegradation Policy	State Water Board Resolution 68-16, the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California
Army Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
AW	Operation identification number for Irrigated Lands Program
AWS	Alternative Water Supplies
AWSP	Alternative Water Supply Program
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin
BPTC	Best Practicable Treatment or Control
CalFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalRecycle	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
CCAMP	Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program
CCC	Criterion Continuous Concentration
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDP	Census Designated Place
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CEDEN	California Environmental Data Exchange Network
Central Coast Water Board	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
CMC	Criterion Maximum Concentration
COLD	Cold Freshwater Habitat Beneficial Use
CRAM	California Rapid Assessment Method
CWA	Clean Water Act
DDW	State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation
DWR	Department of Water Resources
e.g.	Latin <i>exempli gratia</i> (for example)
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ELAP	Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
Enforcement Policy	State Water Board Water Quality Enforcement Policy
eNOI	Electronic Notice of Intent
etc.	Latin <i>et cetera</i> (and other similar things, and so forth)
Farm Plan	Farm Water Quality Management Plan

GPS	Global Positioning System
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IDWP	Individual Drinking Water Protection
i.e.	Latin <i>id est</i> (that is)
ILP	Irrigated Lands Program
INMP	Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LC50	Lethal Concentration 50
LOCID	Location Identifier
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program ¹
MRP	Monitoring and Reporting Program
NAVD88	North American Vertical Datum of 1988
NOT	Notice of Termination
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint Source
NPS Policy	State Water Board Policy for the Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PLSS	Public Land Survey System
PMP	Pesticide Management plan
POE	Point-of-Use
Porter-Cologne Act	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
POU	Point-of-Entry
PQL	Practical Quantitation Limit
PWS	Public Water System
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RipRAM	Riparian Rapid Assessment Method
RL	Reporting Limit
Road Handbook	Handbook for Forest, Ranch, and Rural Roads
ROWD	Report of Waste Discharge
SAFER	Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience
SAP	Sampling and Analysis Plan
SEMP	Sediment and Erosion Management Plan
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

¹ The MMRP arises from CEQA and is separate from the MRP for the Order.

State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
TBD	To Be Decided
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNA	Total Nitrogen Applied
µg/L	Micrograms per Liter
UCCE	University of California Cooperative Extension
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WARM	Warm Freshwater Habitat Beneficial Use
Water Code	California Water Code
WBD	Watershed Boundary Dataset
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements

B. Definitions

The following definitions apply to Order No. R3-2021-0040 and its associated attachments, including the MRP. The terms are arranged in alphabetical order. All other terms not explicitly defined here for the purposes of this Order, the Additional Findings and Regulatory Considerations, and the MRP have the same definitions as prescribed by Water Code Division 7 or are explained within the Order or MRP documents.

1. **10-year, 24-hour Storm.** A 10-year storm refers to rainfall totals that have a ten percent probability of occurring at that location in that year. Criteria for how much rain must fall within 24 hours to classify as a particular rain event is determined from local rainfall data.
2. **95th Percentile Storm.** A percentile rainfall event represents a rainfall amount that a certain percent of all rainfall events for the period of record do not exceed. The 95th percentile rainfall event is defined as the measured rainfall depth accumulated over a 24-hour period, for the period of record, which ranks as the 95th percentile rainfall depth based on the range of all daily event occurrences during this period.
3. **Abandoned Well.** A well is considered “abandoned” when it has been destroyed in accordance with local and state well standards. An abandoned well is not synonymous with an “inactive well” (see also Inactive Well).
4. **Active Channel.** The channel that contains the discharge where channel maintenance is most effective, sediment is actively transported and deposited, and capable of containing most flows. Active channels are located within the area bounded by bankfull stages. This active channel is commonly wetted during the rainy season and can be identified by a break in rooted vegetation or moss growth on rocks along waterbody margins. The ordinary high-water mark is sometimes given as the elevation defining the active channel.

5. **Active Well.** A water well that is in operation / use.
6. **Adaptive Management.** The process of incorporating new scientific and programmatic information into the implementation of a restoration project to ensure the goals of the project are achieved. It promotes flexible decision-making to modify existing activities and management practices or create new activities and management practices if projects are not meeting their goals or if new circumstances arise (e.g., new scientific information). The minimum elements of an adaptive management plan include: 1) clear restoration goals and expectations, 2) a sound conceptualization of the restoration plan, 3) an effective process for learning from future management actions, and 4) explicit feedback mechanisms (e.g., monitoring) for refining and improving activities and management practices.
7. **Administrator/Executor.** A court-appointed fiduciary, usually named in a will, responsible for managing and settling a deceased person's probate estate. An administrator/executor is tasked with locating assets, paying valid debts and taxes, and distributing remaining property to beneficiaries under court supervision.
8. **Agricultural Ditch.** A manmade water conveyance feature on, adjacent to, or directly connected to a farm that primarily conveys irrigation and stormwater runoff originating on the farm, and/or stormwater runoff that has traveled across any part of the farm before entering the conveyance.
9. **Alternative Water Supply Need (need).** The number of domestic wells, water systems, and associated service connections that are in need of alternative water supplies because source groundwater exceeds the MCL for nitrate as a result of agricultural operations.
10. **Alternative Water Supply Program (AWSP) Administrator.** An AWSP Administrator is an independent third-party entity approved by the Central Coast Water Board to implement and manage the AWSP compliance pathway on behalf of enrolled Dischargers.
11. **Antidegradation.** The State Water Board established a policy to maintain high quality waters of the State - Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California." Resolution No. 68-16 requires existing high quality water to be maintained until it has been demonstrated that any change will be consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State, will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial use of water, and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in the policies. When authorizing the discharge of waste into waters of the State, Regional Water Boards are required to comply with Resolution No. 68-16. Permits issued by the Central Coast Water Board must result in the best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure pollution or nuisance will not occur and maintain the highest water quality

consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State. Resolution No. 68-16 has been approved by the USEPA to be consistent with the federal antidegradation policy.

12. **Aquatic Habitat.** The physical, chemical, and biological components and functions of streams and lakes, including riparian areas and wetlands and their buffer zones.
13. **Aquifer.** A geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation capable of yielding a significant amount of groundwater to wells or springs.
14. **Assessment.** The evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes at a ranch-level or watershed- or basin-scale that demonstrates progress towards water quality improvement. Such methods for assessing effectiveness are expected to be based on standard practices such as, but not limited to: visual inspections, photographs, soil nutrient testing, soil moisture measurements, and recordkeeping. Dischargers may also choose more advanced methods for assessing effectiveness, such as water quality sampling, modeling software, calculated reductions in pollutant loading, toxicity testing, biological indicators evaluations, and other measurement types that prove useful to determining the effectiveness of a management practice. The use of advanced methods is not required.
15. **Assessment and Evaluation.** An assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented management measure(s)/practice(s), to reduce or eliminate the discharge of wastes from a ranch and demonstrate progress towards water quality improvement.
16. **Authorized Agent.** An authorized agent is an individual, agency, or entity who has been given the power to act on behalf of another individual, agency, or entity (such as a ranch or operation).
17. **Authorized Representative.** An individual, agency, or entity who acts on behalf of another individual, agency, or entity (such as an approved third-party program staff member or consultant retained by an approved third-party program) acting on behalf of an individual grower or the Central Coast Water Board.
18. **AWSP Dischargers.** AWSP Dischargers are Dischargers enrolled in the AWSP compliance pathway under this Order. These Dischargers elect to comply with the Order's drinking water solutions program requirements by participating in the AWSP rather than the Individual Drinking Water Protection (IDWP) compliance pathway.
19. **Backflow Prevention.** Backflow prevention devices are installed at the well or pump to prevent contamination of groundwater or surface water when fertilizers,

pesticides, fumigants, or other chemicals are applied through an irrigation system. Backflow prevention devices used to comply with this Order must be those approved by USEPA, DPR, DDW, or the local public health or water agency.

