



**Central Coast
Regional
Water Board**

Sediment and Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)

Completeness and Effectiveness Criteria

Last Updated 07/16/2026

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Background

The [Agricultural Order](#)¹ (page 19, condition 1) requires that all operators develop, implement, and update as necessary a Farm Water Quality Management Plan (Farm Plan) for each ranch under their enrollment. 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.

- Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP)
- Pesticide Management Plan (PMP)
- Sediment and Erosion Management Plan (SEMP)
- Water Quality Education
- CEQA Mitigation Measure Implementation

The Agricultural Order (page 19 condition 2) requires that the SEMP section include information on management practice implementation and assessment. Elements of the SEMP section are reported on the Annual Compliance Form (ACF). Additional information on monitoring and reporting requirements related to each of these sections is included in Section F of the Monitoring and Reporting Program² ([MRP](#)). The ACF includes, but is not limited to, the items listed below.

1. Irrigation, stormwater, and tile drain discharge characteristics (e.g., number of discharge points, estimated flow and volume, and number of tailwater days).
2. Status of SEMP development and implementation.
3. Identification of specific water quality management practices (measures) implemented on the ranch and assessed for effectiveness to minimize erosion and sediment discharges:
4. Irrigation management practices
5. Sediment and erosion management practices
6. Reporting on water quality and management practice education obtained.

This document is a completeness and effectiveness criteria checklist for the SEMP section of the Farm Plan.

¹ The Agricultural Order is available on the Irrigated Lands Program website at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_order.pdf

² The MRP is available on the Irrigated Lands Program website at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_attachment_b.pdf

SEMP Completeness Criteria

Include a description of currently-implemented management measures and/or planned management measures (e.g., visual inspection logs, before/after photos taken from the same vantage point, sediment retention estimates, discharge velocity, volume, frequency observations or measurements, sediment content measurements, such as turbidity or Total Dissolved Solids) to minimize sediment and erosion from irrigation and stormwater runoff.

Please note the difference between management measure maintenance and an effectiveness assessment.³

1. Management measure maintenance ensures a management measure is properly maintained to ensure it operates efficiently.
2. A properly maintained management measure does not demonstrate its effectiveness in minimizing sediment and erosion.
3. An effectiveness assessment should be designed to demonstrate the management measure is effective at reducing sediment and erosion.

SEMP Completeness Criteria Checklist	
Updates Log	
☐	Maintain a log for updates to the SEMP, including name, date, and a brief description of updates made.
Site/Ranch Map	
☐	Legible, clearly labeled, and includes a North arrow.
☐	Identify discharge locations, including run-on, run-off, and sheet flows (especially over-bank into stream), all marked with flow-directional arrows.
☐	Identify the ranch boundary (perimeter) and farming block boundaries (perimeters).
☐	The location of ongoing (marked with an O) and planned (marked with a P) management measures.
☐	The locations of sediment basins, drainage infrastructure (ditches, culverts, etc.).
☐	Label management measures which are also numbered to correspond with management measures listed/reported in the SEMP.
☐	Identify locations of unpaved and paved roads.
☐	Identify locations of all active wells on the ranch.
☐	If applicable, identify waterbodies and riparian areas adjacent, nearby, and/or on the ranch.

³ For example, installing and properly maintaining a sediment basin does not ensure the basin is of adequate capacity for the discharge area, that it was properly constructed, and/or that it was installed in a location to ensure maximum effectiveness for the discharge area, nor does it quantify (measure) the amount of sediment removed from irrigation water or stormwater prior to discharge from the ranch.

