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

ORDER

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Attachments

THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, CENTRAL COAST REGION FINDS:

Part 1, Section A. Findings

Background and Purpose

1. As described in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan), the central coast region of California represents approximately 7.2 million acres of land. There are approximately 540,000 acres of irrigated land and approximately 3,000 agricultural operations that may be generating wastewater that falls into the category of discharges of waste from irrigated lands.

2. The central coast region has more than 17,000 miles of surface waters (linear streams/rivers) and approximately 4,000 square miles of groundwater basins that are, or may be, affected by discharges of waste from irrigated lands. Of the nine hydrologic regions in the state, the central coast region is the most groundwater dependent region with approximately 86% of its water supply being derived from groundwater.

3. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) are the principal state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality for the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act, codified in Water Code Division 7). The legislature, in the Porter-Cologne Act, directed the state, through the Water Boards, to exercise its full power and jurisdiction to protect the quality of the waters in the state from degradation and to attain the highest water quality which is reasonable, considering all demands being made and to be made on those waters and the total values involved, beneficial and detrimental, economic and social, tangible and intangible, and considering precipitation, topography, population, recreation, agriculture, industry, and economic development (Water Code section 13000).

4. Since the issuance of the first Order in 2004 and subsequent Orders in 2012, 2017, and 2021, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) has compiled additional and substantial empirical data demonstrating that water quality conditions in agricultural areas of the region continue to be severely impaired or polluted by waste discharges from irrigated agricultural operations and activities that impair beneficial uses. The main impacts from irrigated agriculture in the central coast region are nitrate discharges to groundwater and associated drinking water impacts, nutrient discharges to surface water, pesticide discharges and associated toxicity, sediment discharges, and degradation of riparian and wetland areas and the associated impairment or loss of beneficial uses.

5. The objectives of this Order are to:

    a. Protect and restore beneficial uses and achieve water quality objectives specified in the Basin Plan for commercial irrigated agricultural areas in the central coast region by:

        i. Minimizing nitrate discharges to groundwater,

        ii. Minimizing nutrient discharges to surface water,

        iii. Minimizing toxicity in surface water from pesticide[1] discharges,

        iv. Protecting riparian and wetland habitat, and

        v. Minimizing sediment discharges to surface water.

    b. Effectively track and quantify achievement of 5.a.i through 5.a.v over a specific, defined time schedule.

    c. Comply with the State's Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (NPS Policy), the State Antidegradation Policy, relevant court decisions such as those pertaining to Coastkeeper et al lawsuits, the precedential language in the Eastern San Joaquin Watershed Agricultural Order, and other relevant statutes and water quality plans and policies, including total maximum daily loads in the central coast region.

6. This Order regulates discharges of waste from irrigated lands by requiring individuals subject to this Order to comply with the terms and conditions set forth herein to ensure that such discharges do not cause or contribute to the exceedance of any regional, state, or federal numeric or narrative water quality objectives or impair any beneficial uses in waters of the state and of the United States.

7. Water Code section 13260(a) requires that any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the state, other than into a community sewer system, must file with the appropriate Regional Board a report of waste discharge (ROWD) containing such information and data as may be required by the Central Coast Water Board, unless the Central Coast Water Board waives such requirement.

8. Water Code section 13263(a) requires the Central Coast Water Board to prescribe waste discharge requirements (WDRs), or waive WDRs, for the discharge. The requirements must implement the Basin Plan and must take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected and the water quality

[1] A pesticide is 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, nematicides, rodenticides, algicides, etc.

objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of Water Code section 13241.

9. Water Code section 13263(b) states that, in prescribing requirements, the Central Coast Water Board need not authorize the utilization of the full waste assimilation capacities of the receiving waters.

10. Water Code section 13263(e) states that for WDRs, "Upon application by any affected person, or on its own motion, the regional board may review and revise requirements. All requirements shall be reviewed periodically."

11. This Order does not create a vested right to discharge; all discharges are a privilege, not a right, as described in Water Code section 13263(g).

12. Water Code section 13263(i) authorizes the Central Coast Water Board to prescribe general WDRs for a category of discharges if the Central Coast Water Board finds or determines that all the criteria listed below apply to the discharges in that category. Discharges associated with irrigated agricultural operations that will be regulated under this Order are consistent with these criteria and therefore a general order is appropriate.

    a. The discharges are produced by the same or similar operations.

    b. The discharges involve the same or similar type of waste.

    c. The discharges require the same or similar treatment standards.

    d. The discharges are more appropriately regulated under general WDRs than individual WDRs.

13. Water Code section 13243 authorizes the Central Coast Water Board, in WDRs, to specify certain conditions or areas where the discharge of waste, or certain types of waste, will not be permitted.

14. Water Code section 13267(a) authorizes the Central Coast Water Board to, in establishing or reviewing waste discharge requirements, or in connection with any action to any plan or requirement authorized by the Porter-Cologne Act, investigate the quality of any waters of the state within the region. The monitoring and reporting requirements as set forth in Attachment B are established under Water Code section 13267(b).

15. Water Code section 13267(c) authorizes the Central Coast Water Board or its authorized representatives to, in conducting an investigation of the quality of waters of the state within the region, inspect the facilities of the Discharger upon consent, issuance of a warrant, or in an emergency affecting public health or safety, to ascertain compliance with this Order and to ascertain whether the purpose of the Porter-Cologne Act are being met. Inspections under Water Code section 13267(c) include sampling and monitoring.

16. Water Code section 13304 authorizes the Central Coast Water Board to, upon making the requisite findings, issue a cleanup and abatement order (CAO) that requires Dischargers to provide emergency and long-term alternative water supplies or replacement water service, including wellhead treatment, to each affected public water supplier or private well owners.

Public Participation Process

17. In August 2017, Central Coast Water Board staff held a series of listening sessions throughout the central coast region to solicit stakeholder input on potential improvements to the previous Order. The Central Coast Water Board discussed the input received from stakeholders during the September 2017 board meeting.

18. In February 2018, the Central Coast Water Board published an initial study to begin soliciting input related to environmental review for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), in preparation for developing a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A 73-day public comment period was held for the initial study. In March 2018, Central Coast Water Board staff held a series of public CEQA scoping meetings throughout the region. Input received during the public comment period and public scoping meetings has been considered in the development of the draft EIR.

19. In March and May 2018, Central Coast Water Board meetings included informational items dedicated to a review of water quality conditions associated with agricultural activities and discharges. The March 2018 informational item focused on surface water quality conditions and agricultural discharges and the May 2018 informational item focused on groundwater quality conditions and nitrate impacts to groundwater. Both informational items incorporated presentations from several outside speakers.

20. In September 2018, the Central Coast Water Board's public meeting was dedicated to a workshop for Order stakeholders. Panels of agricultural, environmental, and environmental justice representatives gave presentations to the board in response to a series of questions staff proposed:

    a. What can growers and the regional board do to demonstrate quantifiable progress to minimize nitrate discharge to groundwater to achieve water quality objectives?

    b. What can growers and the regional board do to demonstrate quantifiable progress to minimize nutrient discharge to surface waters to achieve water quality objectives?

    c. What can growers and the regional board do to demonstrate quantifiable progress to minimize toxicity in surface waters from pesticide discharges to achieve water quality objectives?

d. What can growers and the regional board do to ensure that riparian and wetland habitat is protected due to agricultural activities and discharges?

e. What can growers and the regional board do to demonstrate quantifiable progress to minimize sediment discharge to achieve water quality objectives?

f. How can the regional board use discharge permit requirements to ensure current and future affordable, safe, and clean water for drinking and environmental uses?

21. In November 2018, the Central Coast Water Board published a set of five conceptual options tables that serve as the Central Coast Water Board's framework to address the questions posed in the September 2018 meeting. The Central Coast Water Board reviewed and discussed the options tables during its public meeting in November, and a 64-day written public comment period was subsequently held to solicit detailed stakeholder input. Central Coast Water Board staff held a series of outreach meetings throughout the region during the comment period.

22. In March 2019, after the 64-day public comment period, the Central Coast Water Board published updated versions of the five conceptual options tables. During the public meetings in March and May 2019, the Central Coast Water Board discussed the updated tables and received additional stakeholder comment.

23. In September 2019, during its public meeting, the Central Coast Water Board held a workshop focused on co-managing food safety and environmental protection, the role of riparian vegetation in water quality and beneficial use protection, and Discharger experiences with food safety challenges.

24. On February 21, 2020, the Central Coast Water Board published the draft Order and draft EIR and began a 45-day public comment period. The comment period was extended twice and closed on June 22, 2020.

25. In June 2020, Central Coast Water Board staff conducted three outreach meetings, which included presentations of the draft Order and draft EIR, and a question and answer session for attendees. These outreach meetings were conducted virtually via the Zoom platform, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

26. Beginning on September 10, 2020, and continuing to January 8, 2021, the Central Coast Water Board held 10 days of Board meetings to receive oral comments from the public and to discuss the draft Order. During these meetings, three of which were devoted entirely to receiving public comment and Board engagement with stakeholders, the Board deliberated on the draft Order using a consensus-based approach through which they directed staff on the development of a revised Order.

27. On January 26, 2021, the Central Coast Water Board circulated a revised draft Order for a 30-day public comment period that closed on February 25, 2021. Central Coast Water Board staff subsequently considered the public comments and developed a proposed Order for Board consideration during an April 14-15, 2021, public hearing.

28. The Central Coast Water Board, in a public hearing held on April 14-15, 2021, has heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and proposed Order.

29. After considering all comments pertaining to this General Permit during a public hearing on April 14-16, 2021, this Order was found consistent with the findings in this **Part 1** and **Attachment A**.

30. On May 17, 2021, the State Water Board received a petition for review of Order No. R3-2021-0040 (A-2751(a)) on behalf of the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California, the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, Western Growers Association, Western Plant Health Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, Monterey County Farm Bureau and California Strawberry Commission (collectively "agricultural petitioners").

31. On May 17, 2021, the State Water Board received a petition for review of Order No. R3-2021-0040 (A-2751(b)) on behalf of the California Coastkeeper Alliance, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Monterey Coastkeeper, San Jerardo Cooperative, California Sportfishing Alliance, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and the Institute for Fisheries Resources (collectively "environmental petitioners").

32. The Central Coast Water Board submitted a written Response to Consolidated Petitions (SWRCB/OCC Files A-2751(a) & A-2751(b).[2]

33. On September 20, 2023, the State Water Board adopted Order WQ 2023-0081- remanding the Central Coast Water Board to make revisions to this Order No. R3-2021-0040

34. **Placeholder:** upcoming public comment periods, workshops and Order adoption.

35. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Coast Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and title 23 California Code of Regulations sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., within 30 calendar days of the date of adoption of this Order at the following address, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of adoption

[2] The Response to Consolidated Petitions is available on the State Water Board website at: **https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/docs/swrch-occ_files_a-2751_a-b/Central-Coast-Water-Board-Response.pdf**

falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day:

State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Chief Counsel
P.O. Box 100, 1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Or by email at **waterqualitypetitions@waterboards.ca.gov**
For instructions on how to file a petition for review, see **http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/wqpetition_instr.shtml**.

Scope of Order

Irrigated Lands and Agricultural Discharges Regulated Under this Order

36. This Order regulates (1) discharges of waste from commercial irrigated lands, including, but not limited to, land planted to row, vineyard, field and tree crops where water is applied for producing commercial crops; (2) discharges of waste from 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 WDRs; and (3) discharges of waste from lands that are planted to commercial crops that are not yet marketable, such as vineyards and tree crops.

37. 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.

38. This Order also regulates agricultural activities such as the removal or degradation of riparian vegetation resulting in the loss or degradation of instream beneficial uses.

Dischargers Regulated Under this Order

39. This Order regulates both landowners and operators of commercial irrigated lands on or from which there are discharges of waste or activities that could affect the quality of any surface water or groundwater or result in the impairment of beneficial uses (Dischargers). Dischargers are responsible for complying with the conditions of this Order. Both the landowner and the operator of the irrigated agricultural land are Dischargers under this Order. The Central Coast Water Board will hold both the landowner and the operator liable

for noncompliance with this Order, regardless of whether the landowner or the operator is the party to enroll under this Order. The landowner and/or operator is the legally responsible person (i.e., a representative of the Enrollee who is legally designated to sign, certify, and electronically submit any documents required by the Order, the State or Regional Water Board, or U.S. EPA).

40. For the purposes of this Order, irrigated lands producing commercial crops are those operations that have one or more of the following characteristics:

    a. The landowner or operator has obtained a pesticide use permit from a local County Agricultural Commissioner;

    b. The crop is sold, including but not limited to: 1) an industry cooperative, 2) a harvest crew/company, or 3) a direct marketing location, such as certified Farmers Markets;

    c. The Discharger reports profit or loss from a farming business to the Internal Revenue Service.

    d. The electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI) serves as a report of waste discharge (ROWD) for the purposes of this Order.

41. The Central Coast Water Board recognizes that certain limited resource growers[3] (as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture) may have difficulty achieving compliance with this Order. The Central Coast Water Board will prioritize assistance for these growers, including but not limited to technical assistance, grant opportunities, and necessary flexibility to achieve compliance with this Order (e.g., adjusted monitoring, reporting, or time schedules).

Agricultural Dischargers Not Covered Under this Order and Who Must Apply for Individual Waste Discharge Requirements

42. This Order does not cover point source-type discharges from commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, greenhouses, or other operations. This Order does not cover discharges of waste from fully contained greenhouse operations (i.e., those that have no groundwater discharge due to impermeable floors but may have other discharges associated with the operation). These operations must either eliminate all such discharges of waste or submit a ROWD to apply for individual WDRs as set forth in Water Code section 13260.

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[3] The term "Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher" means a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- 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 two years.

A Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at the USDA website: **https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/**.

Enforcement for Noncompliance

43. The State Water Board's Water Quality Enforcement Policy (Enforcement Policy) describes progressive enforcement action for violations of WDRs when appropriate. However, the Enforcement Policy recommends formal enforcement as a first response to more significant violations. Progressive enforcement is an escalating series of actions that allows for the efficient and effective use of enforcement resources to 1) assist cooperative Dischargers in achieving compliance; 2) compel compliance for repeat violations and recalcitrant violators; and 3) provide a disincentive for noncompliance. Progressive enforcement actions may begin with informal enforcement actions such as a verbal, written, or electronic communication between the Central Coast Water Board and a Discharger. The purpose of an informal enforcement action is to quickly bring the violation to the Discharger's attention and to give the Discharger an opportunity to return to compliance as soon as possible. The highest level of informal enforcement is a Notice of Violation.

44. The Enforcement Policy recommends formal enforcement actions for the highest priority violations, chronic violations, and/or threatened violations. Violations of this Order that will be considered a priority include, but are not limited to:

    a. Failure to obtain required regulatory coverage;

    b. Failure to achieve numeric limits;

    c. Falsifying information or intentionally withholding information required by applicable laws, regulations, or an enforcement order;

    d. Failure to monitor or provide complete and accurate information as required;

    e. Failure to pay annual fees, penalties, or liabilities; and

    f. Failure to submit required reports on time.

45. Water Code section 13350 provides that any person who violates WDRs may be 1) subject to administrative civil liability imposed by the Central Coast Water Board or State Water Board in an amount of up to $5,000 per day of violation, or up to $10 per gallon of waste discharged; or 2) subject to civil liability imposed by a court in an amount of up to $15,000 per day of violation, or up to $20 per gallon of waste discharged. The actual calculation and determination of administrative civil penalties must be consistent with the Enforcement Policy and the Porter- Cologne Act.

Additional Findings and Regulatory Considerations

46. Attachment A to this Order, incorporated herein, includes additional findings that further describe the Water Board's legal and regulatory authority;

compliance with CEQA requirements; applicable plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board and the Central Coast Water Board that contain regulatory conditions that apply to the discharge of waste from irrigated lands; and the rationale for this Order, including descriptions of the environmental and agricultural resources in the central coast region and impacts to water quality and beneficial uses from agricultural discharges.

47. The Central Coast Water Board encourages Dischargers to participate in third-party groups or programs (e.g., certification program, watershed group, water quality coalition, monitoring coalition, or other third-party effort) to facilitate and document compliance with this Order. Third-party programs can be used to implement outreach and education, monitoring and reporting, management practice and/or water quality improvement projects, or provision of replacement drinking water. Regionally scaled third-party programs addressing multiple Order requirements are preferred to provide economies of scale to reduce Discharger costs, maximize effectiveness, and streamline Water Board oversight; however, watershed- or basin-scale third-party programs of limited scope may be appropriate under certain circumstances and should be coordinated to the extent practicable for consistency and effectiveness. Commodity group certification programs may also be effective in facilitating compliance with this Order. Dischargers participating in an Executive Officer approved third-party program may be subject to permit fee reductions or alternative compliance pathways that substantively comply with this Order.

48. The Central Coast Water Board acknowledges that it will take time to develop meaningful and effective third-party programs that facilitate compliance with this Order. The Order considers this by allowing an initial grace period for the phasing in of various requirements. The phasing in of various requirements is also intended to allow Water Board staff time to develop online reporting tools and templates and to conduct outreach and education to help Dischargers and service providers come up to speed on the new requirements.

49. Third-party programs are discussed in **Part 2, Section A**. The Central Coast Water Board will provide more detailed third-party expectation documents and/or third-party program requests for proposals (RFPs) to inform and solicit third-party program proposals for Executive Officer consideration.

50. The Executive Officer may make non-substantive changes to the Order to correct typographical errors or to maintain consistency within the Order or between the Order and its Attachments (e.g., to conform to changes made during the Order development process that were inadvertently not carried through the entire Order). The Board will provide public notice of the non-substantive changes.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. R3-2017-0002 is terminated as of the effective date of this Order except for the purposes of enforcement, and that pursuant to Water Code sections 13260, 13263, and 13267, Dischargers enrolled in this Order, their agents, successors, and assigns, must comply with the following terms and conditions to meet the provisions contained in Water Code Division 7 and regulations, plans, and policies adopted thereunder.

Part 2, Section A. Enrollment, Fees, Termination, General Provisions, and Third-Party Programs

1. This Order is effective upon adoption by the Central Coast Water Board.
2. Except where stated otherwise, all requirements of this Order apply to all Dischargers.

Enrollment

3. Enrollment in this Order requires the submittal of the electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI) pursuant to Water Code section 13260. Submittal of all other technical reports pursuant to this Order is required pursuant to Water Code section 13267. Failure to submit technical reports or the attachments in accordance with the time schedules established by this Order or Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), or failure to submit a complete technical report (i.e., of sufficient technical quality to be acceptable to the Executive Officer), may subject the Discharger to enforcement action pursuant to Water Code sections 13261, 13268, or 13350. Dischargers must submit technical reports in the format specified by the Executive Officer.
4. Dischargers who are not currently enrolled in the existing Order must submit to the Central Coast Water Board a complete eNOI prior to discharging. Upon submittal of a complete and accurate eNOI, the Discharger is enrolled under this Order, unless otherwise informed by the Executive Officer.
5. Dischargers who were enrolled in Order R3-2021-0041 as of the effective date of this Order are automatically enrolled in this Order (R3-2021-0041-A1). Within 120 days of Order adoption, enrolled Dischargers must update their eNOI.
6. Either the landowner or the primary leaseholder must submit the eNOI (i.e., enroll in this Order). Both the landowner and the primary leaseholder are considered Dischargers and are legally responsible for the discharge or potential discharge of waste to waters of the State and compliance with the requirements of this Order.
    a. If the primary leaseholder will **not** be operating on a parcel(s) for a period of at least 12 consecutive months the landowner must submit the eNOI.

7. **Prior to any discharge or commencement of activities that may cause a discharge**, including land preparation prior to crop production, any Discharger proposing to control or own a new operation or ranch that has the potential to discharge waste that could directly or indirectly reach waters of the state and/or affect the quality of any surface water and/or groundwater must submit an eNOI.

8. **Within 60 days** of any change in operation or ranch information, the Discharger must update the eNOI.

9. **Within 60 days** of any change in control or ownership of an operation, ranch, or land presently owned or controlled by the Discharger, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner and operator of the existence of this Order.

10. **Within 60 days** of acquiring control or ownership of an existing operation or ranch, the succeeding Discharger must submit an eNOI.

11. Dischargers must submit all the information required in the eNOI form, including but not limited to the following information for the operation and individual ranch:

    a. Assessor parcel numbers (APNs) covered by enrollment,

    b. Landowner(s),

    c. Operator(s),

    d. Contact information,

    e. Third-party program membership,

    f. Location of operation, including specific ranch(es),

    g. Map with discharge locations and groundwater wells identified,

    h. Type and number of groundwater wells located on ranch parcels,

    i. Total and irrigated acreage,

    j. Crop types grown,

    k. Irrigation system type,

    l. Discharge type,

    m. Chemical use,

    n. Slope,

    o. Impermeable surfaces,

    p. Presence and location of any waterbodies on or adjacent to the ranch, and

    q. Status of drinking water notification to well users.

12. **Drinking Water Solutions Program:** All Dischargers must select either the Individual Drinking Water Protection (IDWP) compliance pathway or the Alternative Water Supply Program (AWSP) compliance pathway within the Drinking Water Solutions Program. The AWSP is an alternative compliance pathway in this Order which is administered by a third-party AWSP administrator. The requirements for each of these pathways are included in **Part 2, Section D.1 and Section D.2.**

13. Dischargers must select either the IDWP or AWSP compliance pathway within 60 days of adoption of the Order or enrollment in the Order, whichever is later.