20. **Bankfull Stage.** The point at which flow from a waterbody just begins to enter the active floodplain. Accurate measurements have been conducted on gaged streams, however, in absence of historical hydrological records there are a number of field indicators that can be used to identify bankfull stages with a great deal of accuracy: An abrupt change in the slope of the stream channel, usually from a vertical plane to a horizontal plane on top of the floodplain. The bankfull stage is usually marked by a change in vegetation, such as the change from gravel bars to forbs, herbs, or grasses. Persistent woody vegetation is usually indicative of upland terrain but can be misleading. Erosion or scour features indicate areas just below the bankfull stage and are recognized as significant characteristics of stream dynamics. Flat depositional benches, lateral bars, or point bars usually created by lateral or downward movement of streams and can create active floodplain areas. Change in the size distribution of sediment materials at the surface from fine gravel to cobbles, from sand to gravel or even fine gravel material. It can change from fine to coarse or coarse to fine. Stain lines can indicate frequent inundation of water on rocks. Stain lines may be marked by sediment or lichens.
21. **Basin Plan.** The Basin Plan is the Central Coast Region’s Water Quality Control Plan. The Basin Plan describes how the quality of the surface and groundwater in the Central Coast Region should be managed to provide the highest water quality reasonably possible. The Basin Plan includes beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and a program of implementation.
22. **Beneficial Uses.** The Basin Plan establishes the beneficial uses to be protected in the Central Coast Region. Beneficial uses for surface water and groundwater are divided into twenty-four standard categories identified below. The following beneficial uses have been identified in waterbodies within the Region:

Basin Plan Beneficial Uses

Agricultural supply (AGR)*	Municipal and domestic supply (MUN)*
Aquaculture (AQUA)	Migration of aquatic organisms (MIGR)
Cold freshwater habitat (COLD)	Navigation (NAV)
Commercial and sport fishing (COMM)	Non-contact recreation (REC-2)
Estuarine habitat (EST)	Preservation of biological habitats of special significance (BIOL)
Freshwater replenishment (FRSH)	Rare, threatened or endangered species (RARE)
Groundwater recharge (GWR)	Shellfish harvesting (SHELL)

Hydropower generation (POW)	Spawning, reproduction, and development (SPWN)
Industrial process supply (PROC)	Warm freshwater habitat (WARM)
Industrial service supply (IND)*	Water contact recreation (REC-1)
Inland saline water habitat (SAL)	Wildlife habitat (WILD)
Marine habitat (MAR)	

*As described in the Basin Plan, all groundwater in the central coast region, except for the Carrizo Plain groundwater basin, is designated for agricultural water supply (AGR), municipal and domestic water supply (MUN), and industrial use (IND) beneficial uses.

23. **Bottled water.** Any water that is placed in a sealed container at a water-bottling plant to be used for drinking, culinary, or other purposes involving a likelihood of the water being ingested by humans. (Health & Safety. Code, section 111070, subdivision (a).)
24. **Best Practicable Treatment and Control (BPTC).** As required by resolution 68-16, Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Water in California (Antidegradation Policy), any activity which produces or may produce a waste or increased volume or concentration of waste and which discharges or proposes to discharge to existing high quality waters will be required to meet waste discharge requirements which will result in the best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that (a) a pollution or nuisance will not occur and (b) the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained.
25. **C:N Ratio.** A carbon-to-nitrogen ratio (C/N ratio or C:N ratio) is a ratio of the mass of carbon to the mass of nitrogen in a substance. It is used in analyzing compost and crop residue materials. For example, a C:N of 10:1 means there is ten units of carbon for each unit of nitrogen in the substance. Since the C:N ratio of everything in and on the soil can have a significant effect on crop residue decomposition, particularly residue cover on the soil and crop nutrient cycling (predominantly nitrogen).
26. **Census Designated Place (CDP).** A population concentration identified by the U.S. Census Bureau for statistical purposes. CDPs represent named, locally recognized communities that resemble cities, towns, or villages but do not have their own municipal government. The Census Bureau defines the boundaries of a CDP in collaboration with local and state partners to reflect where people live, work, and identify as a community.
27. **Census Tract.** A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for the purpose of presenting population and housing data. Census tracts are designed to represent homogeneous population characteristics, economic conditions, and living conditions, and they typically contain between 1,200 and 8,000 residents.

Tract boundaries are established in cooperation with local and tribal governments and generally remain stable across decennial censuses, making them a consistent unit for demographic analysis, funding decisions, and environmental justice assessments.

28. **Centralized treatment.** Treating water at a central place before conveying it through a dedicated distribution system to customers.
29. **Chemigation.** The application of pesticides, fertilizers, fumigants or other chemicals through an irrigation system.
30. **Commercial.** Irrigated lands producing commercial crops are those operations that have one or more of the following characteristics:
 - a. The landowner or operator holds a current Operator Identification Number/Permit Number for pesticide use reporting;
 - b. The crop and/or its product is sold, including but not limited to (1) an industry cooperative, (2) harvest crew/company, or (3) a direct marketing location, such as Certified Farmers Markets;
 - c. The federal Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service form 1040 Schedule F Profit or Loss from Farming is used to file federal taxes.
31. **Composting.** A controlled microbial degradation of organic wastes yielding a safe and nuisance-free product.
 - a. **Active Compost.** Compost feedstock that is in the process of being rapidly decomposed and is unstable. Active compost is generating temperatures of at least 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) during decomposition or is releasing carbon dioxide at a rate of at least 15 milligrams per gram of active compost per day, or the equivalent of oxygen uptake. This high temperature on thermophilic phase may last from several days to several weeks.
 - b. **Additives.** Material mixed with feedstocks or active compost in order to adjust the moisture level, carbon to nitrogen ratio, or porosity to create a favorable condition. Additives include, but are not limited to, fertilizers and urea. Additives do not include septage, biosolids, or compost feedstock.
 - c. **Amendments.** Material mixed with feedstocks or active compost in order to adjust the moisture level, carbon to nitrogen ratio, or porosity to create a favorable condition. Additives include, but are not limited to, fertilizers and urea. Additives do not include septage, biosolids, or compost feedstock.
 - d. **Curing Compost.** The final stage of the composting process that occurs after compost has undergone pathogen reduction, as defined in California

Code of Regulations title 14, section 17868.3, and after most of the readily metabolized material has been decomposed and stabilized. This curing phase begins after an active compost pile endures a sustained drop in temperature as remaining materials continue to decompose, but at a much slower rate. This helps to further decompose and stabilize potentially toxic organic acids and resistant compounds. The curing process helps bring compost to full maturity and can last several months.

- e. **Finished Compost.** The compost material that has completed the curing phase. Residual substances originally present in the compost pile are consumed after proper curing. The compost has been brought to maturity, and organic acids and resistant compounds have been substantially decomposed. Final compost product is interchangeable also defined as “Stabilized Compost” under the CalRecycle, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 7, Chapter 3.1. Compostable Materials Handling Operations and Facilities Regulatory Requirements.
 - f. **Food Material.** Solid, and/or semi-solid materials resulting from the production or processing of food for animal or human consumption, but is no longer intended for such consumption, that is separated from the municipal solid waste stream. Food material includes, without limitation, food waste from food facilities (as defined in Health and Safety Code, section 113789), food processing establishments (as defined in Health and Safety Code, section 111955), grocery stores, institutional cafeterias (such as prisons, schools, and hospitals), restaurants, and residential food scrap collection. Food material may include meat and materials incidental to a food scrap collection program. Food material shall not contain any substance included in the Prohibitions section of this General Order.
 - g. **Green Material.** Any plant material that is separated at the point of generation and consists of, or contains, materials from plants, including leaves, clippings, cuttings, trimmings of grass, weeds, shrubbery, bushes, or trees, residential or community garden waste, and untreated wood waste. Green material does not include food material, biosolids, material processed from commingled collection, wood containing lead-based paint or wood preservative, mixed construction, or mixed demolition debris.
 - h. **Stabilized Compost.** Any organic material that has undergone the Process to Further Reduce Pathogens, as described in title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 17868.3 and has reached a stage of reduced biological activity as indicated by reduced temperature and rate of respiration below that of active compost. Stabilized Compost is interchangeable with Final Compost.
32. **Composting Operation.** The areas at which composting operations are conducted, including the receiving area, pre-processing, processing, curing, storage areas, detention ponds, and other areas associated with production of

compost, including storage areas for feedstocks, additives, and/or amendments.

33. **Concentration.** The relative amount of a substance mixed with another substance. An example is 5 mg/L (milligrams per liter) of nitrogen in water or 5 ppm (parts per million).
34. **Consolidation.** The joining of two or more public water systems, state small water systems, or affected residences into a single public water system, either physically or managerially. (Health & Safety Code, section 116681, subdivision (e).) For the purposes of this report, consolidations may include voluntary or mandatory consolidations.
35. **Contaminant.** Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water. (Health & Safety Code, section 116275, subdivision (a).)
36. **Co-contaminants.** Contaminants that exceed relevant MCLs in addition to nitrate.
37. **Contamination.** An impairment of the quality of the waters of the state by waste to a degree which causes a hazard to the public health through poisoning or through the spread of disease. Contamination includes any equivalent effect resulting from the disposal of waste, whether or not waters of the state are affected.
38. **Corporation.** A legal entity established under state law that is distinct from its owners (shareholders). It possesses its own legal rights, such as the ability to enter contracts, sue, be sued, and hold property, providing limited liability protection to its members. A corporation is formed by filing articles of incorporation with the California Secretary of State. A corporation is governed by a board of directors and operated by officers, who act on behalf of the corporation.
39. **Cover Crop (Nitrogen Scavenging).** A cover crop grown on a ranch to prevent leaching of nitrogen during the wet/rainy season. The cover crop must not contain nitrogen fixing plants. The cover crop must be grown for a minimum of three (3) months during the wet/rainy season. The cover crop must have a minimum estimated biomass of 4,500 pounds of oven-dry matter per acre.
40. **Crop, or Specific Crop.** For the purposes of this Order, examples of crops or specific crops include broccoli, lettuce, spinach, wine grapes, avocados, etc. The terms crop and specific crop do not refer to categories of crops such as vegetables, vineyards, orchards, etc.
41. **Crop Coefficient (Kc).** The ratio of the crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) to the reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) and it represents the effects that distinguish the crop water evapotranspiration from the reference evapotranspiration, which

is measured in grass. The ET_c differs distinctly from the ET_o as the ground cover, canopy properties, and aerodynamic resistance of the crop are different from grass.