☐	If applicable, identify areas with impermeable surfaces, part or all of the year (e.g., plastic mulch, hoop-house, greenhouse, building roof, or pavement).
☐	Identify locations for long-term effectiveness assessment, including photo and sampling points, if applicable.
Ranch Metrics	
☐	Report time/years on the ranch (or “farming start date”) and any planned farming end-dates or rotations on/off the ranch.
☐	Report total ranch acres, farmed acres, and tailwater acres, if applicable.
☐	Any ranch areas for which sediment and erosion are managed separately from the rest of the ranch should be described, mapped, and have the acreage listed (in the SEMP and on the ranch map). Management practices mapped or listed should be clearly associated with only those ranch areas to which they apply.
☐	If applicable, where multiple crops are grown on the ranch, provide a description and location of any management measures that are commodity-specific, and where those commodities are grown on the ranch (for example, location of perennial versus annual crops)
☐	Include at least a general description of soil-type (more specific is better).
☐	Report primary irrigation types (e.g., sprinkler, drip, micro-sprinkler, overhead sprinkler).
☐	Report whether tile drains are present, and whether they are active.
☐	If applicable, specify impermeable surface presence, total acreage of impermeable surface, and type of impermeable surface (e.g., plastic mulch, hoop-house, greenhouse, building roof, or pavement).
☐	If applicable, report waterbodies and riparian areas adjacent, nearby, and/or on the ranch.
☐	Report whether crop production occurs within 30 feet of a waterbody and/or riparian area.
☐	Report whether stream banks, near-bank areas, and/or riparian areas maintained and bare of vegetation.
☐	Report all activities conducted in or near stream channels, banks, and/or riparian areas (e.g., weed removal/spraying, bank clearing).
☐	Report land slope(s): • Measured by topographic/laser method (preferred). • Estimated slope, if topographic method is not available. • Semi-quantitative/narrative description of slope (if estimation is not practical). • Report significant changes in elevation, for example a 5 feet difference between the farmed and the riparian areas.
☐	Report non-cropped areas with soil vulnerable to erosion (e.g., unpaved roads, ditch banks, stream banks that are maintained bare of vegetation).
Management Measures	
Report all currently implemented and any planned management measures which generally fall into three categories: • Prevention of sediment discharge from the ranch.	

• Containment of sediment on the ranch. • Treatment of sediment prior to discharge from the ranch.	
Currently Implemented Management Measures Currently implemented and planned management measures should be reported in the SEMP and generally fall into three categories: • Prevention of sediment discharge from the ranch. • Containment of sediment on the ranch. • Treatment of sediment prior to discharge from the ranch.	
Irrigation Discharge (including tailwater discharge)	
Prevention	
☐	Report all currently implemented irrigation sediment discharge prevention management measures. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each implemented irrigation discharge prevention management measure.
☐	If applicable, report any irrigation sediment discharge prevention measures planned for future implementation and a timeline for implementation. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each planned irrigation sediment discharge prevention management measures.
Containment If irrigation sediment discharge is not fully addressed with prevention management measures, implement containment management measures.	
☐	Report all currently implemented irrigation sediment discharge containment management measures. • Include dimensions/capacity of any structures constructed for containment. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each implemented irrigation sediment containment management measures.
☐	If applicable, report any irrigation sediment discharge containment management measures planned for future implementation and a timeline for implementation. • Include dimensions/capacity of each structure planned to be constructed for irrigation sediment discharge containment. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each planned irrigation sediment discharge containment management measure.
Treatment If irrigation sediment discharges are not fully addressed with prevention and containment management measures, implement treatment management measures.	
☐	Report all currently implemented irrigation sediment discharge treatment management measures. • Include dimensions/capacity of each treatment management measures used to remove sediment prior to discharge off the ranch.

	• Include an on-going maintenance plan for each implemented irrigation sediment discharge treatment management measures.
☐	If applicable, report any irrigation sediment discharge treatment management measures planned for future implementation. • Include dimensions/capacity for each planned irrigation sediment discharge treatment management measure used to remove sediment. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each planned irrigation sediment discharge treatment management measure.
Stormwater Discharge (including tailwater discharge)	
Prevention	
☐	Report all currently implemented stormwater sediment discharge prevention management measures. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for implemented stormwater sediment discharge prevention management measures.
☐	If applicable, report any stormwater sediment discharge prevention management measures planned for future implementation and a timeline for implementation. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for planned stormwater sediment discharge prevention management measures.
Containment	
If stormwater sediment discharge is not fully addressed with prevention management measures, implement containment management measures.	
☐	Report all currently implemented stormwater sediment discharge containment management measures. • Include dimensions/capacity of any structures used for containment. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each implemented stormwater sediment containment management measure.
☐	If applicable, report any stormwater sediment discharge containment management measures planned for future implementation and a timeline for implementation. • Include dimensions/capacity of each planned structure to be constructed for stormwater sediment discharge containment. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each planned stormwater sediment discharge containment management measure.
Treatment	
If stormwater sediment discharges are not fully addressed with prevention and containment measures, implement treatment management measures.	
☐	Report all currently implemented stormwater sediment discharge treatment management measures. • Include dimensions/capacity of each structure currently used for treatment. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each implemented stormwater sediment discharge treatment management measure.