14. Dischargers or groups of Dischargers seeking regulatory requirements tailored to their specific operation, ranch, geographic area, or commodity may submit an ROWD to obtain an individual order and MRP or request the development of a general order for a specific type of discharge (e.g., commodity-specific general order). This Order remains applicable to those Dischargers until the Central Coast Water Board adopts such an individual order, MRP, or general order, and, if applicable, the Dischargers are enrolled in the general order.

15. Dischargers seeking enrollment in this Order must submit a statement of understanding of the conditions of this Order and MRP signed by the Discharger (landowner or operator) with the eNOI. If the operator signs and submits the electronic NOI, the operator must provide a copy of the complete NOI form to the landowner(s).

16. Coverage under this Order is not transferable to any person except after the succeeding Discharger's submittal to the Central Coast Water Board of an updated eNOI and approval by the Executive Officer.

Fees

17. Dischargers must pay a fee to the State Water Resources Control Board in compliance with the fee schedule contained in Title 23 California Code of Regulations.

18. Dischargers must pay any relevant third-party program fees (e.g., Surface Water Third-Party Monitoring Program (aka Cooperative Monitoring Program or CMP) necessary to comply with monitoring and reporting conditions of this Order or they must comply with monitoring and reporting requirements individually.

19. For Dischargers who choose to participate in a third-party program, failure to pay third-party program fees voids a selection or notification of the option to participate in the third-party program and hence requires Dischargers to immediately comply with individual groundwater protection and/or surface water protection requirements.

Termination

20. **Immediately**, if a Discharger wishes to terminate coverage under this Order for the operation or an individual ranch, the Discharger must submit a complete Notice of Termination (NOT), in a format specified by the Executive Officer. Termination from coverage is the date the termination request is approved, unless specified otherwise. All discharges must cease before the date of termination, and any discharges on or after the date of termination are violations of this Order, unless covered by other WDRs or waivers of WDRs. All required monitoring and reporting are due **within 60 days of the termination or March 1 following the termination date**, whichever is sooner, unless otherwise directed by the Executive Officer.

General Provisions

21. The unauthorized discharge of any waste not specifically regulated by this Order, is prohibited.

22. The discharge of waste at a location or in a manner different from that described in the eNOI is prohibited.

23. Dischargers must comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), incorporated herein as Attachment B.

24. Where a Discharger believes that it needs additional time to comply with the final surface receiving water limitations (included in a TMDL or otherwise in non-TMDL areas), a Discharger may request a Time Schedule Order (TSO) pursuant to California Water Code sections 13300 for the Central Coast Water Board's consideration. If a TSO is issued and the Discharger is in compliance with that TSO, the Central Coast Water Board will not pursue further enforcement of violations involving the specific waterbody and pollutant combination(s) addressed in the TSO.

25. Dischargers that anticipate that they will exceed a receiving water limit may request a TSO pursuant to Water Code section 13300 for the Central Coast Water Board's consideration. At a minimum, the request for a TSO must include the following:

    a. Water quality data demonstrating the current status of surface receiving water quality relative to the numeric receiving water limit(s) established in the Order;

    b. A description and chronology of structural controls and source control efforts implemented by the Discharger to reduce pollutant loading to date;

    c. Justification of the need for additional time to achieve the numeric receiving water limit(s);

d. Description of the specific actions the Discharger will take to meet the receiving water limit and a time schedule of interim and final deadlines proposed to implement those actions; and

e. A demonstration that the time schedule requested is as short as possible, considering the technological, operational, and economic factors that affect the design, development, and implementation of the control measures that are necessary to comply with the numeric receiving water limit(s).

26. All forms, reports, documents, and laboratory data must be submitted to the Central Coast Water Board electronically through the State Water Board's database systems (e.g., GeoTracker, CEDEN,[4] etc.).

27. Dischargers are defined in this Order as both the landowner and the operator of irrigated agricultural land on or from which there are discharges of waste from irrigated agricultural activities that could affect the quality of any surface water or groundwater. The Central Coast Water Board will hold both the landowner and the operator liable for noncompliance with this Order.

28. The Executive Officer may propose, and the Central Coast Water Board may adopt, individual WDRs for any Discharger at any time.

29. The Central Coast Water Board or the Executive Officer may, at any time, terminate applicability of this Order with respect to an individual Discharger upon written notice to the Discharger.

30. Noncompliance with requirements in this Order is grounds for enforcement action and/or termination of coverage for waste discharges under this Order, subjecting the Discharger to enforcement under the Water Code for further discharges of waste to surface water or groundwater.

31. The fact that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted discharge activity to maintain compliance with this Order is not a defense for the Discharger's violations of this Order.

32. Provisions of this Order are severable. If any provision of this Order is found invalid, the remainder of this Order will not be affected.

33. Upon the Central Coast Water Board's or Executive Officer's request and within a reasonable timeframe, Dischargers must submit any information required to determine compliance with this Order or to determine whether there is cause for modifying or terminating this Order.

[4] CEDEN is the California Environmental Data Exchange Network.

34. Under authority of Water Code section 13267(c), the Discharger must allow the Central Coast Water Board, or an authorized representative, upon consent or other documents as may be required by law, to do the following:

    a. Enter upon the Discharger's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted or where records must be kept under the conditions of this Order,

    b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Order,

    c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order, and

    d. Collect samples from and monitor waters of the state within or bordering property subject to this Order, at reasonable times for the purposes of assuring compliance with this Order or as otherwise authorized by the Water Code. The sampling and monitoring may include and is not limited to domestic and irrigation wells, surface receiving waters, and edge of field discharges to surface waters.

35. This Order may be reopened to address changes in statutes, regulations, plans, policies, or case law that govern water quality requirements for the discharges regulated herein.

Order Effectiveness Evaluation

36. To facilitate an adaptive management process to inform modifications to the Order, the Central Coast Water Board will receive annual updates from its staff and, as appropriate, third-party groups or programs during public meetings regarding the implementation of this Order. The purpose of the updates is to evaluate and report out on individual discharger and third-party group compliance; identify successes, challenges, and emerging science and management practices; consider potential Order modifications as may be appropriate at five-year intervals; and generally inform the Board and public regarding the Order's effectiveness towards achieving the stated objectives.

Third-Party Programs

37. Dischargers may comply with portions of this Order by participating in third-party groups or programs (e.g., certification program, watershed group, water quality coalition, monitoring coalition, or other third-party effort) approved by the Executive Officer. In this case, the third-party will assist individual Dischargers in achieving compliance with this Order, including administering an alternative water supply program, implementing water quality improvement projects and required monitoring and reporting as described in the MRP. Compliance with

the requirements of this Order is still required for all members of the third-party program; however, the third-party may propose modified monitoring and reporting for approval by the Executive Officer. Third-party program proposals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis relative to their ability to document compliance with this Order as part of a request for proposal process and as further informed by a forthcoming third-party expectations document.

38. Interested persons may seek discretionary review by the Central Coast Water Board of the Executive Officer's approval or denial of the following work plans:

    - Third-party program groundwater quality trends monitoring and reporting.
    - Third-party program surface receiving water quality trend monitoring and reporting.
    - Individual and third-party program follow-up surface receiving water implementation.

39. Interested persons seeking discretionary review by the Central Coast Water Board must submit their request in writing no later than 30 days from the date of the Executive Officer's approval or denial of the work plans noted above.

40. This Order includes specific provisions and alternative compliance pathways for third-party programs that will also be subject to a third-party request for proposal process and Executive Officer review and approval. Dischargers participating in a third-party administered alternative compliance pathway program, and that remain in good standing as defined in this Order and/or Executive Officer approved third-party work plan, are subject to the third-party program requirements in lieu of individual requirements as specified. The third-party alternative compliance pathway program's assessment and evaluation for groundwater protection and the regional groundwater quality trends monitoring program described in **Part 2, Section D.2.A** must be closely aligned and coordinated such that they are effectively measuring the objectives the programs are trying to achieve.

41. Third-party program proposals must include and identify specific membership eligibility requirements, for approval by the Executive Officer, to evaluate whether third-party program members are in good standing. Members that are not in good standing with the membership eligibility requirements lose their membership and must immediately comply with individual groundwater protection and/or surface water protection and/or drinking water solutions program requirements. At a minimum, third-party program proposals must include membership eligibility requirements and follow-up consequences that are triggered, including revocation of membership eligibility, to address the following scenarios where members are no longer in good standing:

a. Non-payment of fees

b. Non-submittal of information

c. Non-participation in education/outreach or site visits

d. Failure to implement / adapt management practices

42. Consistent with the Water Board's Policy for Implementation and Enforcement of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (NPS Policy), the ineffectiveness of a third-party program through which a Discharger participates in nonpoint source control efforts cannot be used as a justification for lack of individual discharger compliance. Dischargers continue to be responsible for complying with this Order individually.

43. Dischargers who elect to join one or more third-party programs to facilitate compliance with this Order must retain their membership with the third parties in good standing. If the Discharger does not meet the requirements of membership in a particular third-party program, then the Discharger is responsible for complying with all requirements in this Order individually. If the Discharger is in good standing with another third-party program for another purpose, that third-party program's requirements still apply. For example, a Discharger may no longer be a member in good standing of the third-party alternative compliance pathway for groundwater protection but could still be a member in good standing for a third-party surface receiving water quality trend monitoring and reporting program. For this example, Dischargers may become eligible to rejoin the third-party alternative compliance pathway for groundwater protection by demonstrating compliance with individual groundwater protection requirements.

44. Dischargers who elect to join an approved third-party program must notify the approved third-party program administrator of their election to participate in the third-party program within 60 days of: 1) approval of the third-party program, and/or 2) the Discharger's enrollment in this Order, whichever is later.

45. The third-party program administrator must notify the Central Coast Water Board of Dischargers electing to participate within 90 days of the third-party program approval and then provide member participation updates on a quarterly basis thereafter. At a minimum, participating Discharger information provided to the Central Coast Water Board must include operation enrollment information (e.g., AW numbers and operation names) and ranch enrollment information (e.g., GeoTracker AGL numbers and ranch names) in a format specified by the Executive Officer.

46. Third-party programs must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. **Effectiveness of scale and scope** – The program must be of sufficient scale and scope relative to its intended purpose to maximize Discharger participation, implementation effectiveness and Order compliance. Although regionally scaled programs are preferred, watershed- or basin-scale programs will be considered as needed to address localized water quality issues.

b. **Clearly stated goals and objectives** – The program must have meaningful and clearly stated goals, objectives, and associated performance metrics relevant to the Order requirements that are the focus of the program.

c. **Management and administration** – The program must have a well-defined and robust governance and administrative structure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

d. **Capacity and expertise** – The program must demonstrate sufficient technical, managerial, and financial capacity to successfully achieve its goals and objectives.

e. **Physical presence** – The program should have a physical presence in the central coast region, including staff and a headquarters, that can assist its members on a continual and as-needed basis. If the third-party program administrator does not have or plan to have a physical presence in the region, they must demonstrate they can effectively establish, maintain, and engage with core membership without a headquarters in the central coast region.

f. **Transparency and accountability** – The program must provide regular assessments of its performance relative to its stated goals and objective based on meaningful performance metrics. This includes reporting of water quality data and farm-level data as needed to document compliance with this Order.

g. **Membership and fee accounting** – The program must track and provide ongoing accounting of its Discharger membership and fees to document Discharger compliance.

h. **Data management** – The program must upload data as required by this Order to the Water Boards' various data management systems (e.g., CEDEN, GeoTracker, etc.).

i. **Member requirements** – The program must have clearly stated and enforced Discharger membership eligibility requirements and report out on them as needed to document compliance.

j. **Coordination** – The program must consider and coordinate with other third-party programs/groups or local entities as may be appropriate to create consistency; leverage the efforts, infrastructure and expertise of others; and streamline the program to maximize effectiveness (e.g., coordination with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies [GSAs], flood control management agencies, watershed restoration and management entities, etc.).

k. **Continuing education** – The program must include continuing education opportunities as appropriate either directly through the program or through coordination with other third-party programs/groups or local entities to ensure its members obtain technical skills and assistance necessary to achieve compliance with the groundwater protection targets and water quality objectives and surface receiving water numeric limits established in this Order. In the instance of third-party monitoring programs, membership outreach and education should be implemented to inform members about the monitoring results relative to meeting specific water quality objectives, groundwater protection numeric targets, surface receiving water numeric interim quantifiable milestones, or surface receiving water numeric limits.

l. **Specific project plan documents** – The program must have a detailed work plan including a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) as may be appropriate based on the program goals and objectives and associated Order requirements.

47. The Central Coast Water Board's review of third-party program proposals will consider the criteria outlined above relative to overall program effectiveness, with an emphasis on approving programs that can effectively assist their members in complying with the requirements of this Order.

Part 2, Section B. Planning, Education, Management Practices, and CEQA

Farm Water Quality Management Plan (Farm Plan)

1. Dischargers must develop, implement, and update as necessary a Farm Water Quality Management Plan (Farm Plan) for each ranch. A current copy of the Farm Plan must be maintained by the Discharger and must be submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request. At a minimum, the Farm Plan must include the discrete sections listed below. Additional details regarding each section are included in subsequent sections of this Order. Certain elements included in the Farm Plan must be reported on; however, in general, the Farm Plan is a planning and recordkeeping tool used by Dischargers to manage various aspects of their agricultural operation.

    a. Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP)

    b. Pesticide Management Plan (PMP)

c. Sediment and Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)

d. Water Quality Education

e. CEQA Mitigation Measure Implementation

2. The INMP, PMP, and SEMP sections of the Farm Plan must include information on management practice implementation and assessment. Elements of the INMP are reported on in the Total Nitrogen Applied report or INMP Summary report. Elements of all the sections listed above are reported on the Annual Compliance Form (ACF). Additional information on the monitoring and reporting requirements related to each of these sections is included in the MRP.

3. Where required by the Executive Officer based on water quality conditions, exceedance of groundwater quality numeric targets or exceedance of surface receiving water numeric targets, numeric interim quantifiable milestones, or numeric limits established in this Order, the Farm Plan must incorporate ranch-level root zone or surface water discharge monitoring information described in the MRP. The ranch-level root zone and surface water discharge monitoring must be designed and implemented to inform improved management practices to protect groundwater and surface water quality.

4. Dischargers must maintain all records related to compliance with this Order for a minimum of ten years. Records include, but are not limited to, monitoring information, calculations, management practice implementation and assessment, education records, and all required reporting and information used to submit complete and accurate reports. Third parties that have been approved by the Executive Officer to assist Dischargers with complying with this Order, for example in the form of water quality monitoring, must also maintain all records for a minimum of ten years. Records must be submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request or as required by this Order or an approved work plan.

Continuing Education

5. Dischargers must attend outreach and education events annually to obtain technical skills and assistance necessary to achieve compliance with the groundwater protection numeric targets, surface receiving water numeric interim quantifiable milestones, and surface receiving water numeric limits established by this Order. Outreach and education events should focus on meeting water quality objectives and protecting beneficial uses by identifying water quality problems, implementing pollution prevention strategies, and implementing management practices and assessment designed to protect water quality and beneficial uses and resolve water quality problems to achieve compliance with this Order. Records of participation in continuing education must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

6. Dischargers who exceed the fertilizer nitrogen application targets nitrogen discharge targets, surface receiving water numeric interim quantifiable milestones, or surface receiving water numeric limits must complete additional relevant water quality education sufficient to fully inform the implementation of additional or improved management practices and assessment to avoid future exceedances.

7. A copy of this Order and MRP must be kept at the ranch for reference by operating personnel. Key operating and site management personnel must be familiar with the content of both documents.

Management Practice Implementation and Assessment

8. Dischargers must implement management practices and assessment, as necessary, to improve and protect water quality, protect beneficial uses, achieve compliance with applicable water quality objectives, achieve the groundwater protection numeric targets, surface receiving water numeric interim quantifiable milestones, and surface receiving water numeric limits established in this Order. Management practices implementation and assessment must be documented in the appropriate section of the Farm Plan (e.g., irrigation and nutrient management practices and assessment must be documented in the INMP section of the Farm Plan). Dischargers must report on management practice implementation and assessment in the ACF, as described in the MRP. Dischargers may demonstrate management practice effectiveness at ranch-level or watershed-scale.

CEQA Mitigation Measure Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting

9. Impacts and mitigation measures identified in CEQA Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) are set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) at Appendix D, which is incorporated by reference. Mitigation measures identified in the FEIR for this Order are required to be implemented as described in Appendix D unless exempted by another law or regulation. These mitigation measures will substantially reduce environmental effects of the project. The mitigation measures included in this Order have eliminated or substantially lessened all significant effects on the environment, where feasible. Where noted, some of the mitigation measures are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies. Such mitigation measures can and should be adopted, as applicable, by those other agencies.

10. Dischargers must report on mitigation measure implementation electronically in the Annual Compliance Form (ACF), as described in the MRP.

Part 2, Section C. Groundwater Protection

1. Dischargers may not be subject to all provisions of **Part 2, Section C** if they are members in good standing with the third-party AWSP in **Part 2, Section D.2** or alternative compliance pathway program included within **Part 2, Section D.2**.

Phasing

2. Ranches are assigned to the Groundwater Phase Area of the groundwater basin where the ranch is located based on the relative level of water quality and beneficial use impairment and risk to water quality. All ranches are assigned a Groundwater Phase Area of 1, 2, or 3. Groundwater Phase 1 areas represent greater water quality impairment and higher risk to water quality relative to Groundwater Phase 2 and 3 areas.

3. The requirements and implementation schedules for groundwater protection are based on the groundwater phase areas, listed in **Table C.1-1** and shown on the maps in **Figure C.1-1**.

4. In the event that a ranch spans multiple Groundwater Phase areas, the ranch will be assigned the earlier phase. For example, a ranch that spans both Groundwater Phase 1 and Groundwater Phase 2 areas will be assigned to Groundwater Phase 1.

5. The Groundwater Phase Area assigned to each ranch will be displayed on the ranch eNOI in GeoTracker.

Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan

6. Dischargers must develop and implement an Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) that addresses both groundwater and surface water. This section applies to the groundwater related INMP requirements and the surface water related INMP requirements are contained within **Part 2, Section C** of this Order. The INMP is a section of the Farm Plan and must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request. Summary information from the INMP must be submitted in the INMP Summary report. At a minimum, the elements of the INMP related to groundwater protection must include:

    a. Monitoring and recordkeeping necessary to submit complete and accurate reports, including the ACF, Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA) report, and INMP Summary report.

    b. Planning and management practice implementation and assessment that results in compliance with the fertilizer nitrogen application targets in Table C.1-2 (applicable only to Dischargers who are not yet reporting nitrogen removed) and the nitrogen discharge targets that apply to Dischargers enrolled in either the IDWP or AWSP compliance pathways.

c. Descriptions of all irrigation, nutrient, and salinity management practices implemented and assessed on the ranch.

7. **Farm Plan INMP Certification.** When INMP certification of the Farm Plan is required (e.g., as a follow-up action) as a consequence for not meeting the quantifiable milestones and time schedules below, or for dischargers enrolled in the IDWP compliance pathway, the INMP certification must be completed by a qualified professional and shall include the following:

   a. The person signing the 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.

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

   c. The qualified professional signing the INMP 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.

      Qualified professional certification:
      "I, _____, certify this INMP in accordance with the statement above."

      _____ (Signature)

      The discharger additionally agrees as follows:

      "I, _____, Discharger, have provided information and

data to the certifier above that is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete, that I understand that the certifier may rely on the information and data provided by me and is not required to independently verify the information and data, and that I further understand that the certifier is not responsible for any damages, loss, or liability arising from subsequent implementation of the INMP by me in a manner that is inconsistent with the INMP's recommendations for nitrogen application. I further understand that the certification does not create any liability for claims for environmental violations."

a. **Verified INMP Summary Report Data.** When verified INMP Summary report data is required, such as is required for IDWP Dischargers, or as an option for demonstrating compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit by the compliance deadline for all Dischargers, the INMP Summary – Annual Verification Report (AVR) must be signed by a qualified professional and include the following:

b. **Certification Statement by Qualified Professional:**[5] The qualified professional signing the INMP Summary – AVR and verifying the INMP Summary report data certifies, under penalty of law, that:

i. The data and information used by the Discharger in preparing the INMP Summary – AVR was audited in accordance with the requirements in **MRP, Section C**;

ii. The qualified professional has the requisite training and experience necessary to audit Discharger-provided nitrogen application and removal records, agronomic calculations, and other pertinent information necessary to verify grower-reported nitrogen A and R values;

iii. To the best of the qualified professional's knowledge and belief, the information is true, accurate, complete, and consistent with **Part 2, Section B, paragraphs 1-4**.

iv. The qualified professional may rely on the information and data provided by the Discharger; however, the Discharger-reported data must be cross-referenced or otherwise verified with supporting documentation, as described in the MRP.

Qualified professional certification:

"I, _____, certify that the data and information used in developing the INMP Summary report have been audited in

[5] This certification does not create any liability or claims for environmental violations.

accordance with the statement above and I verify that the information is accurate."

_____ (Signature)

c. **Certification Statement by Discharger**:

"I, _____, Discharger, have provided information and data to the certifier above that is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete, that I understand that the certifier may rely on the information and data provided by me but is also required to independently verify the information and data. I further understand that the certification does not create any liability for claims for environmental violations."