42. **Crop Evapotranspiration (ET_c)**. Numeric value representing the volume of water that evaporates and transpires from an area producing a crop. The crop evapotranspiration is calculated by multiplying the reference evapotranspiration from grass, by the crop coefficient (K_c). Its measured in inches or milliliters of water per unit of land.
43. **Decentralized Treatment**. Decentralized treatment to remove contaminants such as nitrate refers to water treatment systems such as point-of-use (POU) or point-of-entry (POE) devices that treat water at the household or building level, rather than at a centralized facility.
44. **Degradation**. The act or process of lowering water quality or damaging, impairing, or ruining the quality of riparian areas.
45. **Design Storm**. The storm intensity and volume that management measures such as sediment retention basins are designed to accommodate.
46. **Destruction**. The action or process of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exists or cannot be repaired.
47. **Disadvantaged Community**. A “community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average” as defined in the California Public Resources Code Sec. 80002(e).
48. **Discharge**. A release of a waste to waters of the state, either directly to surface waters or through percolation to groundwater. Wastes from irrigated agriculture include but are not limited to earthen materials (soil, silt, sand, clay, and rock), inorganic materials (metals, plastics, salts, boron, selenium, potassium, nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.) and organic materials such as pesticides. Discharges from irrigated lands regulated by this Order include discharges to surface water and groundwater, through mechanisms such as irrigation return flows, percolation, tailwater, tile drain water, stormwater runoff flowing from irrigated lands, stormwater runoff conveyed in channels or canals resulting from the discharge from irrigated lands, and runoff resulting from frost control or operational spills. These discharges can contain wastes that could affect the quality of waters of the state and impair beneficial uses.
49. **Discharger**. The owner or operator of irrigated lands that discharges or has the potential to discharge waste that could directly or indirectly reach waters of the State and affect the quality of any surface water or groundwater. See also Enrollee, Landowner, Operator, Permittee, and Legally Responsible Person.

50. **Discharges of Waste from Irrigated Lands.** Surface water and groundwater discharges, such as irrigation return flows, tailwater, drainage water, subsurface drainage generated by irrigating crop land or by installing and operating drainage systems to lower the water table below irrigated lands (tile drains), stormwater runoff flowing from irrigated lands, stormwater runoff conveyed in channels or canals resulting from the discharge from irrigated lands, runoff resulting from frost control, and/or operational spills containing waste.
51. **Disturbance.** When natural conditions have been modified in a way that may result in waste discharge to waters of the state from the site. Disturbed areas are where natural plant growth has been removed, whether by physical, animal, or chemical means, or natural grade has been modified for any purpose. Disturbance includes all activities whatsoever associated with developing or modifying land for agricultural related activities or access. Disturbance activities include, but are not limited to, construction of roads, buildings, water storage areas; excavation, grading, and site clearing. Disturbance includes crop areas, storage areas where soil or chemicals (e.g., pesticides, fertilizers, compost, or biosolids) are located.
52. **Domestic Water.** Source of water with the MUN beneficial use designation. Water used for municipal and domestic water supplies, (community, military, or individual water system), including but not limited to drinking water supply.
53. **Drinking Water System.** The following drinking water system definitions are taken from the California Health and Safety Code and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, except where otherwise noted.
- a. **Community water system.** A public water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 yearlong residents.
 - b. **Domestic Well.** A groundwater well used to supply water for the domestic needs of an individual residence or a water system that is not a Public Water System and has no more than four service connections. (Health & Safety Code, section 116681, subdivision (g)).
 - c. **Noncommunity water system.** A public water system that is not a community water system.
 - d. **Nontransient noncommunity water system.** A public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.
 - e. **Local Small Water Systems.** Neither the California Health and Safety Code nor Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations defines domestic wells or drinking water systems with two to four (2-4) service connections. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and various county

environmental health agencies throughout the state generally define domestic wells as wells serving up to four (4) service connections. However, some local health agencies define a domestic well as serving an individual residence (single connection) and “local small (or shared) water systems” as having two to four (2–4) service connections. For the purposes of this Order, a local small water system is defined as an individual well with two to four (2-4) service connections.

- f. **Public Water System.** A system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. A public water system includes the following:
- i. Any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of the system that are used primarily in connection with the system.
 - ii. Any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under the control of the operator that are used primarily in connection with the system.
 - iii. Any water system that treats water on behalf of one or more public water systems for the purpose of rendering it safe for human consumption. (Health & Safety Code, section 116275, subdivision (h).)
- g. **Small community water system.** A community water system that serves no more than 3,300 service connections or a yearlong population of no more than 10,000 persons.
- h. **State small water system.** a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least 5, but not more than 14, service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year (Health & Safety Code, section 116275, subdivision (n).).
- i. **Transient community water system.** A noncommunity water system that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.
- j. **Water System.** Collective term used in the Order that includes both public and state small water systems. This is not a term used by the California Health and Safety Code nor Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations
54. **Ecological Functions and Values (of riparian areas).** Functions are onsite and offsite natural riparian habitat processes. Values are the importance of the riparian habitat to society in terms of health and safety; historical or cultural

significance; ecological characteristics, education, research, or scientific significance; aesthetic significance; economic significance; or other reasons.

55. **Edge of Field.** End of the area producing crops. Ditches and farm roads are usually located at the end of the fields. Point in land where the surface water drains out of the field producing areas.
56. **Eligible Residents:** The State Water Board Order WQ 2023-0081 defined the population eligible to receive AWS as follows: "...residents relying on groundwater in areas where the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate is exceeded as a result of agricultural operations."
 - a. In accordance with the directive from the State Water Board to develop the AWSP, the Central Coast Water Board further defines the residents eligible to receive water quality sampling, interim AWS, and long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization from the AWSP as any resident served by a domestic well, state small water systems, or public water systems that relies on groundwater that exceeds the MCL for nitrate as a result of agricultural operations.
57. **Enrollee.** A Discharger enrolled in the Agricultural Order. See also Discharger, Landowner, Operator, Permittee, and Legally Responsible Person.
58. **Ephemeral Stream.** A channel that holds water during and immediately after rain events.
59. **Erosion.** The gradual destruction of land surface by wind or water, intensified by land-clearing practices related to farming, residential or industrial development, road building, or logging.
60. **Erosion and Sediment Control Practices.** Practices used to prevent and reduce the amount of soil and sediment entering surface water in order to protect or improve water quality.
61. **Environmental Justice.** Providing equal and fair access to a healthy environment for communities of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies; and proactive efforts to take into account existing environmental injustices and to protect from new or additional environmental hazards and inequitable environmental burdens.
62. **Estate.** The total collection of all assets, property, and financial interests owned by a person upon their death (e.g., real estate, bank accounts, businesses). An estate acts as a separate legal entity managing the distribution of these assets to beneficiaries.

63. **Estate Beneficiary.** Any person or entity (such as a charity or trust) named to receive assets (e.g., money, property, or possessions) from a will, trust, or beneficiary designation. Estate beneficiaries are the individuals or organizations who benefit from the administration of the deceased person's assets.
64. **Exceedance.** A reading using a field instrument or a detection by a California State-certified analytical laboratory where the detected result is above an applicable water quality standard for the parameter or constituent.
65. **Evapotranspiration (ET).** The process by which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere by evaporation from the soil and other surfaces and by transpiration from plants.
66. **Farm.** See Ranch.
67. **Farm Road.** A road constructed in agricultural farmland areas, usually but not strictly made of gravel or dirt. Farm roads are located around the boundaries or in between agricultural fields.
68. **Fertigation.** The application of fertilizers through an irrigation system.
69. **Field.** Piece of agricultural land producing the same crop/s, receiving the same volume of irrigation water, and other inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides. Different fields are usually separated by farm roads.
70. **First Flush Run-Off Event.** First flush phenomena can be expected during the first storm or storms of the season. Due to the extended build-up of pollutants over a number of months without rain, overall pollution concentrations can be expected to be higher for the season's first few storms than for the rest of the season.
71. **First-Encountered Groundwater.** First-encountered groundwater means the shallowest saturated interval encountered beneath the land surface where groundwater is present under unconfined (water-table) conditions.
72. **Freshwater Habitat** beneficial use of water supports cold or warm water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates.
73. **General Partnership.** An unincorporated business structure formed by two or more people who agree to share profits, losses, and management. Partners generally share equal rights in management, unless a written partnership agreement stipulates profit sharing, management roles, and dispute resolution.
74. **Groundwater.** The supply of water found beneath the Earth's surface, usually in aquifers, which can supply wells and springs.