Final Receiving Groundwater Limits

8. All discharges of nitrogen to groundwater must cease causing or contributing to exceedances of Municipal and Domestic Supply water quality objectives for nitrate or nitrate+nitrite in the receiving groundwater within a term that is as short as practicable for each Discharger or by the final compliance deadlines specified in the IDWP or AWSP compliance pathways, whichever is sooner.

Demonstrating Compliance with Final Receiving Groundwater Limits

9. **Compliance Demonstration:** Dischargers must achieve and demonstrate compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C, paragraph 9** (above) by the final compliance deadline for the applicable compliance pathway. Compliance deadlines for the IDWP and AWSP compliance pathways are described in **Part 2, Section D.1** and **Section D.2**, respectively. Compliance must be demonstrated by the applicable final compliance deadline and on an annual basis after the final compliance deadline using one of the following methods:

   a. **Method 1**: Verified INMP Summary Report Data

      i. **Compliance Threshold:** INMP Summary – AVR, as described in the MRP, must demonstrate that the three-year average[6] of either 1) total nitrogen applied (A) or 2) Nitrogen Discharge (total nitrogen applied minus total nitrogen removed [A-R]) is less than or equal to 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre per year.

[6] For Dischargers that do not have a three-year record for the ranch they are currently operating, compliance will be determined based on the data that is available for the ranch.

b. **Method 2:** Ranch-Level Groundwater Monitoring

i. **Compliance Threshold:** Ranch-Level Groundwater Monitoring Reports, as described in the MRP, must be submitted that demonstrate compliance. Compliance will be based on no less than three years of semi-annual groundwater monitoring (i.e., at least six monitoring events from each of the wells in the approved monitoring network) in accordance with the technical and procedural requirements outlined in **MRP, Section C**. Vadose zone travel time must be accounted for when evaluating compliance as nitrogen application will not be reflected in the aquifer water quality response until the applied nitrogen has migrated through this zone. Groundwater monitoring must demonstrate that:

1. The discharge is in compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9** in groundwater underlying the ranch, or

2. If nitrate concentrations in upgradient groundwater already exceed the Municipal and Domestic Supply water quality objectives for nitrate or nitrate+nitrite, the Discharger must demonstrate that their discharge does not cause or contribute to a statistically significant increase in nitrate concentrations. This determination must be based on a comparison of nitrate levels in at least two downgradient wells relative to one or more upgradient wells, using a scientifically valid statistical method approved by the Executive Officer.

c. **Other Methods for Demonstrating Compliance:** Dischargers may use other quantifiable and scientifically robust methods approved by the Executive Officer for demonstrating compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9**.

Quantifiable Milestones and Compliance Schedules

10. Nitrogen discharge targets are included in this Order as interim quantifiable milestones which must be achieved in accordance with the corresponding compliance time schedule.

Fertilizer Nitrogen Application Targets

11. Dischargers must not apply fertilizer nitrogen (A_{FER}) at rates greater than the targets in **Table C.1-2.** Compliance with fertilizer nitrogen application targets is assessed for each specific crop reported in the TNA report or INMP Summary report. Dischargers who are not yet reporting nitrogen removed are considered outliers and are subject to follow-up actions by the Central Coast Water Board, including requiring additional, including requiring additional education.

Nitrogen Discharge Targets

12. This Order requires Dischargers to submit information on nitrogen applied (**A**) and nitrogen removed (**R**) in the INMP Summary report. This Order also establishes nitrogen discharge targets based on the calculation of nitrogen applied minus nitrogen removed (**A-R**) using the formula shown below. Nitrogen must not be discharged at rates greater than the targets required by either the IDWP compliance pathway or the AWSP compliance pathway. Compliance with nitrogen discharge targets is assessed annually, for the entire ranch, based on that year's INMP Summary report data. Nitrogen discharge will also be assessed based on the three-year mean calculation of **A** over **R**, or the **A**/**R** ratio, using the formulas shown below. A-R and A/R ratio values will be shared with the Discharger and third-party program.

    Nitrogen Discharge = A – R Difference

    Nitrogen Discharge Ratio = A / R
    Where A = Nitrogen proactively added to a field from any source including $\mathbf{A_{FER} + A_{COMP} + A_{ORG} + A_{IRR} + A_{OTHER}}$ and **R** = nitrogen removed in harvested materials (including pruning's, removed vegetation, etc.) or sequestered in permanent wood (e.g., $\mathbf{R_{HARV} + R_{SEQ}}$)

    a. $\mathbf{A_{FER}}$ is the amount of conventional fertilizer nitrogen applied in pounds per acre.

    b. $\mathbf{A_{COMP}}$ is the total amount of compost nitrogen applied in pounds per acre.

    c. $\mathbf{A_{ORG}}$ is the total amount of organic fertilizer or amendment nitrogen applied in pounds per acre.

    d. $\mathbf{A_{IRR}}$ is the amount of nitrogen in pounds per acre applied in the irrigation water estimated from the volume required for crop evapotranspiration (ET) or volume of water applied.

    e. $\mathbf{A_{OTHER}}$ is nitrogen proactively applied to a field from any other source.

    f. $\mathbf{R_{HARV}}$ is the amount of nitrogen removed from the field through harvest or other removal of crop material.

    g. $\mathbf{R_{SEQ}}$ is the amount of nitrogen removed from the field through sequestration in woody materials of permanent or semi-permanent crops.

    h. Additional nitrogen removed data may be reported for informational purposes in the INMP Summary report. However, these terms are not used in the compliance calculation. These terms include:

i. **$R_{SCAVENGE}$** is the amount of nitrogen credited as removed from the field through nitrogen scavenging cover crops utilized during the wet/rainy season, nitrogen scavenging high carbon amendments during the wet/rainy season, or high carbon woody materials applied as mulch to the crop ground surface.

ii. **R_{TREAT}** is the amount of nitrogen removed from the ranch through a quantifiable treatment method (e.g., bioreactor).

iii. **R_{OTHER}** is the amount of nitrogen removed from the ranch through other methods not previously quantified.

13. The Central Coast Water Board encourages the use of irrigation water nitrogen as a method of reducing the amount of fertilizer nitrogen applied to crops. The use of irrigation water nitrogen is typically referred to as "pump and fertilize." All nitrogen applied to the ranch in irrigation water (AIRR) must be reported in the TNA report or INMP Summary report.

14. The Central Coast Water Board encourages the use of compost to improve soil health, nutrient and carbon sequestration, and water holding capacity consistent with the state's Healthy Soils Initiative. All compost nitrogen (**A_{COMP}**) applied to the ranch must be reported in the TNA report or INMP Summary report. On-farm composting operations must comply with the State Water Board's Composting General Order (Order WQ 2020-0012-DWQ, or as amended) and obtain coverage if applicable.[7]

15. The Central Coast Water Board encourages the use of organic fertilizers and amendments to improve soil health, nutrient and carbon sequestration, and water holding capacity consistent with the state's Healthy Soils Initiative. All organic fertilizer and amendment nitrogen (**A_{ORG}**) applied to the ranch must be reported in the TNA report or INMP Summary report.

16. The amount of **crop material** removed through harvest or other methods (**R_{HARV}**) must be calculated using the formula described below. Dischargers must either use the crop-specific conversion coefficient values found in the MRP or develop their own conversion coefficient values following the approved method in the MRP. If Dischargers develop their own conversion coefficient, they must maintain information on the method used in the Farm Plan, and these records must be submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

R_{HARV} = Conversion Coefficient x Material Removed

[7] The Composting General Order is available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2020/wqo2020_0012_dwq.pdf

a. The **Conversion Coefficient** is a crop-specific coefficient used to convert from units of material removed per acre to units of nitrogen removed per acre.

17. **Material Removed** is the amount of nitrogen-containing material removed from the field, in units of pounds per acre.

18. The amount of nitrogen removed through **sequestration** in woody material of permanent or semi-permanent crops (**R_{SEQ}**) must be estimated by the Discharger and included as part of the amount of nitrogen removed (**R**). Dischargers must maintain records detailing how they estimated the amount of nitrogen sequestered in their permanent crops. These records must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

19. The Central Coast Water Board encourages Dischargers to implement best management practices that reduce nitrogen leaching in the wet/rainy season and improve soil health. At this time, $R_{SCAVENGE}$ is not used to determine compliance with the A-R nitrogen discharge targets. However, dischargers may report the amount of nitrogen removed through nitrogen scavenging cover crops utilized during the wet/rainy season, nitrogen scavenging high carbon amendments during the wet/rainy season, or high carbon woody materials applied as mulch to the crop ground surface ($R_{SCAVENGE}$). Quantified removal through sequestration methods may be reported as $R_{SCAVENGE}$. . The total acres reporting $R_{SCAVENGE}$ may not exceed the ranch acres. Dischargers electing to report $R_{SCAVENGE}$ must ensure that their cover crop, high carbon amendment, or high carbon woody materials meets the definitions of a nitrogen scavenging cover crop, nitrogen scavenging high carbon amendment, or high carbon woody materials as noted in the MRP and Definitions. Substantiating records must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

20. The Central Coast Water Board encourages Dischargers to develop and implement innovative methods for removing nitrogen from the environment to improve water quality. Dischargers may use treatment methods (e.g., bioreactors) on their ranch by participating in collective treatment programs or systems[8] to remove nitrogen from groundwater or surface water. At this time, R_{TREAT} is not used to determine compliance with the nitrogen discharge targets. However, quantified removal through treatment or other innovative methods

[8] Collective treatment programs or systems may be installed or implemented outside the ranch boundaries at a downstream or downflow collective discharge point from multiple ranches to remove nitrogen from groundwater or surface water from each ranch participating in the collective treatment program or system.

maybe reported as **R_{TREAT}**. These records must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

21. Dischargers may report any additional quantifiable nitrogen removed through means (other than those previously quantified above) as R_{OTHER}. At this time, R_{OTHER} is not used to determine compliance with the nitrogen discharge targets **.** These records must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

22. The Central Coast Water Board will develop A/R ratio targets after at least three years of INMP Summary report data has been collected for all Dischargers. Dischargers that fail to meet multi-year A/R ratio targets will be considered outliers and may be subject to additional requirements, including obtaining additional education or INMP certification by a qualified professional.

23. Discharges of nitrogen in excess of the nitrogen discharge **targets** are considered outliers and may result in additional requirements, including obtaining additional education and/or, INMP certification by a qualified professional.

24. Dischargers with a maximum total acreage of 20 acres, a crop diversity of at least 0.5 crops per acre (one crop grown per every two acres) and/or minimal nitrogen inputs (a maximum total nitrogen applied (**A**) 50 pounds per ranch acre) *may* not be required to submit the nitrogen removal (**R**) reporting in the INMP Summary report, regardless of what Groundwater Phase Area the ranch is in. Dischargers will be identified based on information submitted in the INMP Summary report and must submit the INMP section of their Farm Plan as supporting documentation to the Central Coast Water Board. This exemption only applies to R reporting in the INMP Summary report; all other reporting requirements, including nitrogen application and evapotranspiration in the INMP Summary report, still apply as described in this Order. Failure to provide sufficient information annually via nitrogen application information in the INMP Summary report confirming that the exemption is still applicable will result in an immediate reinstatement of the requirement to submit nitrogen removal information in the INMP Summary report for applicable Dischargers. Dischargers electing to use this approach are still eligible to participate in the third-party alternative compliance pathway program for groundwater protection.

Monitoring and Reporting

25. All Dischargers must submit monitoring and reporting to explicitly demonstrate compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C,** by the final compliance deadline for either the AWSP or IDWP compliance pathway. After the final compliance deadline, Discharger must conduct monitoring and submit reporting on an annual basis.

26. Dischargers must report on management practice implementation and assessment electronically in the ACF, as described in the MRP.

27. Dischargers must record and report total nitrogen applied to all crops grown on the ranch, electronically in the TNA report form, as described in the MRP.

28. Dischargers must track and record the following elements of the INMP Summary report that are not included in the TNA report: total nitrogen removed from the ranch and information on irrigation water application and discharge volumes. Dischargers must submit this information electronically in the INMP Summary report form as described in the MRP.

29. The INMP Summary report contains the same nitrogen application information as the TNA report, plus additional information related to nitrogen removed and irrigation management. **Therefore, the INMP Summary report satisfies the TNA report requirement, and an additional TNA report is not required to be submitted when the INMP Summary report is submitted to the Central Coast Water Board**.

30. Dischargers must conduct on-farm **irrigation well monitoring and reporting prior to the start of groundwater quality trends monitoring and reporting**, either individually or as part of a third-party effort, as described in the MRP.

31. Dischargers must conduct **on-farm domestic well monitoring and reporting**, either individually or as part of a third-party effort, as described in the MRP.

32. Dischargers must conduct **groundwater quality trends monitoring and reporting**, either individually or as part of a third-party effort, as described in the MRP. This requirement applies to all Dischargers enrolled in this Order, regardless of whether wells are present on the ranch.

    a. Dischargers who elect to perform groundwater quality trends monitoring and reporting as part of a **third-party** effort must form or join a third-party. The third-party must submit a work plan for Executive Officer review by the dates and covering the groundwater phase areas specified in the MRP. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Officer prior to implementation. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP. The work plan must explicitly describe how the ranch-level groundwater quality trends monitoring program will evaluate groundwater quality trends over time and assess the impacts of agricultural discharges on groundwater quality.

    b. Dischargers who elect to perform groundwater quality trends monitoring and reporting **individually** must submit a work plan for Executive Officer review by the dates and covering the areas specified in the MRP. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Office prior to

implementation. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP. The work plan must explicitly describe how the ranch-level groundwater quality trends monitoring program will evaluate groundwater quality trends over time and assess the impacts of agricultural discharges on groundwater quality. Dischargers who elect to perform groundwater quality trends monitoring and reporting individually without a well on their property must comply with the individual ranch-level groundwater quality trends monitoring and reporting requirements by implementing one of the options specified in the MRP.

33. When required by the Executive Officer based on groundwater quality data showing repeated exceedances of water quality objectives, Dischargers must conduct **ranch-level root zone monitoring and reporting**, either individually or as part of a third-party effort, as described in the MRP. Water Board staff will coordinate with Dischargers prior to the Executive Officer invoking this requirement to determine if there are any unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances and to provide the Discharger with 90-day advanced notice of the forthcoming requirement. When ranch-level root zone monitoring and reporting is required, a work plan, including a SAP and QAPP, must be submitted for Executive Officer review prior to implementation. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. Ranch-level root zone monitoring may be discontinued with the approval of the Executive Officer at any time.

Part 2, Section D. Drinking Water Solutions Program Requirements

Section D.1. Individual Drinking Water Protection Compliance Pathway

1. Dischargers who do not participate in the AWSP compliance pathway must instead follow all requirements of the IDWP compliance pathway. Dischargers participating in the IDWP compliance pathway are called IDWP Dischargers.

Compliance Deadline, Nitrogen Discharge Targets, and Time Schedules

2. **Final Compliance Deadline:** No later than December 31, 2036, IDWP Dischargers must quantifiably achieve and demonstrate compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit **in Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9**. Methods of demonstrating compliance are described in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 10**.

3. **Nitrogen Discharge Targets:** IDWP Dischargers must adhere to the compliance dates for nitrogen discharge targets shown in **Table D.1-1.**

    a. If an IDWP Discharger demonstrates compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9** through ranch-level groundwater monitoring, the Discharger is no longer required to comply with nitrogen discharge targets. If ranch-level groundwater monitoring is later discontinued or shows that the Discharger is not in compliance with

the final receiving groundwater limits, the requirement to comply with nitrogen discharge targets will again apply.

b. The discharge of nitrogen in excess of the nitrogen discharge targets in **Table D.1-1** results in the following additional requirements: One year after the nitrogen discharge target is not met (by March 1 of the following year), IDWP Dischargers must seek additional education in irrigation and nutrient management and management practice effectiveness. Records of participation in continuing education must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

4. **Third-Party Alternative Compliance Pathway Eligibility:** IDWP Dischargers are not eligible to participate in the third-party alternative compliance pathway for groundwater protection.

5. **Enforcement:** IDWP Dischargers may be subject to enforcement, including but not limited to, CAOs requiring interim AWS or long-term drinking water solutions.

Monitoring and Reporting

6. Monitoring and reporting requirements for IDWP Dischargers depends on whether the Discharger demonstrated compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9**. Prior to demonstrating compliance, all the monitoring and reporting requirements described below apply. Once compliance has been demonstrated, the Discharger only performs the monitoring and reporting required to demonstrate continued compliance: either verified INMP Summary report data reporting or ranch-level groundwater quality monitoring and reporting, or other methods approved by the Executive Officer. All other monitoring and reporting required by the MRP outside of the IDWP compliance pathway still applies regardless of whether the IDWP Discharger has demonstrated compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit.

7. **INMP Certification and Verification:** IDWP Dischargers must annually submit a certified INMP section of the Farm Plan and an INMP Summary - AVR, in accordance with requirements for certifying and verifying INMP in this Order and with the verified INMP Summary report data requirements in the MRP. If compliance with **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9** is demonstrated using verified INMP Summary report data, the IDWP Discharger must continue this monitoring and reporting to demonstrate ongoing compliance. If compliance is demonstrated through other Executive Officer-approved methods, certified INMPs and verified INMP Summary report data are no longer required.

8. **Ranch-Level Root Zone Monitoring:** IDWP Dischargers must conduct annual ranch-level root zone monitoring capable of quantifying nitrate concentrations beneath the crop root zone and report all data in accordance with the schedule and requirements in the MRP. This requirement does not apply to Dischargers

that have demonstrated compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9.**

9. **Ranch-Level Groundwater Monitoring:** IDWP Dischargers must conduct ranch-level groundwater monitoring and report all data in accordance with the schedule and requirements in the MRP until they have demonstrated compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9**. If compliance is demonstrated using ranch-level groundwater monitoring, the IDWP Discharger must continue this monitoring to demonstrate ongoing compliance. If compliance is demonstrated through other Executive Officer-approved methods, ranch-level groundwater monitoring is no longer required**.**

10. **On-farm Well Construction Data:** IDWP Dischargers must provide well construction information for all on-farm domestic wells, dual-use wells, and irrigation supply wells located on the Discharger's ranch in accordance with the requirements and schedule defined in the MRP.

11. **On-Farm Domestic Well Monitoring**: IDWP Dischargers must conduct a second round of monitoring for all on-farm domestic and dual-use water supply wells sampling in accordance with the requirements and schedule defined in the MRP until they have demonstrated compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9**.

Section D.2. Alternative Water Supply Program Compliance Pathway

1. **AWSP Dischargers:** Dischargers participating in the AWSP compliance pathway are called AWSP Dischargers. AWSP Dischargers must participate in an AWSP implemented by an approved third-party administrator (AWSP administrator).

Compliance Deadlines and Nitrogen Discharge Targets

2. **Final Compliance Deadline:** By December 31, 2051, AWSP Dischargers must quantifiably demonstrate compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9.**

3. **Nitrogen Discharge Targets:** AWSP Dischargers must adhere to the compliance dates for nitrogen discharge targets shown in **Table C.1-3**, unless the performance-driven nitrogen discharge compliance dates and targets apply, as described below**.**

4. **Performance-Driven Nitrogen Discharge Targets:** If the AWSP Dischargers achieve the Administrative Milestones described in this Order by the corresponding due dates, AWSP Dischargers are subject to the performance-driven nitrogen discharge targets and associated compliance start dates shown in **Table D.2-1**. If a subsequent AWSP Administrative Milestone is not achieved

by the due date, AWSP Dischargers must adhere to the compliance dates for nitrogen discharge targets in **Table C.1-3.** unless and until milestones are achieved. The Executive Officer will determine if Administrative Milestones have been achieved by the relevant milestone due dates, based on monitoring and reporting submitted by AWSP Dischargers.

5. **Non-Compliance with Nitrogen Discharge Targets:** AWSP Dischargers that repeatedly exceed nitrogen discharge targets in **Table C.1-3** or **Table D.2-1**, depending on which targets apply, may be required to obtain additional education and/or Farm Plan INMP certification, as described in **Part 2, Section C.** If an AWSP Discharger does not complete the Farm Plan INMP certification and/or additional education, the Discharger will be required to comply with IDWP compliance pathway requirements.

State Water Board as Administrator

6. The State Water board may serve as an administrator on behalf of the AWSP Dischargers. If AWSP Dischargers choose the State Water Board as the administrator, this Order will be revised accordingly.

AWSP Administrator

7. **AWSP Administrator Definition:** The AWSP administrator is a third-party that fulfills the requirements of the AWSP compliance pathway on behalf of AWSP Dischargers. The requirements for the AWSP administrator are different and separate from the requirements for the third-party alternative compliance pathway for groundwater protection. Monitoring and reporting requirements for the AWSP administrator on behalf of AWSP Dischargers are in **MRP, Section D.2**.

8. **AWSP Administrator Requirements:** The AWSP administrator must assist AWSP Dischargers in complying with the requirements in **Part 2, Section A**, except for **paragraph 46.k**; the AWSP administrator is not expected to include additional continuing education requirements for the AWSP Dischargers above and beyond requirements already prescribed by this Order.

9. **No Approved Administrator:** If no AWSP administrator is approved by the Executive Officer **within 12 months** of the date of the adoption of this Order, Dischargers are required to comply with the IDWP compliance pathway requirements unless and until an AWSP administrator is approved and the Discharger has entered into an agreement with an approved AWSP administrator.