75. **Groundwater Protection Practices.** Management practices designed to reduce or eliminate transport of nitrogen, pesticides, and other waste constituents into groundwater.
76. **Hauled Water.** Hauled water refers to potable water that is transported from an approved source to a location lacking safe drinking water. Delivery is typically made by truck in bulk containers and stored in tanks at the point of use. Hauled water is considered an interim alternative water supply solution when long-term drinking water solutions are not available.
77. **High Carbon Amendment (Nitrogen Scavenging).** High carbon material (e.g., almond shells, glycerol) added to the soil to reduce nitrogen leaching in the wet/rainy season. The high carbon amendment must have a carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N) greater than 30:1. The high carbon amendment must be finely ground to less than a quarter of an inch in diameter. The high carbon amendment must be incorporated into the top foot of soil. The high carbon amendment must be retained for a minimum of three months during the wet/rainy season. The high carbon amendment must have a minimum application rate of 10,000 pounds per acre. If glycerol is used as a high carbon amendment it must have a minimum application rate of 5,000 pounds per acre.
78. **High Carbon Woody Mulch Material (Nitrogen Scavenging).** High Carbon Woody Mulch Material (Nitrogen Scavenging). Woody mulch materials from crops producing semi-permanent or permanent woody plant tissue, from crops of at least 6 months of age and with a carbon nitrogen ratio (C:N) greater than 30:1. Mulch must be applied at a minimum 2-inch thickness of particles and achieve a minimum 70-percent ground cover, or at a 3,000 pounds per acre woody mulch application.
79. **Hoop House.** A plastic-covered structure that is used to grow crops, also called a high tunnel.
80. **HUC-8 and HUC-12 Watersheds.** Derived from Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) maps developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service to define and compare true watersheds and hydrologic units and their applications for watershed assessment.² The WBD maps the full areal extent of surface water drainage for the United States, using a hierarchal system of nesting hydrologic units at various scales, each with an assigned hydrologic unit code (HUC). HUC-8 maps the subbasin level, analogous to medium-sized river basins. HUC-12 is a more local sub-watershed level that captures tributary systems.

² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service website, EnviroAtlas Hydrologic Unit Codes Fact Sheet:
<https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/DataFactSheets/pdf/Supplemental/HUC.pdf>.

81. **Hydrologic Unit.** A hydrologic unit is a drainage area delineated to nest in a multi-level, hierarchical drainage system. Its boundaries are defined by hydrographic and topographic criteria that delineate an area of land upstream from a specific point on a river, stream, or similar surface water. Watersheds in the United States were delineated by the U.S. Geological Survey using a national standard hierarchical system based on surface hydrologic features and are classified into four types of hydrologic units: first-field (region), second-field (sub-region), third-field (accounting unit), and fourth-field (cataloguing unit). A fifth field of classification (watershed) and sixth field (sub-watershed).
82. **Impermeable Surfaces.** Plastic-covered surfaces that do not allow fluid to pass through, including polyethylene mulch and hoop houses. For the purposes of this Order, impermeable surface does not refer to relatively impermeable soils.
83. **Inactive Well.** A well is considered “inactive” when it has been taken out of service but has not been destroyed (see Abandoned Well definition). An inactive well must not allow impairment of water quality within the well and/or groundwater encountered by the well.
84. **Individual Drinking Water Protection (IDWP) Compliance Pathway.** The IDWP compliance pathway is an option under this Order for Dischargers who choose not to participate in the AWSP compliance pathway. Dischargers enrolled in the IDWP pathway must independently comply with the IDWP compliance schedule and all drinking water solution program requirements, including monitoring, reporting, and implementing management practices to reduce nitrogen discharges to groundwater.
85. **Individual Drinking Water Protection (IDWP) Pathway Dischargers.** IDWP Dischargers are Dischargers enrolled in the IDWP compliance pathway under this Order. These Dischargers do not elect to participate in the AWSP compliance pathway.
86. **Impacted Residents.** Residents relying on groundwater that exceeds the MCL for nitrate as a result of agricultural operations.
87. **Infiltration Rate.** Velocity or speed at which water enters the soil, determined by soil texture and soil structure.
88. **Integrated Pest Management (IPM).** A pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as encouraging biological control, use of resistant varieties, or adoption of alternative cultivating, pruning, or fertilizing practices or modification of habitat to make it incompatible with pest development. Pesticides are used only when careful field monitoring indicates they are needed according to pre-established guidelines or treatment thresholds.

89. **Interim Alternative Water Supplies (AWS).** Interim AWS includes, but is not limited to: bottled water, hauled water, vended water, and point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment units. (Health & Safety Code, section 116767, subdivision (q).)
90. **Intermittent Stream.** A stream that holds water during wet portions of the year.
91. **Invasive Species.** Organisms (plants, animals, or microbes) that are not native to an environment and that, once introduced, establish, quickly reproduce and spread, and cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health.³
92. **Irrigated Lands.** For the purpose of this Order, irrigated lands include lands where water is applied for the purpose of producing commercial crops and include, but are not limited to, land planted to row, vineyard, field and tree crops as well as commercial nurseries, nursery stock production and greenhouse operations with soil floors, that do not have point-source type discharges, and are not currently operating under individual Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). Lands that are planted with commercial crops that are not yet marketable, such as vineyards and tree crops, must also obtain coverage under this Order.
93. **Irrigation.** Applying water to land areas to supply the water and nutrient needs of plants.
94. **Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) Certification.** A formal attestation by a qualified professional that an Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) has been prepared using sound irrigation and nitrogen management practices, based on accurate and complete information provided by the discharger. INMP certification shall include the following:
 - b. The person signing this Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) certifies, under penalty of law, that the INMP was prepared under his/her direction and supervision, that the information and data reported is to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete, and that he/she is aware that there are penalties for knowingly submitting false information. The qualified professional signing the INMP may rely on the information and data provided by the Discharger and is not required to independently verify the information and data.
 - c. In overseeing the preparation of the INMP, the qualified professional must review the records of management practice implementation maintained in the Farm Plan and reported in the ACF and determine whether these management practices are consistent with those described in the INMP and whether they are effective. Based on this review, the qualified

³ For guidance on identifying species of concern, see the Cal-IPC website, Plants A to Z: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/profiles/>.

professional certifies that they have provided recommendations for improving management practice efficacy.

- d. The qualified professional signing the INMP below further certifies that he/she used sound irrigation and nitrogen management planning practices to develop irrigation and nitrogen application recommendations and that the recommendations are informed by applicable training to minimize nitrogen loss to surface water and groundwater. The qualified professional signing the INMP is not responsible for any damages, loss, or liability arising from subsequent implementation of the INMP by the Discharger in a manner that is inconsistent with the INMP's recommendations for nitrogen application. This certification does not create any liability or claims for environmental violations.
95. **Verification of INMP Summary Report Data.** The process by which a qualified professional audits and confirms the accuracy of nitrogen application and removal data reported in the Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) Summary report. Verification involves reviewing supporting documentation (e.g., fertilizer invoices, irrigation records, harvest data), checking agronomic calculations, and ensuring internal consistency of reported values. The qualified professional must certify, under penalty of law, that the verified data is true, accurate, and complete, based on the supporting documentation available and provide recommendations for improving recordkeeping, where necessary.
 96. **Irrigation Management Practices.** Management practices designed to improve irrigation efficiency and reduce the amount of irrigation return flow or tailwater, and associated degradation or pollution of surface and groundwater caused by discharges of waste associated with irrigated lands.
 97. **Irrigation Runoff or Return Flow.** Surface and subsurface water that leaves the field following application of irrigation water. See also Tailwater.
 98. **Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.** Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may do one or more of the following:⁴
 - a. Substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream or lake;
 - b. Substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or

⁴ "Any river, stream or lake" includes those that are episodic (they are dry for periods of time) as well as those that are perennial (they flow year-round). This includes ephemeral streams, desert washes, and watercourses with a subsurface flow. It may also apply to work undertaken within the flood plain of a body of water.

- c. Deposit debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream or lake.
99. **Landowner.** An individual or entity who has legal ownership of a parcel(s) of land. See also Discharger, Enrollee, Operator, Permittee, and Legally Responsible Person.
100. **Leaching.** In agriculture, leaching is the loss of water-soluble plant nutrients from the soil, due to the percolation of rain and irrigation water. Leaching may also refer to the salinity control practice of applying a small amount of excess irrigation to drain down salts from the root soil profile to avoid salts from building up in the soil. In the natural environment leaching contributes to groundwater contamination. As water from rain, flooding, or other sources seeps into the ground, it can dissolve chemicals and carry them into the underground water supply.
101. **Legally Responsible Person.** The Legally Responsible Person (LRP) is a representative of the Enrollee who is legally designated to sign, certify, and electronically submit any documents required by the Agricultural Order, the State or Regional Water Board, or U.S. EPA. See also Discharger, Enrollee, Landowner, Operator, and Permittee. The LRP is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Agricultural Order, or otherwise directing, farming operations in decisions that may result in a discharge of waste to surface water or groundwater. An LRP must be one of the following:
- a. **For an individual or sole proprietorship:** an individual or an individual doing business as an unincorporated entity (e.g., John Smith, dba Smith Farms) that is *not* a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, general partnership, or other legally formed entity as described below; or
 - b. **For a corporation:** a responsible corporate officer (e.g., president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation) with managerial authority over the corporation that has been assigned or delegated to perform decision-making functions, enter into legal contracts, and has signatory authority on behalf of the corporation in accordance with corporate procedures and California law;
 - c. **For a limited liability company (LLC):** a responsible manager or manager-member with managerial authority that has been assigned or delegated to perform decision-making functions, enter into legal contracts, and has signatory authority on behalf of the company in accordance with company procedures and California law;
 - d. **For a limited partnership (LP):** a responsible general partner with managerial authority over the limited partnership that has been assigned or delegated to perform decision-making functions, enter into legal contracts,

and has signatory authority on behalf of the limited partnership in accordance with California law.

- e. **For a general partnership (GP):** a responsible partner with managerial authority over the general partnership that has been assigned or delegated to perform decision-making functions, enter into legal contracts, and has signatory authority on behalf of the general partnership in accordance with California law;
- f. **For any other type of entity not listed above (e.g., trusts, estates, receivership):** an authorized person with managerial authority over the entity that has been assigned or delegated authority to perform decision-making functions, enter into legal contracts, and has signatory authority on behalf of the entity in accordance with California law (e.g., trustee, administrator/executor or receiver).

102. **Limited Liability Company (LLC).** A hybrid legal corporate entity combining the liability protection of a corporation with the tax efficiencies and operational flexibility of a partnership. An LLC is formed by filing Articles of Organization with the California Secretary of State. LLCs are governed by an Operating Agreement, which dictates management structure (member-managed or manager-managed).

103. **Limited Partnership (LP).** A formal business structure consisting of at least one general partner with unlimited liability and one or more limited partners whose liability is restricted to their investment. LPs are formed by filing a certificate with the California Secretary of State. General Partner(s) assume full personal responsibility for business debts, lawsuits, and day-to-day management.

104. **Limited Resource Farmer.** A Limited Resource Farmer is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)⁵ as:

- a. A person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value (determined by USDA) in each of the previous 2 years, and
- b. A person who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years.

105. **Lithologic Logs.** Systematic, depth-indexed records describing the physical characteristics of the geologic materials encountered during drilling, typically prepared by a licensed geologist or qualified professional. These logs document the lithology (e.g., sand, silt, clay, gravel; degree of cementation; grain size;

⁵ The USDA's Limited Resource Farmer "Self Determination Tool" is available at:
<https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/DeterminationTool.aspx?fyYear=2019>.

sorting; moisture; color), along with other observations such as texture, hardness, presence of organic material, or evidence of saturation.

106. **Load.** The mass of a substance discharged over a given amount of time, for example 10 mg/day or 5 kg/day.

107. **Long-Term Drinking Water Solutions:** Long-term drinking water solutions are drinking water supply approaches that provide a durable, sustainable, and protective source of water over an extended period. A long-term solution must reliably meet drinking water quality standards and be feasible to operate, maintain, and fund over time. Sustainability is evaluated based on long-term reliability, cost-effectiveness, and the ability to consistently meet water quality objectives. Long-term drinking water solutions generally follow a hierarchy of preferred options – from most to least sustainable – including:

- a. Consolidation or regionalization with one or more existing public water systems
- b. Development of a new supply well
- c. Centralized treatment
- d. Decentralized treatment (e.g., point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment)
- e. Bottled, vended, or hauled water. Bottled, vended, hauled, or similar solutions may be considered long-term solutions only when all other options have been thoroughly evaluated and determined infeasible by a California-licensed professional engineer experienced in drinking water systems.
- f. This hierarchy is not exhaustive, and other viable long-term solutions may be considered. The determination of the most appropriate long-term solution must be made on a case-by-case basis, considering site-specific conditions, community preferences, technical and financial feasibility, and the prioritization strategy developed by the AWSP administrator(s).

108. **Long-Term Drinking Water Solution Planning and Prioritization for Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems:** Planning and prioritization of long-term solutions for domestic wells and state small water systems is a multi-step process that involves first identifying and prioritizing focus areas for long-term solution implementation followed by development of specific plans for long-term solutions in these focus areas.

- a. **Identifying Focus Areas for Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems:** Long-term drinking water solutions take significant time and resources to develop. To ensure that efforts for implementing long-term solutions are targeted at the most vulnerable residents and communities, focus areas must be identified for development of long-term solutions. This

process is anticipated to be similar to the Approach for Identification of Initial Focus Area(s) for Long-Term Drinking Water Solutions⁶ in the Priority 1 Management Zone Implementation Plans developed as part of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Nitrate Control Program.⁷ In identifying focus areas, the AWSP Dischargers, or their administrator, must consider, at a minimum, the following:

- i. Groundwater nitrate concentrations and concentration trends.
 - ii. The spatial distribution of nitrogen application and discharge from agricultural lands.
 - iii. The location of disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities and other relevant socioeconomic information.
 - iv. The location of other sensitive populations such as daycares, schools, and hospitals.
 - v. The spatial density of domestic wells and population.
- b. **Planning and Prioritizing of Long-Term Solutions for Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems:** Once focus areas have been identified, planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions will be conducted for these areas. This will include, at a minimum, the following elements:
- i. Identifying a range of possible solutions and engage with affected communities regarding these options.
 - ii. Conducting a feasibility study to evaluate different long-term solutions, capital costs, funding opportunities, O&M costs, operational requirements, permitting requirements, stakeholder input, etc.
 - iii. Prioritizing areas for long-term solutions, considering the following minimum criteria: health risk, population served, cost-effectiveness, equity, and opportunities for multi-benefit projects that combine long-term solutions for PWSs with domestic wells and or state small water systems.

⁶ The *Approach for Identification of Initial Focus Area(s) for Long-Term Drinking Water Solutions* can be accessed at the following web page: https://cv-salinity-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/cv-salts_cv-salinity_org/ERlccF-uHY9IkI_KjQhsnkUBFANdCDXy4LCdyGZGPqQEnA?e=leS8iL

⁷ The Central Valley Water Board's Nitrate Control Program is part of the Central Valley Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability Program. More information on this program can be found here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/

- iv. A timeline for implementation of long-term solutions.

109. **Long-Term Drinking Water Solution Planning and Prioritization for Public Water Systems (PWS):** Each PWS that exceeds the MCL for nitrate as a result of agricultural operations must have a clear and specific plan for developing a long-term solution that will allow the system to comply with drinking water MCLs for nitrate. PWSs must also be prioritized for long-term solution implementation. This planning and prioritization will inform the long-term solution funding and implementation plan described in **MRP, Section D.2**. The planning and prioritization must include, at a minimum, the following elements:

- a. Identifying existing efforts to implement long-term solutions by coordinating with technical service providers, the DDW, or other relevant partners and interested parties as necessary.
- b. Coordination with the State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance to identify funding available to assist in development of long-term solution implementation.
- c. Coordination with the Central Coast Water Board to determine the AWSP administrator's proportional responsibility for the implementation of long-term solutions.
- d. Outreach and engagement with affected residents and communities to obtain input on potential solutions.
- e. A plan for coordinating interim AWS provision with long-term solution planning such that relationships developed with residents and communities via the provision of interim AWS facilitates resident feedback regarding planning of long-term solutions.
- f. A feasibility study for each public water system that evaluates different long-term solutions, capital costs, funding opportunities, O&M costs, operational requirements, permitting requirements, stakeholder input, etc.
- g. Assess multi-benefit opportunities to include domestic wells and state small water systems in regional consolidation projects.
- h. Prioritize systems for long-term solutions, considering the following minimum criteria: health risk, population served, cost-effectiveness, equity, and opportunities for multi-benefit projects that include domestic wells and state small water systems.
- i. A timeline for implementation of solutions.