10. **Agreement with AWSP Administrator:** Dischargers may comply with the AWSP compliance pathway requirements by entering into an agreement with an AWSP administrator approved by the Executive Officer within the timeframes set forth in **Part 2, Section A**, **Third-Party Programs, paragraph 44**. Any such

agreement must comply with the requirements of State Water Board Order DWQ-2023-0081, including but not limited to the requirement to provide interim and long-term alternative water supplies, and be approved by the Executive Officer.

11. **Failure to Enter Agreement with Administrator:** Dischargers who do not elect to join and enter into an agreement with an approved third-party AWSP administrator by the timeframes set forth in **Part 2, Section A, paragraph 44,** must comply with the IDWP compliance pathway requirements.

12. **Compliance with AWSP Pathway Requirements:** An approved AWSP administrator may carry out program activities and administrative functions on behalf of participating AWSP Dischargers. Because the AWSP administrator is not an enrollee under this Order, participation in the AWSP does not transfer, diminish, or delegate any regulatory responsibility. Each AWSP Discharger remains fully responsible for meeting all requirements of the AWSP compliance pathway and for demonstrating compliance with this Order, regardless of the performance of the AWSP administrator.

13. **Consequences of Non-Performance for Dischargers:** If an AWSP administrator fails to achieve any AWSP milestone, reporting requirement, or work plan obligation established in this Order or in the MRP, AWSP Dischargers are out of compliance with AWSP pathway requirements unless and until they take corrective action and come into compliance with this Order. Corrective action may include entering into an agreement with a different approved AWSP administrator or implementing required AWSP pathway duties individually . The failure of an AWSP administrator to perform any task required by this Order does not relieve any Discharger of responsibility to comply with the requirements of this Order.

14. **Administrative Milestones:** The AWSP Administrative Milestones herein, and prescribed in the sections below, are requirements for AWSP Dischargers. AWSP Dischargers may be subject to enforcement or may be required to comply with IDWP pathway requirements if they fail to achieve the Administrative Milestones, and should therefore ensure that the AWSP administrator can fulfill all administrator responsibilities set forth in paragraph 16.

15. **AWSP Administrator Responsibilities:** AWSP administrative responsibilities will be fulfilled either by an approved AWSP administrator or their agent(s) (e.g., contractors, vendors, etc.) and include the following:

    a. Achieving Administrative Milestones;

    b. Adequately funding the AWSP;

    c. Conducting water quality sampling, a domestic well survey, and determining eligibility for interim alternative water supplies (AWS);

d. Provision of interim AWS;

e. Planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions;

f. Conducting public outreach and engagement; and

g. Timely completion of monitoring and reporting program requirements.

16. **Failure to Ensure Discharger Compliance:** An AWSP administrator's eligibility to serve may be revoked for failure to ensure AWSP Discharger compliance with the requirements in the MRP or this Order. If an AWSP administrator's eligibility is revoked, AWSP Dischargers that were previously served by the administrator must either comply with the IDWP compliance pathway requirements immediately or enter into an agreement with a new administrator by a deadline established by the Executive Officer.

17. **AWSP Administrator Criteria:** AWSP Dischargers shall select AWSP administrators who can ensure compliance with AWSP requirements. AWSP administrators must meet the following criteria:

    a. **Funding Eligibility:** The AWSP administrator will administer a program for interim AWS and/or long-term drinking water solutions. Accordingly, AWSP administrator(s) should be eligible to apply for and receive all forms of state and federal funding for drinking water solutions. This includes, but is not limited to, eligibility for funding from the State Water Board's Safe and Affordable Drinking Water fund, as well as other public grant, loan, and co-funding programs that support the development and implementation of interim AWS and long-term drinking water solutions.

    b. **Experience Implementing AWS:** The AWSP must include interim drinking water solutions, planning for long-term drinking water solutions, community engagement and outreach, and be able to implement water quality sampling program(s), among other things and as listed below. Therefore, Dischargers shall select an administrator who has experience with, or whose agents have experience with, the following:

        i. Planning and implementing both interim and long-term drinking water solutions.

        ii. Providing technical assistance related to the development of interim and long-term drinking water solutions, including any combination of administrative, technical, operational, legal, managerial, or community engagement services.

        iii. Implementing a water quality sampling program.

iv. Conducting community engagement and outreach with community members, including working in coordination with community-based organizations, to support the implementation of AWS projects.

v. Experience working with historically underserved populations, including disadvantaged communities, linguistically diverse groups, and communities of color.

vi. Implementing community engagement strategies that are inclusive and culturally responsive. These strategies should promote equitable access to program benefits and proactively identify and address barriers that may affect participation.

vii. Creating and maintaining public-facing data dashboards that will be used to display the results of water quality sampling and program implementation.

viii. The administrator must demonstrate sufficient technical, managerial, and financial capacity to successfully administer an interim AWSP for 10 years.

18. **Administrative Milestone for Administrator Proposal:** Within **12 months of adoption of this Order,** AWSP Dischargers submit a proposal to the Executive Officer for approval of an AWSP administrator.[9]

AWSP Funding and Associated Administrative Milestones

19. **Discharger Funded:** Consistent with the directive in the State Water Board Order WQ 2023-0081, the AWSP must be Discharger funded, at least in part.

20. **Dischargers Not Expected to Contribute Financially to AWS:** Certain Dischargers may already be contributing financially to the provision of interim AWS and/or long-term drinking water solutions outside of the AWSP. If these Dischargers choose to participate in the AWSP compliance pathway, they are subject to the requirements of the AWSP compliance pathway; however, it is the expectation of the Central Coast Water Board that these Dischargers will not be required to contribute financially toward the provision of interim AWS, long-term drinking water solutions, or associated planning and prioritization under the AWSP. Dischargers for whom this expectation applies must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Executive Officer, that one of the following conditions exists:

    a. The Discharger is already supplying replacement water pursuant to a cleanup and abatement order and can demonstrate progress toward implementing long-term solutions; or

[9] All dates are relative to the date the Order is adopted by the Central Coast Water Board.

b. The Discharger has entered into an agreement and is currently providing AWS to residents or water users that meets the residents' or water users' needs.

21. **Co-Funding:** To achieve funding requirements for addressing the need for interim AWS and long-term drinking water solutions, AWSP Dischargers may seek co-funding (e.g., grants and low-interest loans to supplement discharger contributions). Leveraging existing cost saving programs such as well testing and community-based outreach programs may offer additional opportunities to offset AWSP Discharger financial requirements.

22. **Funding Amounts:** The program must be funded in a manner that can adequately address the need for interim AWS and long-term drinking water solutions planning and prioritization. The Central Coast Water Board's *Assessment of Interim Drinking Water Needs and Costs in Central Coast Areas Affected by Agricultural Nitrate Groundwater Contamination* (Attachment D - Interim Need Assessment) forms the basis for estimating costs and the AWS need. These estimates may be updated periodically by the AWSP Dischargers, or their AWSP administrator, as described in **MRP, Section D.2.** Funding and AWS need estimates submitted by AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator must be approved by the Executive Officer before they can be used to inform funding and implementation Administrative Milestones.

23. **Funding Allocation:** If the funding received exceeds what is necessary to accomplish the goals of the AWSP requirements of this Order, those funds must be redirected towards the implementation of long-term drinking water solutions. This approach ensures that available resources are maximized efficiently and contribute to the overall success of the AWSP in both the short- and long-term.

24. **Operations and Maintenance Costs:** The AWSP will pay for the cost of operations and maintenance (O&M) of interim AWS unless and until this requirement is revised in a subsequent order.

25. **Administrative Milestones for Funding Interim AWS:** Funding acquired by the AWSP Dischargers must be sufficient to cover the cost of providing interim AWS and associated administrative costs, including but not limited to outreach and engagement and water quality testing. Unless otherwise noted, the need for interim AWS is based on either an Executive Officer approved Need Assessment Update Report submitted by Dischargers or, if no report has been approved, the Central Coast Water Board's Interim Need Assessment. AWSP Dischargers must achieve the funding Administrative Milestones below:

    a. **Two years from the date this Order is adopted:** funding to supply interim AWS to 15% of the domestic well and water system service connections that need them and 100% of the associated AWSP

administrative cost. Year two estimates are based on the Central Coast Water Board's Interim Need Assessment.

b. **Five years from the date this Order is adopted:** funding to supply interim AWS to 35% of the domestic well and water system service connections that need them and 100% of the associated AWSP administrative cost.

c. **Seven years from the date this Order is adopted:** funding to supply interim AWS to 65% of the domestic well and water system service connections that need them and 100% of the associated AWSP administrative cost.

d. **Ten years from the date this Order is adopted:** funding to supply interim AWS to 100% of the domestic well and water system service connections that need them and 100% of the associated AWSP administrative cost.

26. **Administrative Milestones for Funding Long-Term Drinking Water Solution Planning and Prioritization:** Funding acquired by the AWSP Dischargers must be sufficient to cover the cost of long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization. The need for long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization is based on either an Executive Officer approved Need Assessment Update Report submitted by Dischargers or, if no report has been approved, the Central Coast Water Board's Interim Need Assessment. AWSP Dischargers must achieve the funding Administrative Milestone below:

    a. **Five years from the date this Order is adopted:** funding to complete 100% of the planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions.

Water Quality Sampling and Program Eligibility

27. **Outreach Requirements:** The AWSP Dischargers or AWSP administrators, on behalf of AWSP dischargers, will conduct outreach to inform potentially eligible residents and water users about the water quality testing program and the availability of interim AWS. The outreach conducted will be consistent with the public outreach work plan required in the MRP.

28. **Water Quality Sampling Program:** AWSP Dischargers or AWSP administrators, on behalf of AWSP dischargers, must implement a water quality sampling program to determine if a domestic well, dual-use, or water system exceeds the MCL for nitrate. The water quality sampling program work plan and reporting requirements are described in **MRP, Section D.2.** The AWSP water quality sampling program is not responsible for sampling the quality of drinking water served by public water systems (PWSs) because these systems are already sampled by their purveyors pursuant to state drinking water laws. AWSP

Dischargers or AWSP administrators, on behalf of AWSP dischargers, are responsible for obtaining data from PWSs to determine whether those PWSs are compliant with state drinking water standards for nitrate.

29. **Self-Provided Interim AWS:** Residents or water users who have implemented their own AWS (e.g., by purchasing bottled water or installing their own point-of-use (POU) system) are eligible to receive water quality sampling and interim AWS from the AWSP if the domestic well (including dual-use wells), or water system meets the eligibility criteria described in paragraph 32.

30. **Co-Contaminant Sampling:** AWSP Dischargers or AWSP administrators, on behalf of AWSP Dischargers, are encouraged to obtain funding from SAFER[10] or other sources to conduct water quality testing for other contaminants of concern to inform selection of the appropriate AWS or long-term drinking water solutions.

31. **Determining Eligibility for Water Quality Sampling and AWSP Benefits:** Residents are eligible for water quality sampling if they are located within the agricultural impact extent boundary developed by the Central Coast Water Board using Central Coast Water Board's Agricultural Nitrate Groundwater Impact web map. If the domestic well or water system is within the agricultural impact extent boundary, and is not otherwise required to be monitored (e.g., on-farm domestic wells required to be monitored annually), the AWSP Dischargers will authorize nitrate sampling of the domestic well or water system source water. If the source water exceeds the MCL for nitrate or nitrate + nitrite, the domestic well or water system is eligible for benefits from the AWSP.

    a. **ILP On-Farm Well Sampling Results:** Results from domestic and dual-use wells sampled within the last one year and consistent with **MRP, Section C, On-Farm Domestic and Dual Use Wells** and **Table MRP-4** may be used to determine AWS eligibility.

    b. **Requests from Outside the Agricultural Groundwater Impact Extent:** Residents or water users served by domestic wells or water system(s) outside the agricultural groundwater impact extent may submit a request to AWSP Dischargers, or the AWSP administrator, to consider the domestic well, dual-use well, or water system for water quality sampling and AWS. Wells within 5 miles of irrigated agriculture may be considered for water quality sampling and provision of AWS. If the Executive Officer determines that there is sufficient evidence indicating that irrigated agricultural operations have caused or contributed to an exceedance of the MCL for nitrate (e.g., hydrogeologic investigations, geochemical data, etc.), AWSP Dischargers must authorize water quality sampling. If the

[10] SAFER refers the State Water Board's Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience program.

sample result exceeds the MCL for nitrate, the domestic well, dual-use well, or water system is eligible for AWS from AWSP Dischargers.

c. **Appealing the Executive Officer's Findings:** If AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator dispute that irrigated agricultural operations did not cause or contribute to a nitrate MCL exceedance at a domestic well, dual-use well, or water system, AWSP Dischargers may submit a written request to the Executive Officer seeking a determination that interim AWS should not be provided for that location. The request must include information demonstrating that irrigated agricultural operations did not cause or contribute to the exceedance.

   Upon review of the submitted information, the Executive Officer will determine if there is sufficient evidence to indicate that agricultural operations did not cause or contributed to the exceedance. If the Executive Officer determines that agricultural operations did not cause or contribute to the exceedance, AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator shall deny water quality sampling and provision of interim AWS for the affected residence or water system.

d. **Requests by Non-Landowners:** If the resident or water user that requests well testing is not the owner of the property where the well testing is to occur or where the well water is served, AWSP Dischargers or the AWSP administrator will request the resident's or water user's oral or written permission to work with the Central Coast Water Board to address the issue.

   AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator may notify landowners as part of the application process of California Assembly Bill 2454 (Regular Session 2023-2024), which amended the Health and Safety Code to require owners of domestic wells that serve rental properties to participate in available well testing programs. (See Health and Safety Code, section 116681, 116688.)

32. **Water Quality Testing Results.** Residents and/or water users and landowners will receive copies of well testing results in writing, regardless of the nitrate concentration. Depending on the concentration of nitrate as nitrogen (as N) that is detected, AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator must take the following actions:

    a. Notify the resident(s) and/or water user(s) and landowner(s) and provide the laboratory analytical results. Notification must also include information regarding health risks associated with all tested parameters listed in the laboratory report and be provided in the resident's and/or water user's preferred language to sufficiently inform residents and water users.

b. **When Nitrate or Nitrate + Nitrite is Above the MCL (greater than 10 mg/L):** Notify the resident(s) and/or water user(s) and landowner(s) (if applicable) within 48 hours of receiving laboratory results and will immediately begin coordinating with the resident(s) (and landowner(s) (if needed) or water system representative to implement an interim AWS.

c. **When Nitrate or Nitrate + Nitrite is at or Between 7.5-10 mg/L:** Notify the resident(s) and/or water user(s) and landowner(s) (if applicable) within 5 days of receiving laboratory results. Provide recurring annual opportunities for well retesting, at no cost to the resident, water users, or water system, until the nitrate concentration is <7.5 mg/L Nitrate as N. One year after the initial well test or last offer to provide a retest, AWSP Dischargers will attempt to communicate with the resident, water user, landowner, or water system representative, via a letter by mail, short message service (sms)/text message, email, and/or phone, to provide an opportunity for follow-up well testing. If the resident, water user, landowner, or water system representative does not respond within 60 days, AWSP Dischargers must make a second attempt to communicate with the resident, water user, landowner, or water system representative, to provide an opportunity for follow-up well testing. If there is still no response, then AWSP Dischargers may end the outreach effort for that year and will document its efforts to contact the resident, water user, landowner, or water system representative. If there is no response to two consecutive annual retesting offers, then AWSP Dischargers may stop the outreach effort for annual retesting opportunities and will document its efforts to contact to the resident, water user, landowner, or water system representative.

d. **When Nitrate or Nitrate + Nitrite is Below 7.5 mg/L:** Notify the resident(s) and/or water user(s) and landowner(s) (if applicable) within 10 days of receiving laboratory results. Provide recurring once-per-5 years opportunities for well retesting at no cost to the resident, water user, landowner, or water system. If requested by the resident, five years after the previous well test, AWSP Dischargers will make an attempt to communicate with the resident or landowner, via a letter by mail, sms/text message, email, and/or phone, to provide an opportunity for follow-up well test. If there is no response within 60 days, AWSP Dischargers will make a second attempt to communicate with the resident, water user, landowner, or water system representative. If there is still no response, the AWSP administrator may stop the outreach effort for that once-per-five-year opportunity and will document its efforts to contact the resident, water user, landowner, or water system representative.

33. **Domestic Well Survey:** AWSP Dischargers, or the AWSP administrator on behalf of Dischargers, will conduct a comprehensive survey to identify all

domestic wells and dual-use wells within the approved AWSP administrator service area and within the irrigated agricultural groundwater impact extent.

34. **Administrative Milestones for Water Quality Sampling :** AWSP Dischargers, or the AWSP administrator on behalf of Dischargers, must achieve the water quality sampling Administrative Milestones below:

    a. **Two Years from the Date this Order is Adopted:** Establish a water quality sampling program.

    b. **Three Years from the Date this Order is Adopted:** Complete the domestic well survey.

    c. Five Years from the Date this Order is Adopted: Complete testing of all identified, eligible domestic wells, dual-use, and state small water systems for nitrate, except where a resident or landowner (as applicable) has refused testing, either explicitly or by failing to respond to repeated outreach attempts.

Implementation of Alternative Water Supplies

35. The provision of interim AWS and selection of long-term drinking water solutions during the long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization process must be guided by:

    a. The selection criteria in **Part 2, Section D.2**, **paragraph 32**;

    b. The definitions in **Attachment C**; and

    c. The prioritization strategy described in the Executive Officer approved Funding and Implementation Plans, as described in the **MRP, Section D.2.**

36. **Selection Criteria:** The Central Coast Water Board is not requiring implementation of any particular solution in any particular case but will review project implementation and public feedback when considering the appropriateness of solutions implemented over time. Selection of interim AWS and long-term drinking water solutions must be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of each domestic well, dual-use well, or water system. The following factors must be considered when determining the most appropriate interim AWS or long-term drinking water solution:

    a. **Resident or Water User Preferences:** The preferences of residents served by the well or water system must be considered and prioritized where feasible.

    b. **Water Quality Characteristics:** The chemical composition and concentration of contaminants in the source water must inform selection. If

contaminants in the source water pose an inhalation or dermal exposure risk, the interim AWS or long-term drinking water solution must also address these contaminants.

c. **Cost Considerations:** The cost of the proposed AWS or long-term drinking water solution must be evaluated in relation to:

   i. The cost-effectiveness of other viable options, and

   ii. The number of residents or water users currently lacking access to drinking water that complies with the MCLs for nitrate or nitrate + nitrite.

d. **Resident and Water User Prioritization Strategy:** The prioritization framework for distribution of interim AWS to domestic wells, dual-use wells, and water systems, developed in the interim funding and implementation work plan (**MRP, Section D.2**), must guide provision of interim AWS.

e. **Equity and Justice Considerations:** Interim AWS provision and selection of long-term drinking water solutions during planning and prioritization must consider and should reflect principles of equity and environmental justice, including fair access for historically underserved communities.

f. **Other Relevant Factors:** Additional site-specific or community-specific considerations may be included as appropriate to ensure effective and equitable AWSP implementation.

37. **Decentralized Treatment:** Eligible residents may request decentralized treatment systems such as POU or point-of-entry (POE). In some cases, due to site-specific circumstances, decentralized treatment systems may not be viable due to, among other things: inadequate incoming pressure to the treatment system; nitrate levels in excess of 20 mg/L (Nitrate as N) that limit the effectiveness of the treatment system to treat the water to a safe level; or presence of other contaminants besides nitrate that limit the effectiveness of and/or are not treatable through the treatment system. In such cases, AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator will coordinate with the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and the decentralized treatment service providers, as needed, to assist with decentralized treatment system technical issues. If the technical problems cannot be resolved, the residence may receive a different interim AWS.

    a. **Process for Requesting Decentralized Treatment Systems:** Where a decentralized treatment system is a feasible interim AWS option, AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator will work with the resident to install the treatment system and develop a service plan (detailed below). If

the resident is not the landowner, the process to install and maintain the treatment system will require written approval of the landowner. In the event the landowner does not provide consent to install and maintain the POU and/or POE system, AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator will provide drinking water through an alternative source, such as the bottled water delivery option.

b. **System Installation and Service Plan (O&M):** After landowner approval and necessary signed agreements are obtained, the AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator will coordinate with the resident regarding installation of a decentralized treatment system at the residence. The AWSP must provide O&M unless and until this Order is revised. The service plan will include: (a) installation of the treatment system; (b) initial and follow-up water testing to ensure the system is removing nitrate and other co-contaminants as applicable down to safe levels as expected; and (c) periodic maintenance of the treatment system (as required by the manufacturer, which may require that the vendor enter the home). If the resident does not allow required maintenance and monitoring of the treatment system to occur, then AWSP Dischargers may modify or remove the approved interim drinking water option but must document the reasoning for doing so and offer alternate interim AWS options.

c. **Monitoring of System Effectiveness:** Additionally, decentralized treatment systems require periodic monitoring to verify that they are effectively treating nitrate and other possible co-contaminants as intended. If a treatment system is not effectively treating these constituents, AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator will determine whether an alternative treatment system could be installed or the resident will be switched to bottled water delivery immediately and the individual home-based treatment system will be removed from the residence at no cost to the resident.