110. **Manure.** Excrement from animals (e.g., cattle, chicken, pig) that includes feces and urine and any bedding material, spilled feed, or soil that is mixed with feces

or urine, and the accumulated material does not exceed its moisture holding capacity. Manure does not include carcasses, whole or in part.

111. **Meaningful Civic Engagement.** As defined by the California Water Code Sec. 189.7(d)(3), “includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
- a. Providing opportunities for people to participate in decision making processes about activities that may affect their environment or health and to contribute to the state board’s and regional boards’ decision making.
 - b. Seeking out and facilitating the involvement of people potentially affected by the decisions and taking into account community concerns.
 - c. Informing disadvantaged and tribal community members of opportunities to be appointed to advisory or decision making bodies, thereby empowering those community members to become advisors or decision makers.”
112. **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.** The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program identifies mitigation actions to be taken to avoid, or reduce, significant impacts identified in the EIR. The MMRP is adopted at the time the project is approved. The MMRP is available in Volume 2, Appendix D of the Final EIR and incorporated by reference into the Order.
113. **Monitoring.** Observing and checking on a feature or factor over time to determine compliance with this Order or other regulatory requirements. Monitoring in this Order includes but is not limited to: surface water or groundwater sampling and analysis to evaluate water quality in connection with agricultural activities, and inspecting operations, management practice implementation and effectiveness, maintenance of on-site records, and management practice reporting.
114. **Nitrogen-Removal Coefficient (R-Coefficient).** Percent of nitrogen content in the dry matter of plant tissue. The R-coefficient multiplied by the weight of plant material removed from the fields, can be used to estimate the nitrogen removed from the marketable portion of a crop.
115. **Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution.** The Basin Plan states that nonpoint sources of water pollution are generally defined as sources which are diffuse (spread out over a large area). Nonpoint sources of pollution are not subject to NPDES permitting. The wastes are generally carried off the land by runoff. Common nonpoint sources of pollution are activities associated with agriculture, timber harvest, certain mining, dams, and saltwater intrusion.
116. **Nonpoint Source Management Measures.** To combat NPS pollution, the State Water Board NPS Program adopted management measures as goals for the reduction of polluted runoff generated from five major categories, including agriculture. Management measures address the following components for

irrigated agriculture: erosion and sediment control; nutrient management; pesticide management; irrigation water management; and riparian and wetland area management and protection.

117. **Nonpoint Source Management Practices.** Methods or practices selected by entities managing land and water to achieve the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from diffuse sources, such as wastes carried off the landscape via urban runoff, excessive hill, slope or streambed and bank erosion, etc. Management practices include, but are not limited to, structural and nonstructural controls, and operation and maintenance procedures. Management practices can be applied before, during, and after pollution-causing activities to prevent, reduce, or eliminate the introduction of wastes into receiving waters.
118. **Nuisance.** Anything which meets all of the following requirements: is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property; affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal; occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes.
119. **Nutrient.** Any substance assimilated by living things that promotes growth.
120. **Nutrient Management Practices.** Management practices designed to reduce the nutrient loss from agricultural lands, which occur through edge-of-field runoff or leaching from the root zone.
121. **On-Farm Domestic Well.** Any groundwater well that is connected to a residence, workshop, or place of business that may be used for human consumption, cooking, or sanitary purposes that is located within the enrolled ranch Assessor Parcel Number (APN). This includes all domestic wells located within the enrolled APN, not limited to the leased property or within the ranch boundary. This definition includes “dual-use” wells that are used for both irrigation and domestic purposes.
122. **Operator.** Person responsible for or otherwise directing farming operations in decisions that may result in a discharge of waste to surface water or groundwater, including, but not limited to, a farm/ranch manager, lessee, or sub-lessee. The operator is responsible for ensuring compliance with this Order and for any discharge of waste occurring on or from the operation. See also Discharger, Enrollee, Landowner, Permittee, and Legally Responsible Person.
123. **Operation.** A distinct farming business, generally characterized by the form of business organization, such as a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, and/or cooperative. A farming operation may be associated with one-to-many individual farms/ranches.

124. **Operational Spill.** Irrigation water that is diverted from a source such as an irrigation well or river but is discharged without being delivered to or used on an individual field.
125. **Operations and Maintenance (O&M).** Operations and maintenance refers to the collective materials, functions, duties, and labor required to ensure the continued effectiveness and reliability of a water system or drinking water solution. This includes daily operations, normal repairs, replacement of parts and components, and other activities necessary to maintain functionality and compliance with health standards.
126. **Organic Fertilizers.** Organic products (whether certified or not) include but are not limited to organic fertilizers, microbial foods, microalgae, molasses, fish preparations, soil enzymes, bacterial and fungi inoculants, seaweeds and kelps, humic and fulvic acids, and biochar, as long as the product provides information about its carbon-nitrogen ratio. Crop residues are explicitly excluded from this definition.
127. **Organic Products.** Organic products that are applied to crops as a source of minerals such as nitrogen, or to the soil to improve the soil chemical and physical properties.
128. **Outlier.** When a discharger exceeds an annual nitrogen application target, nitrogen discharge target, or multi-year A/R ratio target.
129. **Perennial Stream.** A stream that holds water throughout the year.
130. **Permanent Crop.** For the purposes of this Order, a permanent crop is any crop that is grown in the ground for a period of three years or more, for example wine grapes, avocados, walnuts, etc. A crop that is grown repeatedly in the same place for a period of many years, such as broccoli, is not considered a permanent crop.
131. **Permittee.** A Discharger enrolled in the Agricultural Order. See also Discharger, Enrollee, Operator, Landowner, and Legally Responsible Person.
132. **Pesticide.** Any substance intended to control, destroy, repel, or otherwise mitigate a pest. The term pesticide is inclusive of all pest and disease management products, including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, nematocides, rodenticides, algicides, etc.
133. **Pesticide Management Practices.** Management practices designed to reduce or eliminate pesticide runoff into surface water and groundwater.
134. **Point-of-use (POU) Treatment.** A treatment device located where the end user accesses the drinking water.

135. **Point-of-entry (POE) Treatment.** A treatment device located at the inlet to an entire building or facility.
136. **Point Source.** Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which wastes are or may be discharged.
137. **Pollutant.** The man-made or man-induced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological, and radiological integrity of water, including dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water.
138. **Pollution.** Any alteration of the quality of the waters of the state by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects either of the following: a) the waters for beneficial uses, b) facilities which serve these beneficial uses. Pollution may include contamination.
139. **Preservation.** Removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.
140. **Primary Irrigation Well.** A groundwater well that is used for agricultural purposes, is the primary source of irrigation water for the ranch, and is located within the enrolled ranch Assessor Parcel Number (APN).
141. **Primary Leaseholder.** An individual or entity who rents all or part of a parcel whose name is on the lease agreement with the landowner, making them solely responsible for lease compliance. The primary leaseholder often manages subtenants or sublessees who are not listed on the master lease, acting as their landlord. The primary leaseholder is the main contact and only party directly liable to the landowner. See also Subtenants/Sublessees.
142. **Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Section.** A one-square-mile (640-acre) rectangular land unit within the U.S. Public Land Survey System used for mapping and describing locations. Sections are the smallest standardized subdivision of the PLSS grid and are numbered 1 through 36 within each township, which itself is a 36-square-mile area defined by the intersection of township (north–south) and range (east–west) lines.