38. **Administrative Milestones for Implementation of Interim AWS:** AWSP Dischargers, or the AWSP administrator on behalf of Dischargers, must achieve the following Administrative Milestones for implementation of interim AWS. The need for interim AWS is based on either an Executive Officer approved Need Assessment Update Report submitted by Dischargers or, if no report has been approved, the Central Coast Water Board's Interim Need Assessment:

    a. **Three Years from the Date this Order is Adopted:** Offer interim AWS to 15% of the service connections that are anticipated to need them.

    b. **Five Years from the Date this Order is Adopted**: Offer interim AWS to 45% of the service connections that are anticipated to need them.

c. **Seven Years from the Date this Order is Adopted**: Offer interim AWS to 75% of the service connections that are anticipated to need them.

d. **Ten Years from the Date this Order is Adopted**: Offer interim AWS to 100% of the service connections that are anticipated to need them.

Long-Term Drinking Water Solution Planning and Prioritization

39. To facilitate the development of long-term drinking water solutions and more accurately forecast the cost of implementing these solutions, AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator must conduct planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solution implementation for PWSs, domestic wells, and state small water systems. To the extent possible, this planning and prioritization will proceed in parallel with provision of interim AWS, using the information collected, lessons learned, and relationships developed with impacted residents and communities in those efforts to inform development of long-term drinking water solutions. The Long-Term Drinking Water Solution Planning and Prioritization Completion Report must be developed in accordance with the requirements in the MRP. Long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization is defined in **Attachment C**.

40. **Administrative Milestones for Implementation of Public Water System Long-Term Drinking Water Solution Planning and Prioritization:** The AWSP Dischargers, or the AWSP administrator on behalf of Dischargers, must achieve the following Administrative Milestones for planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions at PWSs. The need for long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization is based on either an Executive Officer approved Need Assessment Update Report submitted by dischargers or, if no report has been approved, the Central Coast Water Board's Interim Need Assessment:

    a. **Seven Years from the Date this Order is Adopted:** Complete planning and prioritization for 25% of PWSs that need long-term drinking water solutions and initiate planning and prioritization for 100% of PWSs that need them.

    b. **Ten Years from the Date this Order is Adopted:** Complete long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization for 100% of PWSs that need long-term solutions.

41. **Administrative Milestones for Implementation of Domestic Well and State Small Water System Long-Term Drinking Water Solution Planning and Prioritization:** AWSP Dischargers, or the AWSP administrator on behalf of Dischargers, must achieve the following Administrative Milestones for planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions for domestic wells, dual-use wells, and state small water systems. Planning and prioritization of long-

term solutions is defined in **Attachment C.** The need (i.e., the number of domestic wells, state small water systems, and public water systems) for long-term drinking water solution planning and prioritization is based on either an Executive Officer approved Need Assessment Update Report submitted by dischargers or, if no report has been approved, the Central Coast Water Board's Interim Need Assessment:

a. **Five Years from the Date this Order is Adopted:** Complete planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions to identify focus areas.

b. **Ten Years from the Date this Order is Adopted:** Complete planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions.

Co-Contaminants

42. **Water Quality Compliance:** The quality of water served by an interim or long-term solution must comply with all drinking water standards identified in CCR, title 22, chapter 15, Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations.

43. **Water Supply System Eligibility:** The presence of co-contaminants (i.e., contaminants other than nitrate that exceed applicable MCLs) in the source water of a water supply system does not disqualify the system from receiving benefits under the AWSP, provided that nitrate contamination attributable to agricultural operations exceeds the MCL.

44. **Proportional Responsibility and Cost-Sharing:** If water produced by a system eligible for AWSP benefits contains co-contaminants, AWSP Dischargers are responsible only for covering the cost of providing interim solutions necessary to address nitrate contamination (e.g., POU treatment or bottled water). If co-contaminants require a more protective solution—such as point-of-entry treatment to mitigate dermal or inhalation exposure—the incremental cost above what is needed for nitrate may need to be funded through other sources and AWSP Dischargers are responsible to provide some form of interim AWS until comprehensive solutions that address co-contaminants are implemented.

    Costs associated with addressing co-contaminants may be funded or co-funded through other sources, unless the co-contaminant can be addressed by the same solution that addresses nitrate without additional cost. In such cases, AWSP Dischargers are responsible for the cost of the solution.

Enforcement Relief

45. **CAOs:** The Central Coast Water Board will not issue new CAOs requiring interim AWS or long-term drinking water solutions to AWSP Dischargers for groundwater contamination by nitrate from irrigated agricultural operations, provided they remain members in good standing with an AWSP administrator

and are in compliance with all the requirements and compliance schedules set forth in this Order.

Monitoring and Reporting

46. **AWSP Status Updates:** AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator must submit annual reports, need assessment update reports, provide annual updates to the Central Coast Water Board, and report on planning and prioritization of long-term drinking water solutions.

47. **Work Plans:** AWSP Dischargers or their AWSP administrator must submit funding and implementation, public outreach, and water quality sampling work plans.

48. **Public Access to Data and Information:** Domestic well and water system water quality sampling results must be uploaded to GeoTracker and other information relevant to the implementation of the AWSP must be available via public-facing websites, as described in the MRP.

49. **AWSP Membership:** The AWSP administrator must provide a list of AWSP Dischargers subject to the administrator's agreement at a frequency determined by the Executive Officer.

Section D.2.A. Third-Party Alternative Compliance Pathway for Groundwater Protection

1. **Prerequisite for Participation in Third-Party Alternative Compliance Pathway:** Dischargers enrolled in the AWSP compliance pathway may participate in the third-party alternative compliance pathway for groundwater protection. Dischargers in the IDWP compliance pathway are not eligible to participate in the third-party alternative compliance pathway.

2. Dischargers that are members in good standing in the third-party alternative compliance pathway program are subject to the provisions of this **Part 2, Section D.2.A** and **MRP, Part 2, Section E**, unless otherwise stated. For purposes of this section, such Dischargers are referred to as "participating Dischargers."

   Participating Dischargers:

   a. Are subject to fertilizer nitrogen application targets (if applicable), and nitrogen discharge (A-R and future A/R ratio) targets, which if exceeded result in consequences outlined in this **Section D.2.A**, **paragraphs 11 and 12**.

   b. Must comply with the final receiving groundwater limit **in Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9**.

3. Prior to the initiation of the work plan process outlined below and in the MRP for this third-party alternative compliance pathway program, entities wishing to implement the third-party alternative compliance pathway program described in this **Part 2, Section D.2.A**. must submit a third-party alternative compliance pathway program proposal consistent with the third-party program requirements outlined in **Part 2, Section A** of this Order, as well as the request for proposal process and associated third-party program expectations document forthcoming after Order adoption. For purposes of this section, the entity approved to implement the third-party alternative compliance pathway is referred to as the approved third-party alternative compliance pathway program administrator.

4. Participating Dischargers must develop and implement an Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) that addresses groundwater. The INMP is a section of the Farm Plan and must be maintained in the Farm Plan and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request. Summary information from the INMP must be submitted in the INMP Summary report. At a minimum, the elements of the INMP related to groundwater and surface water protection for participating Dischargers in a third-party program must include:

    a. Monitoring and recordkeeping necessary to submit complete and accurate reports, including the ACF, TNA report, and INMP Summary report.

    b. Planning and management practice implementation and assessment that results in compliance with the groundwater protection area targets to be determined and approved by the Executive Officer.

    c. Descriptions of all irrigation, nutrient, and salinity management practices implemented and assessed on the ranch.

Quantifiable Milestones and Time Schedules

5. Third-party alternative compliance pathway participating Dischargers are subject to the compliance dates established in the AWSP compliance pathway. If the third-party administrator's alternative compliance pathway workplan for revised numeric nitrogen discharge targets and time schedules is approved by the Executive Officer, Dischargers must comply with those targets and time schedules.

Nitrogen Discharge (A-R) and A/R Ratio Targets

6. Participating Dischargers must not discharge nitrogen at rates greater than the **targets** established in the AWSP compliance pathway. Compliance with nitrogen discharge targets is assessed annually for the entire ranch using INMP Summary report information. All Dischargers that are members in good standing in the third-party alternative compliance pathway program are subject to the nitrogen discharge targets and compliance dates established in the AWSP compliance pathway. If the third-party administrator's alternative compliance

pathway workplan for revised numeric nitrogen discharge targets and time schedule is approved by the Executive Officer, Dischargers must comply with those targets and time schedules.

7. Participating Dischargers that discharge nitrogen in excess of either: a) targets established in the AWSP compliance pathway, or b) alternative nitrogen discharge targets approved by the Executive Officer one year after the compliance date are considered outliers. These Dischargers are subject to follow-up by the approved third-party alternative compliance pathway program administrator, which could include additional education and/or implementation of management practices contained in the grower's Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan.

8. Participating Dischargers that discharge nitrogen in excess of the following: a) targets established in the AWSP compliance pathway or b) alternative nitrogen discharge targets approved by the Executive Officer for a two-year running average are considered outliers. These Dischargers must obtain annual INMP certification by a qualified professional until nitrogen discharge targets are achieved for a two-year running average. The INMP certification must include the certification language outlined in **Part 2, Section C**.

9. Participating Dischargers that discharge nitrogen in excess of future established multi-year A/R ratio targets one year after the established compliance dates are considered outliers and are subject to follow-up by the approved third-party alternative compliance pathway program administrator, which could include additional education and/or implementation of management practices contained in the growers Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan, and/or annual INMP certification by a qualified professional, implementing additional or improved management practices, and increased monitoring or reporting, or both monitoring and reporting until multi-year A/R ratio targets are achieved for a two-year running average. The Farm Plan INMP certification must include the certification language outlined in **Part 2, Section C.**

Groundwater Protection Areas, Formulas, Values, and Targets

10. The approved third-party alternative compliance pathway program administrator, on behalf of its participating Dischargers, must develop and submit incremental 35%, 70%, and 100% work plans for Executive Officer approval, as described in the MRP. The 35% and 70% work plans will be subject to Executive Officer approval following a 30-day written public comment period and a public meeting to receive public comments and board input.

11. The incremental draft and final work plans must include the following:

    a. Explicitly defined objectives and scientific justification for all proposed groundwater protection (GWP) areas, formulas, values, collective

groundwater protection numeric interim and final targets, and a compliance time schedule.

b. Scientific justification in support of the proposed GWP areas with respect to, but not limited to, geology, hydrogeology, groundwater basin and subbasin areas, recharge areas, land uses, cropping patterns, and potential membership coverage by acreage and number of members. The proposed GWP areas, formula, values, and collective interim and final targets must be tied together and scaled in a way that will allow for the effective evaluation of water quality and beneficial use protection and compliance with GWP interim and final targets on both a collective and individual basis.

c. A program to assess and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the third-party alternative compliance pathway program's collective numeric interim and final targets in achieving tangible groundwater quality improvements over time at the individual GWP area scale. The assessment and evaluation program must be scaled – spatially and temporally – in coordination with the regional groundwater quality trends monitoring program described in **Part 2, Section C** of the third-party program over time.

d. Criteria and associated follow-up actions or consequences that the third-party alternative compliance pathway program administrator will implement if individual participating Dischargers do not meet collective numeric interim and final targets, and third-party program membership eligibility requirements.

e. A final time schedule for achieving groundwater protection numeric interim and final targets. The time schedule must result in compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit requirements in **Part 2, Section C**, **paragraph 9**.

12. The final work plans must be approved by the Executive Officer prior to implementation. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plans must be implemented.

13. Compliance with the collective numeric interim and final targets for a GWP area shall be determined by aggregating data from participating Dischargers within a GWP area to determine if the combined nitrogen discharge is achieving collective compliance with the GWP Area numeric interim and final targets.

14. Although compliance with GWP collective numeric interim and final targets is assessed using the combined nitrogen discharge of participating Dischargers in a GWP area, GWP collective numeric interim and final targets must be designed such that there is a clear and quantifiable means of assessing individual ranch

level contribution to the success or failure of complying with the GWP area collective numeric interim and final targets.

15. Participating Dischargers in a GWP area that exceed the GWP collective numeric interim or final targets by 20% or more, as evaluated individually and on an annual basis, are subject to follow-up by the approved third-party alternative compliance pathway program administrator, which could include additional education.

Monitoring and Reporting

16. Participating Dischargers must submit ACF, TNA, and INMP Summary information according to requirements outlined in **Part 2, Section C**, and as described in the MRP.

17. Participating Dischargers must submit ACF, TNA, and INMP Summary information accordingto the groundwater phase assigned to each ranch. Groundwater phases are outlined in **Part 2, Section C**.

18. Participating Dischargers must submit groundwater monitoring and reporting information according to requirements outlined in **Part 2, Section C** and as described in the MRP, either individually or as part of a third-party program.

Part 2, Section C.3. Surface Water Protection

Priority Areas (Individual)

1. Ranches are assigned the Surface Water Priority area of the HUC-8 watershed where the ranch is located based on the relative level of water quality, beneficial use impairment and risk to water quality. All ranches are assigned a Surface Water Priority of 1, 2, 3, or 4. Surface Water Priority Area 1 areas represent greater water quality impairment and higher risk to water quality relative to Surface Water Priority Areas 2, 3, and 4.

2. The follow-up surface receiving water implementation requirements for surface water protection are based on the surface water priority areas, listed in **Table C.3-1** and shown on the map in **Figure C.3-1**.

3. In the event that a ranch spans multiple Surface Water Priority areas, the ranch will either be assigned the earlier priority or will be assigned the priority of the watershed or drainage unit that the ranch drains or discharges to, if specific discharge information is provided to the Central Coast Water Board.

4. The Surface Water Priority assigned to each ranch will be displayed in the ranch eNOI in GeoTracker.

Priority Areas (Third-Party Program)

5. Ranches that are enrolled as part of an approved third-party follow-up surface receiving water implementation program are assigned the third-party program Surface Water Priority of high priority, medium priority, or low priority where the ranch is located, as shown in **Table C.3-1.3P** and the map shown in **Figure C-3.1.3P**.

6. In the event that a ranch spans multiple third-party program Surface Water Priority areas, the ranch will either be assigned the earlier priority or will be assigned the priority of the watershed or drainage unit that the ranch drains or discharges to, if specific discharge information is provided to the Central Coast Water Board.

7. The third-party program Surface Water Priority assigned to each ranch will be displayed in the ranch eNOI in GeoTracker.

Irrigation and Nutrient Management

8. Dischargers must develop and implement an Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) that addresses both groundwater and surface water. This section applies to the surface water related INMP requirements and the groundwater related INMP requirements are contained within **Part 2, Section C**. The INMP is a section of the Farm Plan, must be maintained in the Farm Plan (see **Part 2, Section B** and **paragraph 12**, below), and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request. Summary information from the INMP must be submitted in the ACF, as described in the MRP.

Pesticide Management

9. Dischargers must develop and implement a Pesticide Management Plan (PMP). The PMP is a section of the Farm Plan, must be maintained in the Farm Plan (see **Part 2, Section B** and **paragraph 12,** below), and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request. Summary information from the PMP must be submitted in the ACF, as described in the MRP.

Sediment and Erosion Management

10. Dischargers must develop and implement a Sediment and Erosion Management Plan (SEMP). The SEMP is a section of the Farm Plan, must be maintained in the Farm Plan (see **Part 2, Section B** and **paragraph 12,** below), and submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request. Summary information from the SEMP must be submitted in the ACF, as described in the MRP.

Impermeable Surfaces

11. Ranches with either 50 to 100 percent of fields covered by impermeable surfaces (defined in Attachment C of this Order), or with greater than or equal to

22,500 square feet (0.5 acre) of impermeable surfaces must manage stormwater discharge duration, rate, and volume as described below.

a. Stormwater discharge intensity from fields with impermeable surfaces must not exceed the stormwater discharge intensity from equivalent permeable field area for any storm event up to and including the 10-year storm event. The *Santa Barbara Urban Hydrograph Method* [11] and the *Rational Method* [12] are two methods for determining the stormwater discharge intensity match, however other similar methods to determine stormwater discharge intensity may be used.

b. Stormwater discharge volume from fields with impermeable surfaces must not exceed the stormwater discharge volume from equivalent permeable field area for any storm event up to and including the 95th percentile, 24-hour storm event. The *Curve Number Method* [13] is a method for determining the stormwater discharge volume match, however other similar methods to determined stormwater discharge volume may be used.

c. Description and time schedules of management practices, treatment, and/or control measures implemented to meet design storm requirements and mitigate for increased stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces must be kept in the Farm Plan. Methods for assessing the effectiveness of each management practice, treatment, and/or control measure include calculation of peak and runoff volumes, visual inspection, photo documentation, and local precipitation event data, however other storm event measurement types and recordkeeping that determine the effectiveness of management practices may be used.

Farm Plan

12. At a minimum, the elements of the Farm Plan related to surface water protection must include:

a. Monitoring and recordkeeping necessary to submit complete and accurate reports, including the ACF.

b. Planning and management practice implementation and assessment that results in compliance with the surface water limits in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and

[11] The Santa Barbara Urban Hydrograph Method is based on the curve number approach and is useful for sheet flow over a plane surface, called overland flow.

[12] The Rational Method is used to determine peak discharge from runoff in a given area.

[13] The Curve Number Method was developed by the Soil Conservation Service to estimate runoff from rainfall on agricultural fields and provides runoff depth that can be used to calculate runoff volume.

toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity that apply to a ranch based on the ranch location.

c. Descriptions of all management practices implemented on the ranch, as follows:

   i. All irrigation, nutrient, and salinity management practices (i.e., INMP).

   ii. All pesticide management practices (i.e., PMP), including pesticide application characteristics (e.g., timing, formulations, wind, and rainfall monitoring, etc.) and any integrated pest management (IPM) practices implemented (e.g., scouting, beneficial insects, etc.).

   iii. All sediment, erosion, irrigation, stormwater, road, agricultural drainage pump, and impermeable surface management practices (i.e., SEMP).

Quantifiable Milestones and Time Schedules

13. Dischargers in an area **with an established TMDL** (**Figure C.3-2** for Nutrient TMDL areas, **Figure C.3-3** for Pesticide and Toxicity TMDL areas, and **Figure C.3-4** for Sediment TMDL areas) for a pollutant must not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the pollutant's surface receiving water numeric limit in **Table C.3-2** for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** for sediment in accordance with the compliance dates specified in the applicable table.

14. Dischargers in an area **without an established TMDL** for a pollutant must not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the pollutant's surface receiving water numeric limit in **Table C.3-3** for nutrients, **Table C-3.5** for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-7** for turbidity in accordance with the compliance dates specified in the applicable table.

15. The surface receiving water numeric limits in **Table C.3-3** for nutrients, **Table C-3.5** for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-7** for turbidity, apply to all Dischargers unless a specific surface receiving water numeric limit based on a TMDL in **Table C.3-2** for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** for sediment applies to a Discharger.

16. Dischargers in areas where the water quality for a pollutant is better (i.e., of higher quality) than the applicable limit in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity must

not cause or contribute to an increase of that pollutant in receiving waters, except as consistent with the antidegradation findings of this Order.

17. The discharge of pollutants from a ranch that cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable limits after the compliance date in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity may result in additional requirements, including obtaining additional education, implementing additional or improved management practices, follow-up monitoring and reporting, ranch-level surface discharge monitoring and reporting, and progressive enforcement actions.

Monitoring and Reporting

18. Dischargers must conduct **surface receiving water quality trends monitoring and reporting**, either individually or as part of a third-party effort, as described in the MRP. This requirement applies to all Dischargers enrolled in this Order, regardless of whether there is a surface waterbody on or adjacent to the ranch.

    a. Dischargers who elect to perform surface receiving water quality trends monitoring and reporting as part of a **third-party effort** must form or join a third-party. The third-party must submit a work plan for Executive Officer review by the dates and covering the surface water priority areas specified in the MRP. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Officer prior to implementation. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP.

    b. Dischargers who elect to perform surface receiving water quality trends monitoring and reporting **individually** must submit a work plan for Executive Officer review by the dates and covering the surface water priority areas specified in the MRP. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Officer prior to implementation. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP.

    c. The work plan must include applicable monitoring for the pollutants in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity and must describe the actions that will be taken to achieve the limits in the tables.

    d. The work plan must explicitly describe how the surface receiving water quality trends monitoring program will evaluate surface receiving water

quality trends over time and assess the impacts of agricultural discharges on surface receiving water quality.

19. Dischargers must develop and implement a **follow-up surface receiving water implementation work plan**, either individually or as part of a third-party effort, as described in the MRP. The work plan due date is based on the surface water priority area of the ranch. This requirement applies to all Dischargers enrolled in this Order, regardless of whether there is a surface waterbody on or adjacent to the ranch.

    a. Dischargers who elect to develop and implement follow-up surface receiving water implementation work plan as part of a **third-party effort** must join or form a third-party. The third-party must submit a work plan on behalf of participating Dischargers for Executive Officer review by the dates specified below, based on the third-party program surface water priority area, as defined in **Table C.3-1.3P** of the Order. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Officer. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP. Dischargers who elect to develop and implement follow-up surface receiving water implementation work plan as part of a third-party effort **will not be subject to ranch-level surface discharge monitoring and reporting**.

        i. March 1, 2024 for High Priority areas

        ii. March 1, 2026 for Medium Priority areas

        iii. March 1, 2028 for Low Priority and All Other areas

    b. Dischargers who elect to develop and implement follow-up surface receiving water implementation work plan **individually** must submit a work plan for Executive Officer review by the dates specified below, based on the ranch's surface water priority area, as defined in **Table C.3-1** of the Order. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Officer. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP. Dischargers with ranches located in areas where surface receiving water monitoring shows an exceedance of an applicable surface receiving water numeric limit in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity after the applicable compliance deadline **may be subject to ranch-level surface discharge monitoring and reporting**.

        i. March 1, 2023 for Surface Water Priority 1 areas

ii. March 1, 2024 for Surface Water Priority 2 areas

iii. March 1, 2025 for Surface Water Priority 3 areas

iv. March 1, 2026 for Surface Water Priority 4 areas

c. The work plan must explicitly include surface receiving water numeric interim quantifiable milestones and follow-up actions, such as outreach, education, and management practice implementation and assessment, and, where applicable for pollutant source identification and abatement, additional surface receiving water monitoring locations. Surface receiving water numeric quantifiable milestones include numeric interim quantifiable milestones for relevant constituents (e.g., pollutant load or concentration) and numeric interim quantifiable milestones for management practices implemented that confirm progress towards reducing the discharge of relevant constituents (e.g., volume of discharge water diverted to treatment systems, treatment system pollutant reduction, distance of riparian area improvements, acres no longer receiving conventional pesticide applications).

d. The work plan must explicitly describe the implementation measures that will be taken to reduce the discharge of relevant pollutants and achieve the applicable surface receiving water numeric limits by the compliance dates in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity.

e. Prior to the applicable compliance dates in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity.

f. The work plan must be explicitly designed and implemented to address the level of water quality impairment identified through surface receiving water monitoring. Work plans for areas with persistent exceedances of the surface water limits in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity must explicitly identify follow-up actions to restore degraded areas and meet surface receiving water numeric limits (e.g., surface receiving water numeric interim quantifiable milestones, outreach, education, management practice implementation and assessment) and additional surface receiving water monitoring locations for pollutant source

identification and abatement. Work plans for areas that are already achieving the surface water limits in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity must explicitly identify actions to be taken to protect the high-quality areas (e.g., surface receiving water numeric interim quantifiable milestones, outreach and education). Surface receiving water numeric quantifiable milestones include numeric interim quantifiable milestones for relevant constituents (e.g., pollutant load or concentration) and numeric interim quantifiable milestones for management practices implemented that confirm progress towards reducing the discharge of relevant constituents (e.g., volume of discharge water diverted to treatment systems, treatment system pollutant reduction, distance of riparian area improvements, acres no longer receiving conventional pesticide applications).

20. When required by the Executive Officer, based on surface receiving water quality data or significant and repeated exceedance of the surface receiving water quality limits in **Table C.3-2** (TMDL areas) and **Table C.3-3** (non-TMDL areas) for nutrients, **Table C.3-4** (TMDL areas) and **Table C-3.5** (non-TMDL areas) for pesticides and toxicity, and **Table C.3-6** (TMDL areas) for sediment and **Table C.3-7** (non-TMDL areas) for turbidity, Dischargers must conduct **ranch-level surface water discharge monitoring and reporting,** as described in the MRP. Water Board staff will coordinate with Dischargers prior to the Executive Officer invoking this requirement to determine if non-compliance is the result of unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances and to provide the Discharger with 90-day advanced notice of the forthcoming requirement. Dischargers can comply with this requirement either individually or as part of a third-party effort.

    a. Dischargers who elect to conduct ranch-level discharge monitoring and reporting as part of a **third-party effort** must join or form a third-party. The third-party must submit a work plan on behalf of participating Dischargers for Executive Officer review. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Officer. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP.

    b. Dischargers who elect to conduct ranch-level discharge monitoring and reporting **individually** must submit a work plan for Executive Officer review. The work plan must be approved by the Executive Officer. Once approved by the Executive Officer, the work plan must be implemented. The work plan must include a SAP and QAPP, as described in the MRP.

c. All Dischargers must still report on nutrient, pesticide, and sediment and erosion control management practice implementation and assessment electronically in the ACF, as described in the MRP.

d. Ranch-level surface discharge monitoring may be discontinued with the approval of the Executive Officer when the Discharger comes into compliance with the surface receiving water quality limits, or the discharge has otherwise ceased.

21. Dischargers whose ranches have impermeable surfaces must report on stormwater management practice implementation and assessment electronically in the ACF, as described in the MRP.

22. Dischargers with waterbodies on or adjacent to their ranch must measure and report the current riparian area (average width and length, in feet) in the ACF, as described in the MRP.

Part 2, Section D. Additional Requirements and Prohibitions

Waste Discharge Control and Prohibitions

1. Except in compliance with this Order, Dischargers must not cause or contribute to exceedances of applicable water quality objectives (receiving water limits in surface waters and groundwater), as defined in Attachment A, must protect all beneficial uses for inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries, and for groundwater, as outlined in the Basin Plan, and must not cause or contribute to a condition of pollution or nuisance as defined in Water Code section 13050.

2. Dischargers must achieve applicable Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Load Allocations (LAs) by achieving the surface water receiving limits established in this Order. Dischargers must incorporate planning elements from applicable TMDLs into the appropriate section of their Farm Plan and, as appropriate, into their follow-up surface receiving water implementation work plan(s).

3. Dischargers that anticipate exceeding a limit or condition of the Order after the final compliance date has passed may request a time schedule order pursuant to Water Code section 13300 for the Central Coast Water Board's consideration. A time schedule order must be requested 18 months in advance of a Discharger or a group of Dischargers anticipating that they will not be able to achieve the receiving water limit by the compliance date. At a minimum, the request for a time schedule order must include information outlined in Attachment A (Additional Findings). Dischargers may either individually request a time schedule order or may jointly request a time schedule order with other Dischargers subject to the same groundwater or surface receiving water numeric limit.

4. Any discharge to a stormwater conveyance system that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited unless authorized by the Regional Board. Federal regulations, 40 CFR section 122.26(b)(13), define stormwater as stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage. 40 CFR section 122.26(b)(2) defines an illicit discharge as any discharge to a stormwater conveyance system that is not composed entirely of stormwater except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit and discharges resulting from fire fighting activities.

5. The discharge of rubbish, refuse, trash, irrigation tubing or tape, or other solid wastes into surface waters is prohibited. The placement of such materials where they discharge or have the potential to discharge to surface waters is prohibited.

6. The discharge of chemicals such as fertilizers, fumigants, pesticides, herbicides, or rodenticides down a groundwater well casing is prohibited.

7. The discharge of chemicals, including those used to control wildlife (such as bait traps or poison), directly into surface waters or groundwater is prohibited. The placement of chemicals in a location where they may be discharged to surface waters or groundwater is prohibited.

8. Dischargers who apply fertilizers, fumigants, pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, or other chemicals through an irrigation system must have functional and properly maintained backflow prevention devices installed at the well or pump to prevent pollution of groundwater and surface water that comply with any applicable DPR requirements or local ordinances. Backflow prevention devices used to protect water quality must be those approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), DPR, State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, or the local public health or water agency.

9. Dischargers must properly destroy all abandoned groundwater wells, exploration holes or test holes, as defined by Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 74-81, in such a manner that they will not produce water or act as a conduit for mixing or otherwise transfer groundwater or waste pollutants between permeable zones or aquifers. Well destruction must be performed in compliance with any applicable DWR requirements or local ordinances (including local well destruction permitting requirements).

10. This Order does not authorize the discharge of pollutants from point sources to waters of the United States, including wetlands. Where required, Dischargers must obtain authorization for such discharges by obtaining a Clean Water Act (CWA) section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or a CWA section 404 dredge and fill permit.

11. Dischargers who utilize containment structures (such as retention ponds or reservoirs) to achieve treatment or control of the discharge of waste must manage, construct, and maintain such containment structures to avoid

discharges of waste to groundwater and surface water that cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives or impairment of beneficial uses. Dischargers may choose the method of compliance appropriate for the individual ranch, which may include, but is not limited to:

a. Implementing chemical treatment (such as enzymes);

b. Implementing biological treatment (such as wood chips);

c. Recycling or reusing contained water to minimize infiltration or discharge of waste;

d. Minimizing the volume of water in the containment structure to minimize percolation of waste; and/or

e. Minimizing percolation of waste via a synthetic, concrete, clay, or low permeability soil liner.

12. Dischargers must implement proper handling, storage, disposal, and management of fertilizers, fumigants, pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and other chemicals to prevent or control the discharge of waste to waters of the state that causes or contributes to exceedances of water quality standards. All chemical storage areas must have appropriate secondary containment structures to protect water quality and prevent discharge through spillage, mixing, or seepage.

13. Dischargers must implement water quality protective management practices (such as source control or treatment) to prevent erosion, reduce stormwater runoff quantity and velocity, and hold fine particles in place.

14. Dischargers must minimize the presence of bare soil vulnerable to erosion and soil runoff to surface waters and implement erosion control, sediment, and stormwater management practices in non-cropped areas, such as unpaved roads and other heavy use areas.

15. Dischargers who utilize agricultural drainage pumps must implement management practices to dissipate flow and prevent channel and/or streambank erosion resulting in increased sediment transport and turbidity within surface water.

16. Dischargers must comply with any applicable permits, including but not limited to regional or statewide stormwater, cannabis, or composting permits.[14]

[14] Current adopted orders, permits, resolutions, and settlements available at: **https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/**

17. Dischargers must implement best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) measures for the construction and maintenance of farm roads to minimize erosion and sediment discharges that contribute to nonpoint source pollution.

18. Dischargers must ensure that all farm roads are, to the extent possible, hydrologically disconnected from waters of the state by installing disconnecting drainage features, increasing the frequency of (inside) ditch drain relief as needed, constructing out-sloped roads, constructing energy dissipating structures, avoiding concentrating flows in unstable areas, and performing inspection and maintenance as needed to optimize access road performance.

19. Dischargers must ensure that farm road surfacing, especially within a segment leading to waters of the state, minimizes sediment delivery to waters of the state and maximizes road integrity.

20. Dischargers must ensure that farm roads are out-sloped whenever possible to promote even drainage of the farm road surface, prevent the concentration of stormwater flow within an inboard or inside ditch, and to prevent disruption of the natural sheet flow pattern off a hill slope to waters of the state.

21. Farm road stormwater drainage structures must not discharge onto unstable slopes, earthen fills, or directly into waters of the state. Drainage structures must discharge onto stable areas with straw bales, slash, vegetation, and/or rock riprap.

22. If used, chemical toilets or holding tanks must be maintained in a manner appropriate for the frequency and conditions of usage, sited in stable locations, and located outside of areas bordering surface waterbodies.

23. Dischargers who produce and apply compost in-house must comply with the following requirements:

    a. On-farm composting operations must comply with the Composting General Order (Order WQ 2020-0012-DWQ, or as amended) and obtain coverage if applicable.

    b. Materials and activities on-site must not cause, threaten to cause, or contribute to conditions of pollution, contamination, or nuisance;

    c. Activities must be set back at least 100 feet from the nearest surface waterbody and/or the nearest water supply well;

    d. Dischargers must implement practices to minimize or eliminate the discharge of waste that may adversely impact the quality or beneficial uses of waters of the state;

    e. Dischargers must manage the application of water to compost (including from precipitation events) to reduce the generation of wastewater;

f. Working surfaces must be designed to prevent, to the greatest extent possible, ponding, infiltration, inundation, and erosion, notwithstanding precipitation events, equipment movement, and other aspects of the facility operations;

g. Dischargers must maintain the following records in the Farm Plan. These records must be submitted to the Central Coast Water Board upon request.

i. Total operational footprint of compost activities (in acres), including ancillary activities;

ii. Compost operation records to provide background information on the composting operation history and a description of methods and operation used, including the following: feedstock types, volumes, sources, and suppliers. Description of the method of composting (e.g., windrow, static, forced air, mechanical). Description of how residuals are removed from the feedstocks and managed and/or disposed of.

iii. Description of water supply.

iv. Map detailing the location and size (in acres) of the working surface used for the storage of incoming feedstocks, additives, and amendments (receiving area); active and curing composting; final product; drainage patterns; location of any groundwater monitoring wells and water supply wells within and/or near the property boundary; location and distance (in feet) to nearby water supply wells (e.g., municipal supply, domestic supply, agricultural wells) from the nearest property boundary of the operation; identification of all surface waterbodies, including streams, ditches, canals, and other drainage courses; and distances from the nearest property boundary of the operation to these surface waterbody areas.

v. Records of appropriate monitoring (dependent on method of composting) for composting to develop final product (temperature, turning, air flow, etc.).

vi. Records of final product use, including locations and volumes.

24. Disturbance (e.g., removal, degradation, or destruction) of existing, naturally occurring, and established native riparian vegetative cover (e.g., trees, shrubs, and grasses), unless authorized or exempted (e.g., Clean Water Act [CWA] section 404 permit and CWA section 401 certification, WDRs, waivers of WDRs, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, or municipal ordinance), is prohibited. Dischargers must

avoid disturbance in riparian areas to minimize waste discharges and protect water quality and beneficial uses.

25. In the case where disturbance of riparian areas is authorized, Dischargers must implement appropriate and practicable measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate erosion and discharges of waste.

Additional Requirements

26. Upon the Central Coast Water Board's request, Dischargers must submit information regarding compliance with any DPR adopted or approved surface water or groundwater protection requirements to the Central Coast Water Board.

27. Upon the Central Coast Water Board's request, Dischargers must submit proof of an approved Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement or other authorization or release from the CDFW to the Central Coast Water Board for any work conducted within the bed, bank, and channel, including riparian areas, of parcels enrolled in this order, that has the potential to result in erosion and discharges of waste to waters of the State.

28. Upon the Central Coast Water Board's request, Dischargers must submit proof of a Clean Water Act section 404 dredge and fill permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for any work that has the potential to discharge wastes considered "fill" material, such as sediment, to waters of the United States to the Central Coast Water Board.

29. Dischargers must comply with DWR Bulletin 74-81 and supplement 74-90 (and any future revisions or replacements thereof), Water Code sections 13700 through 13755 (and any revisions or additions thereto), and any local permitting requirements associated with installation of new wells.

30. This Order does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a threatened or endangered species or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code sections 2050 to 2097) or the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. sections 1531 to 1544). If a "take" will result from any act authorized under this Order, the Dischargers must obtain authorization for an incidental take prior to taking action. Dischargers are responsible for meeting all applicable requirements of the California and federal Endangered Species Acts for the discharge authorized by this Order.

31. Dischargers or a representative authorized by the Discharger must sign technical reports submitted to the Central Coast Water Board to comply with this Order. Any person signing or submitting a document must provide the following certification, whether written or implied:

    "In compliance with Water Code section 13267, I certify under penalty of perjury that this document and all attachments were prepared by me, or under my direction or supervision, following a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this document and all attachments are true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

CERTIFICATION

I, Ryan E. Lodge, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this General Order with all its attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region on April 15, 2021, and amended by Order WQ 2023-0081 on October XX, 2026.

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Ryan E. Lodge, Executive Officer

Tables and Figures

Tables and Figures related to Part 2, Section C.1. Groundwater Protection

Table C.1-1. Groundwater Phase Areas

Groundwater Basin[1]	Groundwater Phase
Gilroy-Hollister Valley - Llagas Area	Phase 1, Phase 2
Salinas Valley - Forebay Aquifer	Phase 1, Phase 2
Salinas Valley - Upper Valley Aquifer	Phase 1, Phase 2
Santa Maria River Valley - Santa Maria	Phase 1, Phase 2
Santa Ynez River Valley	Phase 1, Phase 3
Corralitos - Pajaro Valley	Phase 2
Gilroy Hollister Valley - North San Benito	Phase 2
Salinas Valley - 180/400 Foot Aquifer	Phase 2
Salinas Valley - East Side Aquifer	Phase 2
San Luis Obispo Valley	Phase 2
All Other Basins and Areas Outside of Basins	Phase 3

[1]As defined in the 2019 California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118.

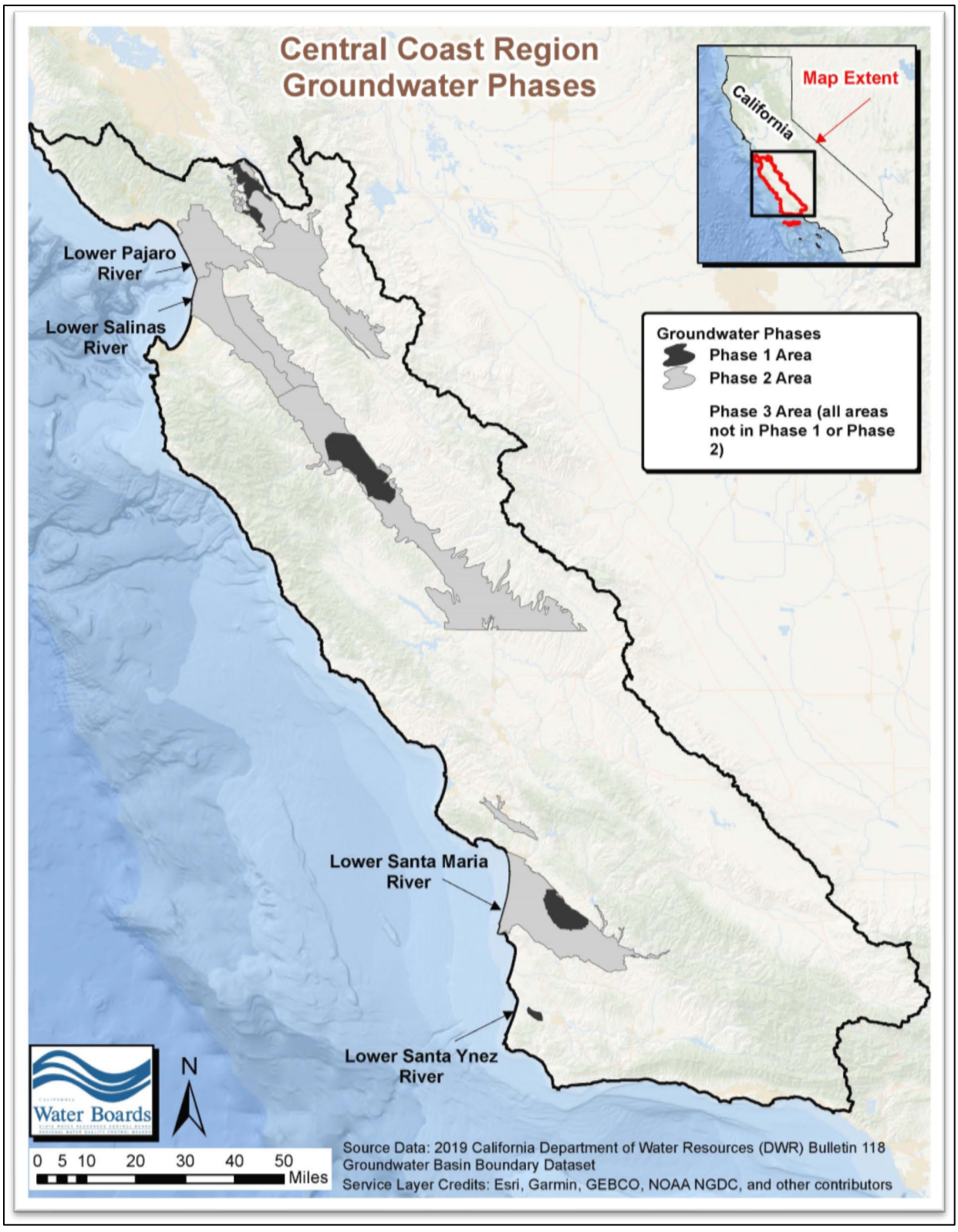

Figure C.1-1: Groundwater Phase Areas

Table C.1-2. Compliance Dates for Fertilizer Nitrogen Application Targets

This table is only applicable to Dischargers that are not yet required to report nitrogen removed.

Crop	90th Percentile A_{FER} =	Compliance Date	85th Percentile A_{FER} =	Compliance Date
Broccoli	295	12/31/2023	280	12/31/2025
Cauliflower	310		285	
Celery	360		330	
Lettuce	275		255	
Spinach	245		230	
Strawberry	320		295	
All Other Crops	500		480	

Note: For crops grown for less than one year (e.g., broccoli, lettuce, etc.), units are in pounds of nitrogen per acre per crop. In the situation where a Discharger grows a crop more than once during the year, e.g. grows a spring lettuce and a fall lettuce, the application target applies to each of the crops separately: no more than 275 pounds of nitrogen per acre can be applied to the spring lettuce crop and no more than 275 pounds of nitrogen per acre can be applied to the fall lettuce crop. The two lettuce crops can be reported on separately or can be averaged together. For crops grown for more than one year (e.g., grapes, trees, etc.), units are in pounds of nitrogen per acre per year. The 90th and 85th percentile fertilizer nitrogen application targets were determined by using year 2014 to 2019 total nitrogen applied (TNA) reporting information.