143. **Quality Assurance Project Plan.** A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) integrates all technical and quality aspects of a project, including planning, implementation, and assessment.
144. **Qualified Professional.** An individual that is a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) and has the California Nitrogen Management Specialty through California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). An individual licensed in California under the Professional Engineer Act (e.g., Professional Engineer), Geologist and Geophysicist Act (e.g., Professional Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist, or Certified Hydrogeologist)⁸, and Land Surveyors' Act (e.g., Professional Land Surveyor); a California Registered Professional Forester (RPF); or a Qualified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Developer (QSD). A Qualified Professional must only perform work they are qualified to complete, consistent with applicable licensing and registration restrictions, and must certify any work completed.
145. **Quality of the Water.** The “chemical, physical, biological, bacteriological, radiological, and other properties and characteristics of water which affect its use” as defined in the California Water Code Sec. 13050(g).
146. **Ranch.** For the purposes of this Order, the term “ranch” is inclusive of both ranches and farms. A ranch is a tract of land where commercial crops are produced or normally would have been produced. Individual ranches typically have a similar ranch manager, operator, or landowner, and are categorized by geographic location. See also **Farm**.
147. **Receiver.** Appointed by and acts as an agent of the court to preserve, rehabilitate, or sell assets to satisfy creditors or resolve disputes through a court-ordered receivership.
148. **Receivership.** A court-ordered remedy where a neutral third party (the receiver) is appointed to take custody, control, and management of property, assets, or a business.
149. **Receiving Waters.** Surface waters or groundwater that receive or have the potential to receive discharges of waste from irrigated lands.
150. **Reference Evapotranspiration (ET_o).** ET_o is a value representing the climatic water demand, caused by the effects of the various weather conditions responsible for the evaporation of water from the soil and surfaces and the transpiration of water from plants. Its measured in inches or milliliters of water per unit of land.
151. **Regionalization.** A coordinated effort to combine, interconnect, or consolidate multiple drinking water systems—such as public water systems, small water

⁸ See Business and Professions Code sections 6700-6799, 7800-7887, and 8700-8805, respectively.

systems, or domestic wells—into a more reliable, efficient, and sustainable regional supply framework.

152. **Responsible Party.** The landowner or operator of irrigated lands that discharge or have the potential to discharge waste that could directly or indirectly reach waters of the State and affect the quality of any surface water or groundwater. See also Discharger, Enrollee, Landowner, Operator, and Permittee.
153. **Requirements of Applicable Water Quality Control Plans.** Water quality objectives, prohibitions, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans, or other requirements contained in the Basin Plan, as adopted by the Central Coast Water Board and approved according to applicable law.
154. **Riparian Rapid Assessment Method (RipRAM).** A rapid assessment tool to assess the condition of riparian resources along a stream reach. RipRAM yields an overall score for each assessed area based on the component scores of eight metrics.
155. **Riparian.** The ecosystem that transitions between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem and is identified by unique soil characteristics and distinctive vegetation communities that require free and unbound water.
156. **Riparian Areas.** Areas adjacent to rivers, streams, creeks, washes, arroyos, and other waterbodies or channels having banks and bed through which waters flow at least periodically. These areas are subject to periodic flooding and are generally characterized or distinguished by a difference in plant species composition or an increase in the size and density of vegetation as compared to upland areas. For the purposes of this Order, Riparian Areas include Wetland Areas.
157. **Safe and Affordable Drinking Water (SADW) Fund.** The SADW Fund was established by California Senate Bill 200 and is a continuously funded, publicly administered financial mechanism aimed at helping water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water in both the near and long terms.
158. **SAFER.** The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program (SAFER) is a set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities designed to ensure that Californians who currently lack access to safe drinking water receive safe and affordable drinking water as quickly as possible.
159. **Sampling and Analysis Plan.** A sampling and analysis plan (SAP) is intended to document the procedural and analytical requirements for sampling events performed to collect gas and soil samples and to characterize areas exceeding regulatory thresholds.

160. **Saturated Groundwater Zone.** The area below the land surface in which all pore space between soil, sand and rock particles is filled with water. The Saturated Zone is below the Unsaturated Zone and excludes areas of soil moisture where water is held by capillary action in the upper unsaturated soil or rock.
161. **Saturated Interval.** The depth range within the subsurface in which all pore spaces, fractures, or voids in the geologic material are fully filled with water under natural hydrogeologic conditions. This interval begins at the water table—the top of the saturated zone—and extends downward to where saturation is no longer continuous or where a hydrostratigraphic boundary (e.g., a confining layer) breaks hydraulic connection.
162. **Sedimentation.** The deposition of sediment carried from surface runoff, which can occur when the velocity of water is not great enough to keep the sediment in suspension.
163. **Sediment Basin.** A constructed basin to capture and detain surface runoff for a sufficient length of time to allow sediment to settle.
164. **Semi-Permanent Crop.** For the purposes of this Order, a semi-permanent crop is any crop that is grown in the ground for a period greater than one year but less than three years, for example some varieties of strawberries, bell peppers, artichokes, etc. A crop that is grown repeatedly in the same place for a period of one or many years, such as broccoli, is not considered a semi-permanent crop.
165. **Severely Disadvantaged Community.** A “community with a median household income of less than 60% of the statewide average” as defined by the California Public Resources Code Sec. 80002(n).
166. **Shallow Groundwater Zone.** The shallowest portion within the upper zone where groundwater would be considered to constitute an aquifer (which is defined as a “body of rock or sediment that is sufficiently porous and permeable to store, transmit, and yield significant or economic quantities of groundwater to wells and springs” [DWR, 2003]). In all cases, relevant groundwater does not include perched water. For example, this may be the upper portion of the upper zone that generally encompasses the shallowest 10% of the domestic water supply wells in a given basin or sub-basin. When determining the upper portion of the upper zone based on the shallowest 10% of the domestic wells in a given area, variations in well depth across the basin or sub-basin due to hydrogeologic conditions or other factors should be considered.
167. **Slope.** Must be determined across the natural topography (preconstruction) of the land to be disturbed. Measure the highest and lowest elevations of the land to be disturbed, then measure the horizontal distance separating the highest and lowest elevations. Determine the slope using the formula below (multiply

the ratio by 100 to find the percent value). There may be more than one slope value if the low elevation has higher elevations in different directions. The highest slope value calculated (highest percentage numerically) is the value to be reported.

Slope Formula

$$\text{Slope} = (\text{Elevation Difference} / \text{Horizontal Difference}) \times 100$$

Slope. Value of slope expressed as a percentage.

Elevation difference. Report in feet to an accuracy of one foot.

Horizontal distance. Report in feet to an accuracy of one foot.

168. **Sole Proprietorship.** An unincorporated business structure owned and managed by a single individual. There is no legal distinction between the owner and the business, resulting in the owner having full control, receiving all profits, and bearing unlimited personal liability for all business debts and legal obligations. The owner and the business are considered the same legal entity.
169. **Source of Drinking Water.** Any water designated as municipal or domestic supply (MUN) beneficial use in a Regional Water Board Basin Plan and/or as defined in State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Resolution No. 88-63.
170. **Soil Exposure.** When ground cover, vegetative cover, and/or plant residues are absent from land and soil particles are exposed.
171. **Soil Water Holding Capacity.** The soil's ability to retain water, strongly related to texture and structure, which provides an ongoing supply of water to plants for growth and survival.
172. **Specific Crop, or Crop.** For the purposes of this Order, examples of crops or specific crops include broccoli, lettuce, spinach, wine grapes, avocados, etc. The terms crop and specific crop to not refer to categories of crops such as vegetables, vineyards, orchards, etc.
173. **Statistically Significant.** A difference in nitrate (or nitrate+nitrite) concentrations that, when analyzed using a scientifically valid statistical method approved by the Executive Officer, rejects the null hypothesis of no increase in downgradient wells relative to upgradient wells at a pre-specified significance level (α) of 0.05, using a one-sided test for increase. The determination shall be based on contemporaneous monitoring data from at least two downgradient wells compared to one or more upgradient wells, and must account for temporal variability, spatial correlation, seasonality, groundwater travel time between wells, and background variance in the dataset. A result is "statistically significant" only if the approved method's assumptions are met (or adequately addressed), data quality objectives are satisfied, and the analysis shows downgradient concentrations are greater than upgradient concentrations beyond what would be expected by chance under the specified α .

174. **Stormwater.** Stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage, as defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(13).
175. **Stormwater Runoff.** Precipitation water in excess of what can infiltrate the soil surface and be stored in small surface depressions.
176. **Subsurface Drainage.** Water generated by installing drainage systems to lower the water table below irrigated lands. The drainage can be generated by subsurface drainage systems, deep open drainage ditches or drainage wells.
177. **Subtenants/Sublessees.** An individual or entity that rents all or part of a parcel from the original tenant (Primary Leaseholder) rather than directly from the landowner. The subtenant pays rent to the Primary Leaseholder, who remains legally responsible for the primary lease. See also Primary Leaseholder.
178. **Surface Runoff.** Precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water in excess of what can infiltrate the soil surface and be stored in small surface depressions; a major transporter of non-point source wastes in rivers, streams, and lakes.
179. **Tailwater.** Runoff of irrigation water from the lower end of an irrigated field. See also Irrigation Runoff or Return Flow.
180. **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. The Central Coast Water Board anticipates evaluating longer timeframes necessary to address tile-drain discharges, for inclusion in a subsequent Agricultural Order.
181. **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).** The calculation of the maximum amount of a particular material that a waterbody can assimilate on a regular basis and still support beneficial uses designated for that waterbody.
182. **Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA).** Total nitrogen applied includes nitrogen in any product, form, or concentration including, but not limited to, organic and inorganic fertilizers, slow release products, compost, compost teas, manure, extracts, nitrogen present in the soil, and nitrate in irrigation water; it is reported in units of pounds of nitrogen per crop, per acre for each farm/ranch or nitrate loading risk unit.
183. **Trend.** A general direction in which something is developing or changing. See also Water Quality Trend.
184. **Tribal Community.** A “community within a federally recognized California Native American tribe or non-federally recognized Native American tribe on the

contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004” as defined in the California Water Code Sec. 189.7(d)(4).