Table C.1-3. Compliance Dates for Nitrogen Discharge Targets

	Target	Compliance Date
Nitrogen Discharge Difference $A_{FER} + A_{COMP} + A_{ORG} + A_{IRR} - R =$	500	12/31/2023
	400	12/31/2025
	300	12/31/2027
	200	12/31/2031
	150	12/31/2036
	100	12/31/2041
	50	12/31/2051
Nitrogen Discharge Ratio $(A_{FER} + A_{COMP} + A_{ORG} + A_{IRR}) / R =$	**Target**	**Compliance Date**
	TBD[15]	12/31/2051

Note 1: All units are in pounds of nitrogen per acre per year and represent all crops grown and harvested on the entire ranch. 2027 nitrogen discharge targets will be re-evaluated based on discharger reported nitrogen applied and removed data, new science, and management practice implementation and assessment before becoming effective.
Note 2: Report due dates to confirm compliance with the fertilizer application targets and nitrogen discharge targets are included in the MRP.
A_{FER} is the amount of conventional fertilizer nitrogen applied in pounds per acre.
A_{COMP} is the total amount of compost nitrogen applied in pounds per acre.
A_{IRR} is the amount of nitrogen in pounds per acre applied in the irrigation water estimated from the volume required for crop evapotranspiration (ET) or volume of water applied.
A_{ORG} is the total amount of organic fertilizer or amendment nitrogen applied in pounds per acre.
R is the amount of nitrogen removed from the field through harvest or sequestration, in pounds per acre.

[15] Interim milestones for the final Nitrogen Discharge Ratio target will be developed once at least three years of INMP Summary Reports have been collected for all Dischargers. Upon development, the Central Coast Water Board will release the findings and interim milestones to interested parties and the Third-Party Program.

Tables and Figures related to Part 2, Section D.1. IDWP Compliance Pathway

Table D.1-1. IDWP Discharger Compliance Dates for Nitrogen Discharge Targets

Three-Year Mean Target[1]	Compliance Start Date
400	12/31/2025
300	12/31/2027
200	12/31/2029
150	12/31/2031
100	12/31/2033
50	12/31/2036[2]

[1] Units are in pounds of nitrogen per acre per year and represent all crops grown and harvested on the ranch. For Dischargers that do not have a three-year record for the ranch they are currently operating, target compliance will be based on verified INMP Summary report data that is available for their ranch(es).

[2] Compliance with the final receiving groundwater limit is December 31, 2036, as required by **Part 2, Section D.1, paragraph 2**.

Tables and Figures related to Part 2, Section D.2., AWSP Compliance Pathway.

Table D.2-1. AWSP Discharger Compliance Dates for Performance-Driven Targets

Performance-Driven Target[1]	Performance-Driven Target Compliance Start Date	Administrative Milestone Acheivement[2]	Milestone Achievement Due Date
400	12/31/2025	1. Executive Officer approval of an AWSP administrator[2]	12/31/2027
400	12/31/2025	2. Second-year funding milestones for interim supplies 3. Second-year water quality sampling milestone	12/31/2028
300	12/31/2030	4. Domestic well survey milestone 5. Fifth-year milestone for water quality sampling 6. Fifth-year funding milestones for interim supplies 7. Fifth-year funding milestone for long-term solution planning and prioritization 8. Fifth-year implementation milestones for interim AWS 9. Fifth-year planning and prioritization milestones for PWSs and domestic wells and state small water systems	12/31/2031
300	12/31/2030	10. Seventh-year funding milestones for interim supplies 11. Seventh-year implementation milestones for interim AWS 12. Seventh-year planning and prioritization milestones for PWSs	12/31/2033
200[3]	12/31/2036	13. Tenth-year funding milestones for interim supplies 14. Tenth-year implementation milestones for interim AWS 15. Tenth-year planning and prioritization milestones for PWSs 16. Tenth-year planning and prioritization milestones for	Not Applicable

Performance-Driven Target[1]	Performance-Driven Target Compliance Start Date	Administrative Milestone Acheivement[2]	Milestone Achievement Due Date
		domestic wells and state small water systems	
100[3]	12/31/2043	TBD by 2044	TBD
50	12/31/2051	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Note: This schedule is instated only if the first Administrative Milestone is achieved by the first milestone achievement due date. The schedule remains instated if subsequent Administrative Milestones are achieved by the corresponding milestone achievement due dates. TBD denotes 'to be decided'. If Administrative Milestones are not achieved by the milestone achievement due dates, AWSP Dischargers must comply with the target schedule in Table C.1-3.

[1] Units are in pounds of nitrogen per acre per year and represent all crops grown and harvested on the ranch. Target compliance is **based on the three-year mean** nitrogen discharge. For Dischargers that do not have a three-year record for the ranch they are currently operating, target compliance will be based on the verified INMP Summary report data that is available for their ranch.

[2] Administrative Milestones are summarized in this table and are described in detail in **Part 2, Section D.2, paragraphs 19, 26, 27, 35, 39, 41, and 42**.

[3] The 200 lb/acre/year and 100 lb/acre/year Performance-Driven Target(s), Performance-Driven Target Compliance Start Date(s), Administrative Milestone Achievement(s), and Milestone Achievement(s) Due Date(s) are subject to reevaluation and may change based on discharger-reported nitrogen applied and removed data, new science, and management practice implementation and assessment before becoming effective.

Tables and Figures related to Part 2, Section C.3. Surface Water Protection

Table C.3-1. Surface Water Priority Areas

HUC-8 Number[1]	HUC-8 Name	Surface Water Priority
18060008	Santa Maria	Priority 1
18060005	Salinas	Priority 2
18060002	Pajaro	Priority 3
18060015	Monterey Bay	Priority 3
18060010	Santa Ynez	Priority 3
18050003	Coyote	Priority 4
18050006	San Francisco Coastal South	Priority 4
18060004	Estrella	Priority 4
18060006	Central Coastal	Priority 4
18060003	Carrizo Plain	Priority 4
18060007	Cuyama	Priority 4
18060009	San Antonio	Priority 4
18060013	Santa Barbara Coastal	Priority 4
18060014	Santa Barbara Channel Islands	Priority 4
18070101	Ventura	Priority 4

[1]As defined by the National Hydrography Dataset Plus Watershed Boundary Dataset

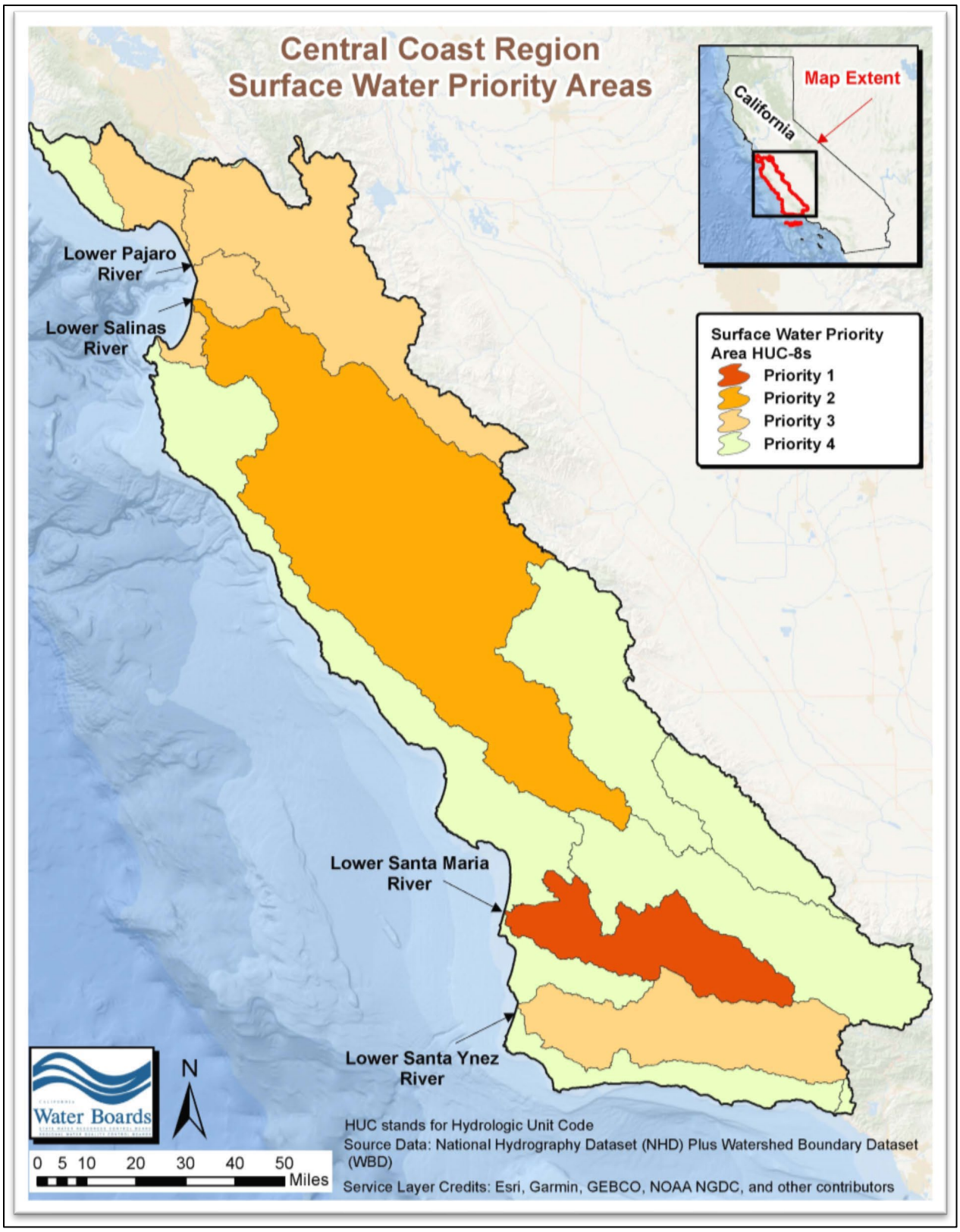

Figure C-3.1: Surface Water Priority Areas

Table C.3-1.3P. Surface Water Priority Areas (Third-Party Program)

High Priority	
305FUF	Furlong Creek at Frazier Lake Road
309ALG	Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia
309CCD	Chualar Creek west of Highway 101
309CRR	Chualar Creek North Branch east of Highway 101
309ESP	Espinosa Slough upstream from Alisal Slough
309JON	Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Road
309MER	Merrit Ditch upstream of Highway 183
309NAD	Natividad Creek upstream of Salinas Reclamation Canal
309OLD	Old Salinas River at Monterey Dunes Way
309QUI	Quail Creek at culvert on east side of Highway 101
309TEH	Tembladero Slough at Haro Street
312BCC	Bradley Canyon Creek at Culvert
312BCJ	Bradley Channel at Jones Street
312GVS	Green Valley at Simas
312MSD	Main Street Canal upstream of Ray Road at Highway 166
312OFC	Oso Flaco Creek at Oso Flaco Lake Road
312ORC	Orcutt Solomon Creek upstream of Santa Maria River
312ORI	Orcutt Solomon Creek at Highway 1
312SMA	Santa Maria River at Estuary
Medium Priority	
305BRS	Beach Road Ditch at Shell Road
305CAN	Carnadero Creek upstream of Pajaro River
305CHI	Pajaro River at Chittenden Gap
305FRA	Pajaro River Millers Canal at Frazier Lake Road
305LCS	Llagas Creek at Southside Avenue
305PJP	Pajaro River at Main Street
305SJA	San Juan Creek at Anzar Road
305TSR	Tequisquita Slough upstream of Pajaro River at Shore Road
305WCS	Watsonville Creek at Elkhorn Road / Hudson Landing
309ASB	Alisal Slough at White Barn
309BLA	Blanco Drain below Pump
309GAB	Gabilan Creek at Boronda Road
309MOR	Moro Cojo Slough at Highway 1
309RTA	Santa Rita Creek at Santa Rita Creek Park
310LBC	Los Berros Creek at Century Road
310PRE	Prefumo Creek at Calle Joaquin
310USG	Arroyo Grande Creek at old USGS Gauge
310WRP	Warden Creek at Wetlands Restoration Preserve
312OFN	Little Oso Flaco Creek
312SMI	Santa Maria at Highway 1
313SAE	San Antonio Creek at San Antonio Road east

Medium Priority	
314SYN	Santa Ynez River at 13th
315BEF	Bell Creek at Winchester Canyon Park
315FMV	Franklin Creek at Mountain View Lane
315GAN	Glenn Annie Creek
315LCC	Los Carneros Creek at Calle Real
Low Priority	
305SAL	Salsipuedes Creek downstream of Corralitos Creek upstream of HWY 129
305WSA	Watsonville Slough at San Andreas Road
309GRN	Salinas River (Mid) at Elm Road in Greenfield
309SAC	Salinas River at Chualar
309SAG	Salinas River at Gonzales River Road Bridge
309SSP	Salinas River (Lower) at Spreckles Gauge
310CCC	Chorro Creek upstream of Chorro Flats
314SYF	Santa Ynez River at Flordale
314SYR	Santa Ynez River at River Park
315APF	Arroyo Paredon Creek at Foothill Bridge
All Other Areas	Low priority also includes all other areas not in high or medium priority areas

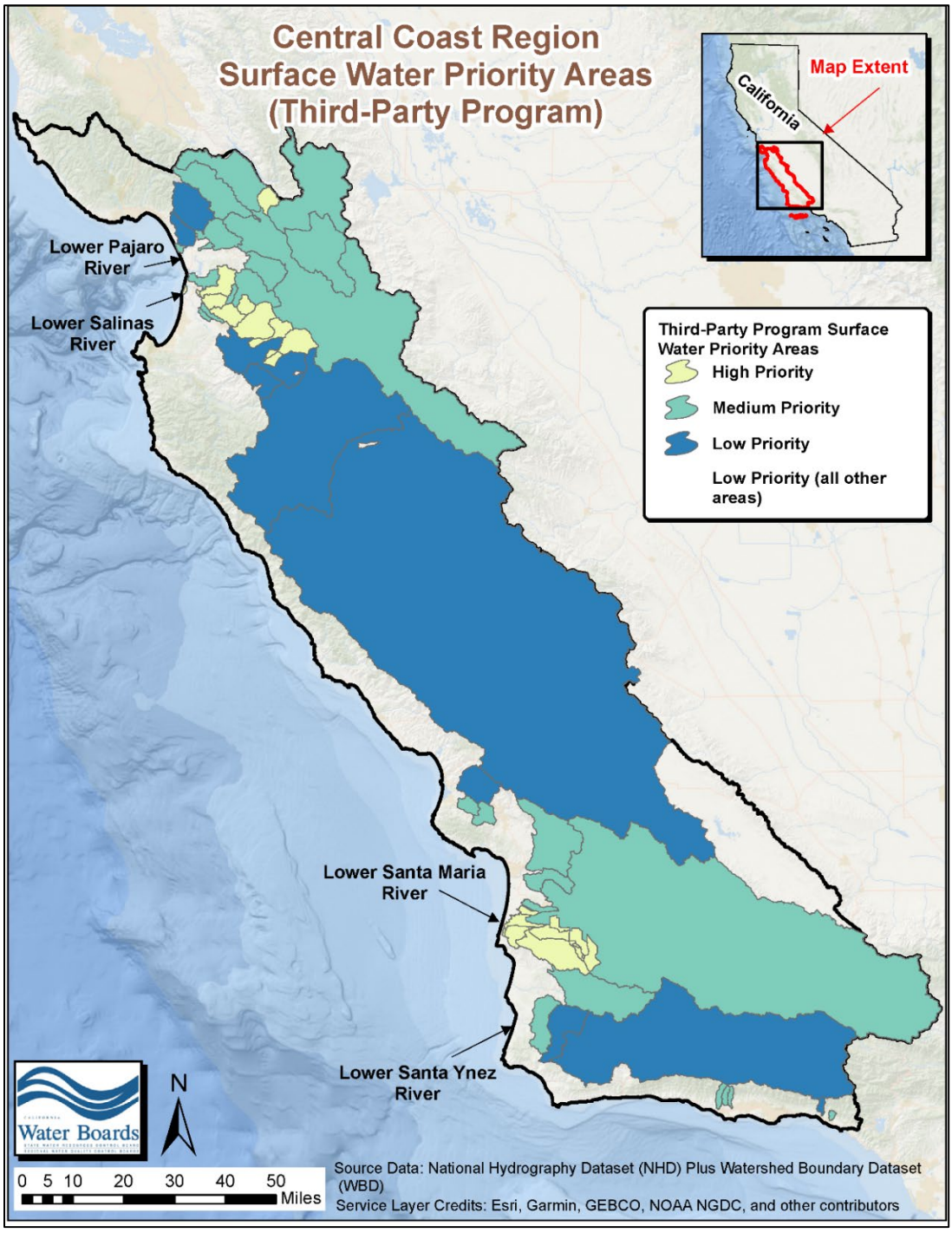

Figure C-3.1.3P. Surface Water Priority Areas (Third-Party Program)

Table C.3-2. Compliance Dates for Nutrient Limits (TMDL areas)

TMDL Project Name	Constituent	Matrix	Limit[1]	Units[2]	Compliance Date
Arroyo Paredon Nitrate TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Bell Creek Nitrate TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Franklin Creek Nutrients TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Franklin Creek Nutrients TMDL	Total Nitrogen, as N	Water Column	Wet Season: 8.0	mg/L	03/04/2034
Franklin Creek Nutrients TMDL	Total Phosphorous	Water Column	Wet Season: 0.3	mg/L	03/04/2034
Franklin Creek Nutrients TMDL	Total Nitrogen, as N	Water Column	Dry Season: 1.1	mg/L	03/04/2044
Franklin Creek Nutrients TMDL	Total Phosphorous	Water Column	Dry Season: 0.075	mg/L	03/04/2044
Glen Annie Canyon, Tecolotito Creek, & Carneros Creek Nitrate TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Los Berros Creek Nitrate TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Nutrient TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032

TMDL Project Name	Constituent	Matrix	Limit[1]	Units[2]	Compliance Date
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Ammonia (Un-Ionized), as N[3]	Water Column	0.025	mg/L	05/07/2026
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	05/07/2026
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Total Nitrogen, as N[4]	Water Column	Wet Season: 8.0	mg/L	05/07/2034
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	Wet Season: 8.0	mg/L	05/07/2034
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Orthophosphate, as P	Water Column	Wet Season: 0.3	mg/L	05/07/2034
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Total Nitrogen, as N[4]	Water Column	Dry Season: 1.7	mg/L	05/7/2044
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	Dry Season: 1.4 – 6.41	mg/L	05/07/2044
Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Orthophosphate, as P	Water Column	Dry Season: 0.07 – 0.131	mg/L	05/07/2044
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Ammonia (Un-ionized), as N[3]	Water Column	0.025	mg/L	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032

TMDL Project Name	Constituent	Matrix	Limit[1]	Units[2]	Compliance Date
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Total Nitrogen, as N	Water Column	Wet Season: 8.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	Wet Season: 8.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Orthophosphate, as P	Water Column	Wet Season: 0.3	mg/L	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Total Nitrogen, as N[5]	Water Column	Dry Season: 1.1 – 2.11	mg/L	07/12/2041
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	Dry Season: 1.8 – 3.91	mg/L	07/12/2041
Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL	Orthophosphate, as P	Water Column	Dry Season: 0.04 – 0.141	mg/L	07/12/2041
San Luis Obispo Creek Nitrate TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL	Ammonia (Un-Ionized), as N[3]	Water Column	0.025	mg/L	05/7/2026
Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	05/7/2026
Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	Wet Season or Year-Round: 5.7 – 8.01	mg/L	05/22/2034

TMDL Project Name	Constituent	Matrix	Limit[1]	Units[2]	Compliance Date
Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL	Orthophosphate, as P	Water Column	Wet Season or Year-Round: 0.08 – 0.31	mg/L	05/22/2034
Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	Dry Season: 4.3	mg/L	05/22/2044
Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL	Orthophosphate, as P	Water Column	Dry Season: 0.19	mg/L	05/22/2044
Pinto Lake Watershed Nutrients and Algal Toxins TMDL	Total Phosphorus	Water Column	0.17	mg/L	09/09/2031
Santa Ynez River Watershed Nitrogen Compounds TMDL	Ammonia (Un-Ionized), as N[3]	Water Column	0.025	mg/L	04/03/2030
Santa Ynez River Watershed Nitrogen Compounds TMDL	Nitrate, as N	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	04/03/2030
Santa Ynez River Watershed Nitrogen Compounds TMDL	Total Nitrogen, as N[5]	Water Column	8.0	mg/L	04/03/2030

[1]The Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL, Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL, and Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrient TMDL include load allocations for specific waterbody reaches within the TMDL project area. The limits for those TMDLs are summarized in this table as ranges; however, the exact load allocation values for each reach apply as described in the TMDL and Basin Plan and will be assessed as surface receiving water numeric limits for the purposes of this Order.
[2]mg/L is milligrams per liter.

[3]Calculated using total ammonia and onsite instream measurements (field measurements) of pH and water temperature.
[4]Total nitrogen TMDL load allocation applies to Moro Cojo Slough only.
[5]Total nitrogen TMDL load allocation applies to the following sloughs: Watsonville, Harkins, Gallighan, and Struve.

Table C.3-3. Compliance Dates for Nutrient Limits (Non-TMDL areas)

Constituent Group	Constituent	Matrix	Limit	Units[1]	Compliance Date
Nutrients	Nitrate, as Nitrogen	Water Column	10.0	mg/L	12/31/2032
Nutrients	Ammonia (un-ionized), as Nitrogen[2]	Water Column	0.025	mg/L	12/31/2032

[1]mg/L is milligrams per liter.
[2]Calculated using total ammonia and onsite instream measurements (field measurements) of pH and water temperature.

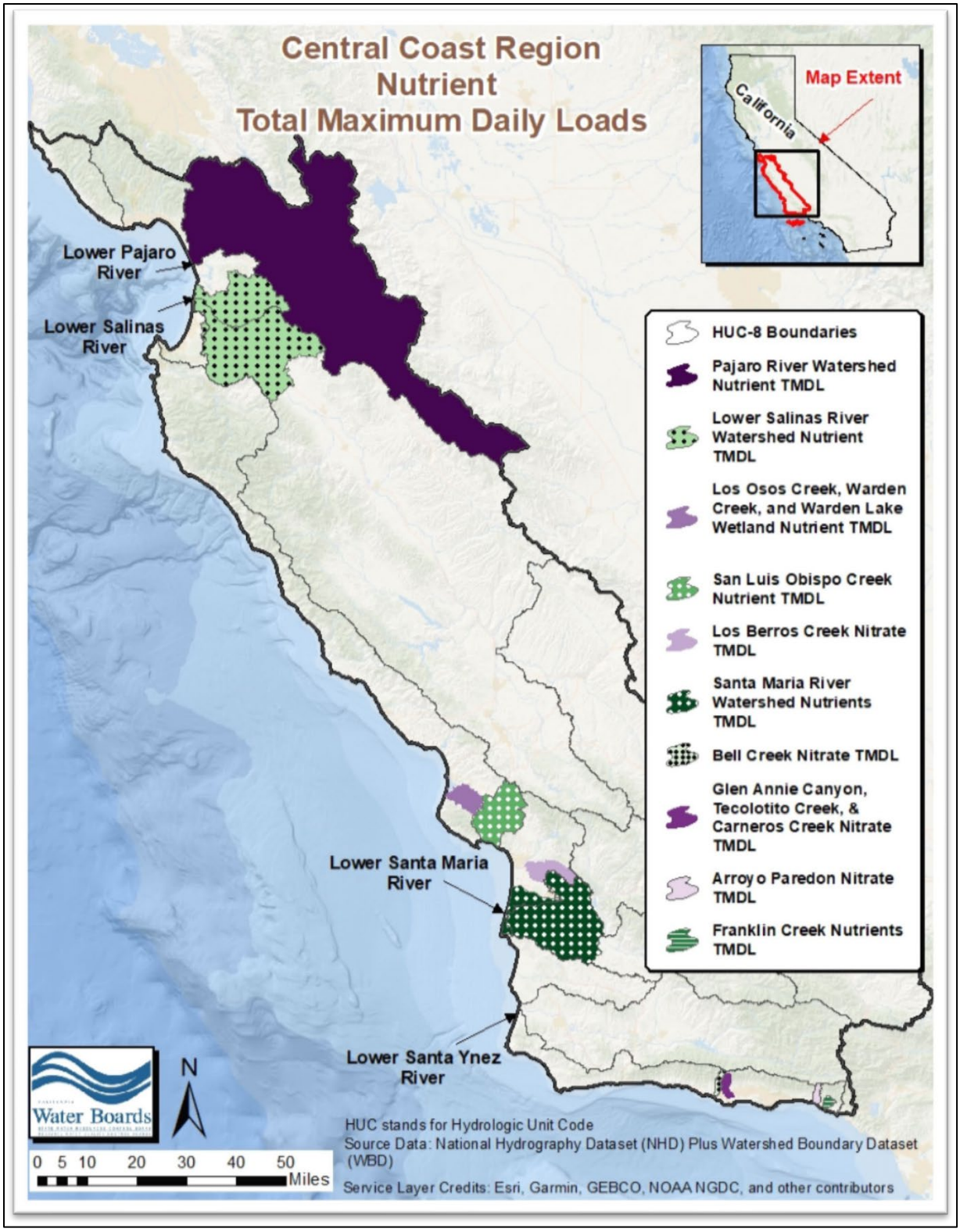

Figure C.3-2: Nutrient TMDL Areas

Table C.3-4. Compliance Dates for Pesticide and Toxicity Limits (TMDL areas)

TMDL Project Name	Constituent[1]	Matrix	Limit[2]	Units[3]	Compliance Date
Arroyo Paredon Diazinon TMDL	Additive Toxicity (Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon)	Water Column	Sum of Additive Toxicity, TU ≤ 1.0	TU	12/31/2032
Arroyo Paredon Diazinon TMDL	Diazinon	Water Column	CCC: 0.10 CMC: 0.16	µg/L	12/31/2032
Lower Salinas River Watershed OP Pesticide TMDL	Chlorpyrifos[4]	Water Column	CCC: 0.015 CMC: 0.025	µg/L	12/31/2032
Lower Salinas River Watershed OP Pesticide TMDL	Diazinon[4]	Water Column	CCC: 0.10 CMC: 0.16	µg/L	12/31/2032
Lower Salinas River Watershed OP Pesticide TMDL	Malathion[4]	Water Column	1-hr average: 0.17 4-d average: 0.28	µg/L	12/31/2032
Lower Salinas River Watershed OP Pesticide TMDL	Additive Toxicity (Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, and Malathion)	Water Column	Sum of Additive Toxicity, TU ≤ 1.0	TU	12/31/2032
Lower Salinas River Watershed Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroids in Sediment TMDL	Additive Toxicity (Pyrethroids)	Sediment	Sum of Pyrethroid TU < 1.0	TU	12/31/2032
Lower Salinas River Watershed Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroids in Sediment TMDL	Aquatic Toxicity	Sediment	No significant toxic effect, 10-day, chronic exposure with *Hyalella azteca*	Survival endpoint	12/31/2032

TMDL Project Name	Constituent[1]	Matrix	Limit[2]	Units[3]	Compliance Date
Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL	Additive Toxicity (Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon)	Water Column	Sum of Additive Toxicity, TU ≤ 1.0	TU	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL	Chlorpyrifos	Water Column	CCC: 0.015 CMC: 0.025	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL	Diazinon	Water Column	CCC: 0.10 CMC: 0.16	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL	Aquatic Toxicity	Sediment	No significant toxic effect, 10-day, chronic exposure with *Hyalella azteca*	Survival endpoint	12/31/2032
Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL	Aquatic Toxicity	Water Column	No significant toxic effect, 7-day, chronic exposure with *Ceriodaphnia dubia*	Survival and reproduction endpoints	12/31/2032
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Additive Toxicity (Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon)	Water Column	Sum of Additive Toxicity, TU ≤ 1.0	TU	12/31/2032
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Chlorpyrifos	Water Column	CCC: 0.015 CMC: 0.025	µg/L	12/31/2032
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Diazinon	Water Column	CCC: 0.10 CMC: 0.16	µg/L	12/31/2032

TMDL Project Name	Constituent[1]	Matrix	Limit[2]	Units[3]	Compliance Date
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Malathion	Water Column	CCC: 0.028 CMC: 0.17	µg/L	12/31/2032
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Additive Toxicity (Pyrethroids)	Sediment	Sum of Pyrethroid TU ≤ 1.0	TU	12/31/2032
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Aquatic Toxicity	Sediment	No significant toxic effect, 10-day, chronic exposure with *Hyalella azteca*	Survival endpoint	Not Defined[5]
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Aquatic Toxicity	Water Column	No significant toxic effect, 6-8 day, chronic exposure with *Ceriodaphnia dubia*	Survival and reproduction endpoints	Not Defined[5]
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	4,4'-DDT (p,p-DDT)	Sediment	6.5	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	4,4'-DDE (p,p-DDE)	Sediment	5.5	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	4,4'-DDD (p,p-DDD)	Sediment	9.1	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Total DDT (Sediment)	Sediment	10.0	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Chlordane	Sediment	1.7	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044

TMDL Project Name	Constituent[1]	Matrix	Limit[2]	Units[3]	Compliance Date
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Dieldrin	Sediment	0.14	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Endrin	Sediment	550.0	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044
Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL	Toxaphene	Sediment	20.0	µg/kg o.c.	10/29/2044

[1]Toxic units and/or additive toxicity units are calculated using the relevant biological indicators, as described in the applicable TMDL, e.g. LC50, CCC, or CMC.
[2]CCC is Criterion Continuous Concentration or chronic (4-day (96-hour) average), not to be exceeded more than once in a three year period; CMC is Criterion Maximum Concentration or acute (1- hour average) not to be exceeded more than once in a three year period; the sum of additive toxicity is calculated by dividing each measured chemical concentration by that chemical's criterion (CCC or CMC) and summing those values as defined in the staff report for the respective TMDL project.
[3]µg/L is micrograms per liter; µg/kg is micrograms per kilogram; ng/g is nanograms per gram; o.c. means normalized for sediment organic carbon content; ppb is parts per billion.
[4]Apply only when one of the compounds (chlorpyrifos or diazinon) is present.
[5]A time schedule for aquatic toxicity was not identified in the Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL; therefore, Dischargers in this area must comply with the aquatic toxicity compliance date defined in **Table C.3-5**.

Table C-3.5. Compliance Dates for Pesticide and Toxicity Limits (Non-TMDL areas)

Constituent Group	Constituent	Matrix	Limit[1]	Units[2]	Compliance Date
Pesticides	Acetamiprid	Water Column	2.10	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Atrazine	Water Column	60.0	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Bifenthrin	Sediment	0.52	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Chlorpyrifos	Water Column	0.023	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Chlorpyrifos	Sediment	1.77	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Clothianidin	Water Column	0.05	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Cyanazine	Water Column	27.0	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Cyfluthrin	Sediment	1.08	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Cypermethrin	Sediment	0.38	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Danitol (fenpropathrin)	Sediment	1.10	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Demeton-s-methyl sulfoxide (oxydemeton- methyl)	Water Column	46	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Diazinon	Water Column	0.105	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Dichlorvos	Water Column	0.0058	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Dimethoate	Water Column	0.50	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Dinotefuran	Water Column	23.5	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Disulfoton (Disyton)	Water Column	0.01	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Diuron	Water Column	80.0	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Esfenvalerate	Sediment	1.54	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Fenvalerate	Sediment	1.54	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Glyphosate	Water Column	26,600	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Imidacloprid	Water Column	0.01	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Cyhalothrin, lambda	Sediment	0.45	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Linuron	Water Column	0.09	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Malathion	Water Column	0.049	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Methamidophos	Water Column	4.50	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Methidathion	Water Column	0.66	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Paraquat	Water Column	< 36.9	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Parathion-methyl	Water Column	0.25	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Permethrin	Sediment	10.83	µg/g o.c.	12/31/2032

Pesticides	Phorate	Water Column	0.21	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Phosmet	Water Column	0.80	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Simazine	Water Column	40.0	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Thiacloprid	Water Column	0.97	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Thiamethoxam	Water Column	0.74	µg/L	12/31/2032
Pesticides	Trifluralin	Water Column	2.40	µg/L	12/31/2032
Toxicity	Sediment Toxicity	Sediment	No significant effect based on chronic or acute toxicity to applicable test organism	Survival, growth, and reproduction endpoints[3]	12/31/2032
Toxicity	Water Column Toxicity	Water Column	No significant effect based on chronic or acute toxicity to applicable test organism	Survival, growth, and reproduction endpoints[3]	12/31/2032
Toxicity	Toxic Units	Sediment	Sum of additive toxicity ≤ 1	Toxic Unit (TU)[4]	12/31/2032
Toxicity	Toxic Units	Water Column	Sum of additive toxicity ≤ 1	Toxic Unit (TU)[4]	12/31/2032

[1]Attachment A to this Order describes the sources of the limits established in this table.
[2]µg/L is micrograms per liter; µg/kg is micrograms per kilogram; ng/g is nanograms per gram; o.c. means normalized for sediment organic carbon content; ppb is parts per million.
[3]Toxicity determinations will be pass/fail based on a comparison of the test organism's response (survival, growth, and reproduction) to the water sample compared to the control using the Test of Significant Toxicity (TST statistical approach), or a statistical t-test, based on the toxicity provisions in the State Water Board *Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries in California*. If a sample is declared "fail" (i.e., toxic) for any endpoint, then the limit is not met. The most sensitive test species for each constituent must be used when evaluating toxicity.
[4]Toxic units (TU) and/or additive toxicity units are calculated using the relevant biological indicators, e.g. LC50, CCC, or CMC as follows: Calculate additive toxicity for organophosphate pesticides in non-TMDL watersheds as defined in the TMDL for Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon in the Lower Salinas River Watershed; and calculate TUs for pyrethroid pesticides in non-TMDL watersheds as defined in the TMDL for Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroids in the Lower Salinas River Watershed.

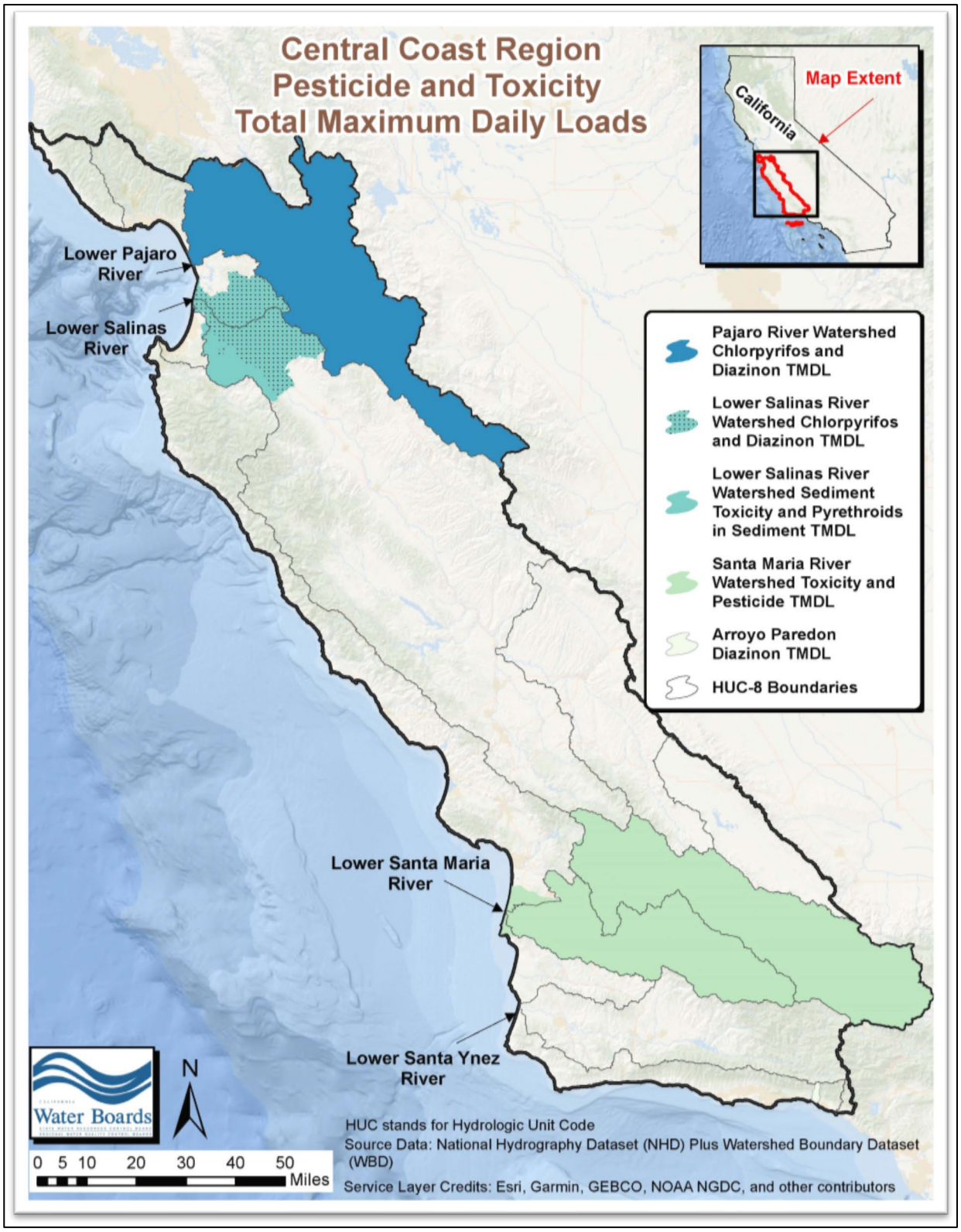

Figure C.3-3: Pesticide and Toxicity TMDL Areas

Table C.3-6. Compliance Dates for Turbidity and Sediment Limits (TMDL areas)

TMDL Project Name	Constituent	Limit[1]	Units	Compliance Date
Morro Bay Sediment TMDL	Sediment	285 – 6,662	Tons of sediment per year	12/3/2053
Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL	Sediment	447 – 4,114	Tons of sediment per year	11/27/2051
Gabilan Creek Watershed Turbidity TMDL	Turbidity	Dry Season: 6 [2]	NTUs[3]	12/8/2042
Gabilan Creek Watershed Turbidity TMDL	Turbidity	Wet Season: 11	NTUs[3]	12/8/2042
Gabilan Creek Watershed Turbidity TMDL	Turbidity	Year Round: 8	NTUs[3]	12/8/2042

[1]The Morro Bay Sediment TMDL and Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL include load allocations for specific waterbody reaches within the TMDL project area. The limits for those TMDLs are summarized in this table as ranges; however, the exact load allocation values for each reach apply as described in the TMDL and Basin Plan and will be assessed as surface receiving water numeric limits for the purposes of this Order.

[2] Dry season limit for surface receiving waters downstream of "headwater streams."

[3] NTUs are Nephelometric Turbidity Units

Table C.3-7. Compliance Dates for Turbidity Limits (Non-TMDL areas)

Constituent Group	Constituent	Beneficial Use	Limit	Units[1]	Compliance Date
Physical Parameters and General Chemistry	Turbidity	WARM	40.0	NTU	12/31/2032
Physical Parameters and General Chemistry	Turbidity	COLD	25.0	NTU	12/31/2032

[1]NTU is nephelometric turbidity units

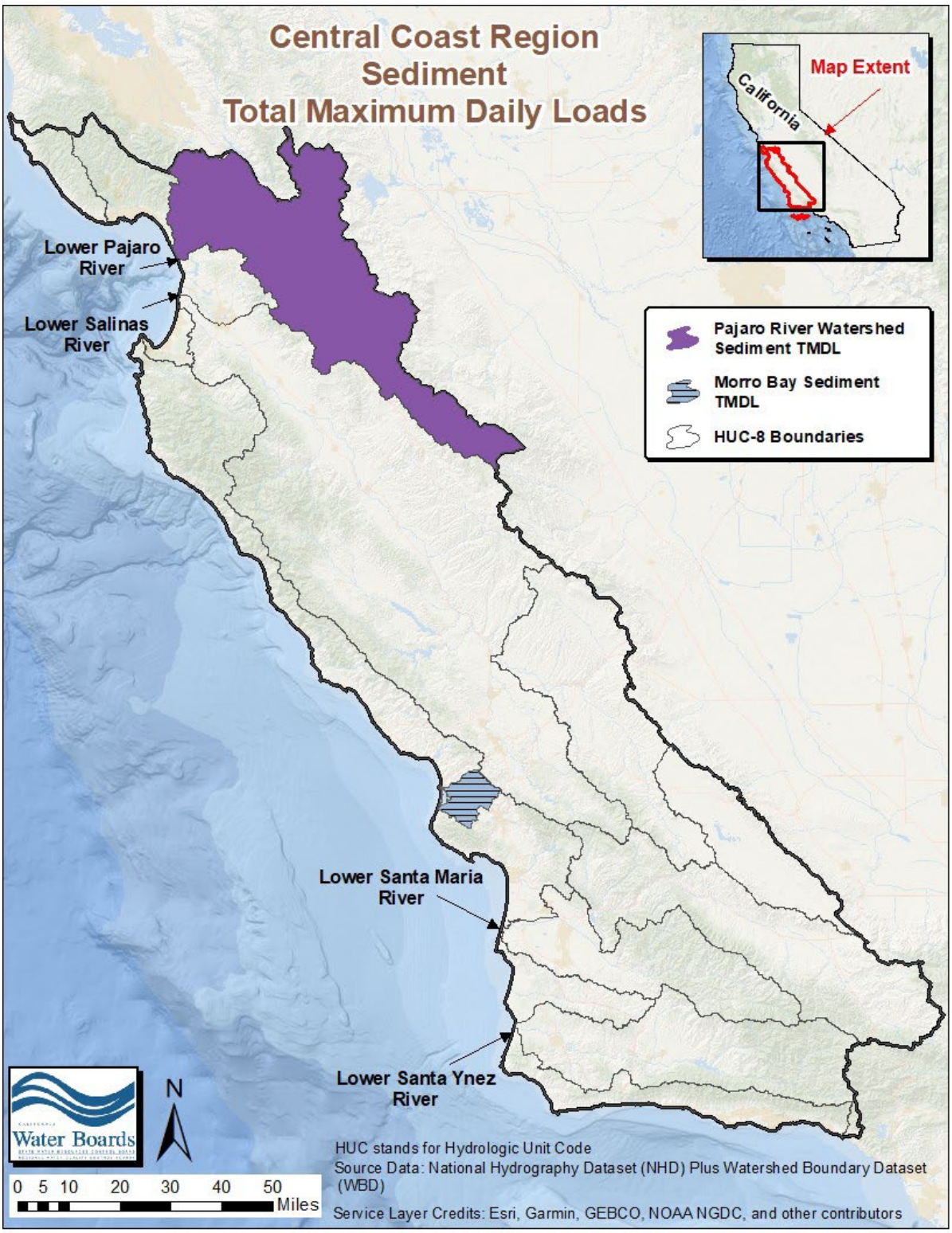

Figure C.3-4: Turbidity and Sediment TMDL Areas