185. **Trust.** A fiduciary legal arrangement adhering to the California Probate Code where a trustor (or settlor) transfers ownership of assets to a trustee to manage for the benefit of beneficiaries.
186. **Trustee.** A person or entity appointed to hold legal title to property and manage assets held in a trust for the benefit of beneficiaries, adhering to the California Probate Code. Trustees are fiduciaries obligated to manage assets, pay debts/taxes, and distribute property according to the trust document’s instructions.
187. **Unsaturated Zone.** The area below the land surface in which the pore space between soil, sand and rock particles contains varying degrees of both air and water in ratios that inhibit extraction of significant or economic quantities of groundwater extraction. The term "Unsaturated Zone" is generally considered to be synonymous with the term "Vadose Zone."
188. **Vegetative Mulch.** A cover crop, like hairy vetch, planted between or underneath a main crop to provide soil surface protection, erosion control, and/or improve soil health.
189. **Vended Water.** Any water that is dispensed by a water-vending machine, retail water facility, or water from a private water source, or other water as defined in Health and Safety Code, section 111170, that is not placed by a bottler in sealed containers, and that is dispensed by a water-vending machine, retail water facility, water hauler, or any other person or facility for drinking, culinary, or other purposes involving a likelihood of the water being ingested by humans. “Vended water,” does not include water from a public water system that has not undergone additional treatment. (Health & Safety. Code, section 111070, subdivision (b).)
190. **Verified INMP Summary Report Data.** Nitrogen application and removal information that has been reviewed and confirmed by a qualified, independent third-party professional, consistent with **Order, Part 2, Section C**. This verification ensures accuracy of data reported to the Central Coast Water Board in the INMP Summary report on nitrogen inputs, crop removal, crop coefficients, and irrigation details for each management unit.
191. **Vertical Horizon.** In the context of groundwater monitoring well construction, means the specific depth interval within the subsurface that corresponds to the targeted hydrostratigraphic zone to be characterized.
192. **Waste.** “Includes sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or

animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers of whatever nature prior to, and for purposes of, disposal” as defined in the California Water Code Sec. 13050(d). “Waste” includes irrigation return flows and drainage water from agricultural operations containing materials not present prior to use. Waste from irrigated agriculture includes *earthen materials* (such as soil, silt, sand, clay, rock), *inorganic materials* (such as metals, salts, boron, selenium, potassium, nitrogen, phosphorus), and *organic materials* such as pesticides.

193. **Water Quality Control.** The “regulation of any activity or factor which may affect the quality of the waters of the State and includes the prevention and correction of water pollution and nuisance” as defined in the California Water Code Sec. 13050(i).
194. **Water Quality Criteria.** Levels of water quality required under Sec. 303(c) of the Clean Water Act that are expected to render a body of water suitable for its designated uses. Criteria are based on specific levels of pollutants that would make the water harmful if used for drinking, swimming, farming, fish production, or industrial processes. The *California Toxics Rule* adopted by USEPA in April 2000, sets numeric Water Quality Criteria for non-ocean waters of California for a number of pollutants. See also Water Quality Objectives.
195. **Water Quality Objectives.** “Limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specified area,” as defined in Sec. 13050(h) of the California Water Code. Water Quality Objectives may be either numerical or narrative and serve as Water Quality Criteria for purposes of Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.
196. **Water Quality Standard.** Provisions of State or Federal law that consist of the beneficial designated uses or uses of a waterbody, the numeric and narrative water quality criteria that are necessary to protect the use or uses of that particular waterbody, and an anti-degradation statement. Water quality standards includes water quality objectives in the Central Coast Water Board’s Basin Plan, water quality criteria in the *California Toxics Rule* and *National Toxics Rule* adopted by USEPA, and/or water quality objectives in other applicable State Water Board plans and policies. For groundwater with the beneficial use of municipal or domestic water supply, the applicable drinking water standards are those established by the USEPA or California DDW, whichever is more stringent. Under Sec. 303 of the Clean Water Act, each State is required to adopt water quality standards.
197. **Water Quality Trend.** A change in time of a measured chemical constituent that represents an aspect of the quality of the water (e.g., increasing, stable, or decreasing concentration of a constituent). The analysis of a water quality trend predicts the behavior of water quality parameters and overall water quality in the time domain.

198. **Waters of the State.** “Any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State” as defined in the California Water Code Sec. 13050(e). “Waters of the state” includes all “waters of the U.S.”⁹
199. **Waterbody.** Any significant accumulation of water above the ground surface, such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, creeks, springs, wetlands, and canals.
200. **Wet season.** The Central Coast’s wet/rainy season October 1st – April 30th, as opposed to the dry/irrigation season May 1st – September 30th.
201. **Wetland.** Defined in the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State as “[a]n area . . . if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area’s vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation. The following wetlands are waters of the state:
1. Natural wetlands,
 2. Wetlands created by modification of a surface water of the state,¹⁰ and
 3. Artificial wetlands¹¹ that meet any of the following criteria:
 - a. Approved by an agency as compensatory mitigation for impacts to other waters of the state, except where the approving agency explicitly identifies the mitigation as being of limited duration;

⁹ Therefore, wetlands that meet the current definition, or any historic definition, of waters of the U.S. are waters of the state. In 2000, the State Water Resources Control Board determined that all waters of the U.S. are also waters of the state by regulation, prior to any regulatory or judicial limitations on the federal definition of waters of the U.S. (California Code of Regulations title 23, section 3831(w).) This regulation has remained in effect despite subsequent changes to the federal definition. Therefore, waters of the state includes features that have been determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to be “waters of the U.S.” in an approved jurisdictional determination; “waters of the U.S.” identified in an aquatic resource report verified by the Corps upon which a permitting decision was based; and features that are consistent with any current or historic final judicial interpretation of “waters of the U.S.” or any current or historic federal regulation defining “waters of the U.S.” under the federal Clean Water Act.

¹⁰ “Created by modification of a surface water of the state” means that the wetland that is being evaluated was created by modifying an area that was a surface water of the state at the time of such modification. It does not include a wetland that is created in a location where a water of the state had existed historically but had already been completely eliminated at some time prior to the creation of the wetland. The wetland being evaluated does not become a water of the state due solely to a diversion of water from a different water of the state.

¹¹ Artificial wetlands are wetlands that result from human activity.

- b. Specifically identified in a water quality control plan as a wetland or other water of the state;
- c. Resulted from historic human activity, is not subject to ongoing operation and maintenance, and has become a relatively permanent part of the natural landscape; or
- d. Greater than or equal to one acre in size, unless the artificial wetland was constructed, and is currently used and maintained, primarily for one or more of the following purposes (i.e., the following artificial wetlands are not waters of the state unless they also satisfy the criteria set forth in 2, 3a, or 3b):
 - i. Industrial or municipal wastewater treatment or disposal,
 - ii. Settling of sediment,
 - iii. Detention, retention, infiltration, or treatment of stormwater runoff and other pollutants or runoff subject to regulation under a municipal, construction, or industrial stormwater permitting program,
 - iv. Agricultural crop irrigation or stock watering,
 - v. Fire suppression,
 - vi. Industrial processing or cooling,
 - vii. Active surface mining – even if the site is managed for interim wetland functions and values,
 - viii. Log storage,
 - ix. Treatment, storage, or distribution of recycled water,
 - x. Maximizing groundwater recharge (this does not include wetlands that have incidental groundwater recharge benefits), or
 - xi. Fields flooded for rice growing.

All artificial wetlands that are less than an acre in size and do not satisfy the criteria set forth in 2, 3.a, 3.b, or 3.c are not waters of the state. If an aquatic feature meets the wetland definition, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate that the wetland is not a water of the state.

202. **Wetland Areas.** Distinct ecosystems that are flooded by water, either permanently or seasonally, where oxygen-free processes prevail. The primary factor that distinguishes wetlands from other landforms or water bodies is the

characteristic vegetation of aquatic plants, adapted to the unique hydric soil.
For the purposes of this Order, **Riparian Areas** include **Wetland Areas**.

203. **Wildlife Habitat.** Beneficial use of water that supports terrestrial or wetland ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation and enhancement of terrestrial habitats or wetlands, vegetation, wildlife (e.g., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates), or wildlife water and food sources.