☐	List all stormwater sediment discharge measures <i>planned for future implementation</i> and a timeline for implementation. • Include dimensions/capacity of each planned structure to be constructed <i>treatment</i>. • Include an on-going maintenance plan for each planned stormwater sediment discharge <i>treatment</i> measure.
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SEMP Effectiveness Criteria

Include a description of assessments used to evaluate the effectiveness (effectiveness assessments) of currently-implemented management measures and/or planned management measures (e.g., visual inspection logs, before/after photos taken from the same vantage point, sediment retention estimates, discharge velocity, volume, frequency observations or measurements, sediment content measurements, such as turbidity or Total Dissolved Solids).

Please note the difference between management measure maintenance and an effectiveness assessment.⁴

1. Management measure maintenance ensures a management measure is properly maintained to ensure it operates efficiently.
2. A properly maintained management measure does not demonstrate its effectiveness in minimizing sediment and erosion.
3. An effectiveness assessment should be designed to demonstrate the management measure is effective at reducing sediment and erosion.

SEMP Effectiveness Criteria Checklist	
Effectiveness Assessment Logs	
☐	Include observation and self-assessment logs (documentation) of effectiveness assessments conducted in current and prior years.
☐	Establish a planned frequency for effectiveness assessments and timing relative to irrigation and storm events.
☐	It is most effective to develop separate logs to assess irrigation and stormwater runoff.
Irrigation Discharge	
The “reference condition” for sediment in irrigation discharges from the ranch during and after irrigation events should be “zero” (e.g., if the land was <i>not</i> used for	

⁴ For example, installing and properly maintaining a sediment basin does not ensure the basin is of adequate capacity for the discharge area, that it was properly constructed, and/or that it was installed in a location to ensure maximum effectiveness for the discharge area, nor does it quantify (measure) the amount of sediment removed from irrigation water or stormwater prior to discharge from the ranch.

commercial irrigated agricultural activities, there would be zero irrigation discharge). However, very low erosion and discharges with very low flows/velocities and very low sediment content may not cause or contribute to water quality impairment.

If the effectiveness for a management measure indicates observable reductions in erosion and sediment in irrigation discharges from the ranch, the final step is to compare the current volume, velocity, frequency, and sediment content of irrigation discharges with reference conditions. This is most effectively done for each of the three management measure categories (prevention, containment, and treatment).

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | If irrigation water discharges from the ranch, identify all locations where irrigation discharges occur on the Ranch Map. |
| ☐ | Assess the volume and velocity of irrigation water that discharges from the ranch at each discharge location. |
| ☐ | Assess the frequency, timing, and duration that irrigation water discharges from the ranch at each discharge location. |
| ☐ | Assess the sediment content of irrigation water discharges from the ranch. |
| ☐ | Assess whether the irrigation water discharge is causing erosion as it flows off the ranch at each discharge location. |
| ☐ | Use this information to inform management measure improvements. |

Stormwater Discharge

The “reference condition” for stormwater discharge should be as pastureland with similar soil type and slope to the ranch (e.g., stormwater discharge volume, velocity, and frequency should match conditions for pastureland use activities).

If the effectiveness for a management measure indicates observable reductions in erosion and sediment in stormwater discharges from the ranch, the final step is to compare current erosion and the volume, velocity, frequency, and sediment content of stormwater discharges with reference conditions. This is most effectively done for each of the three management measure categories (***prevention***, ***containment***, and ***treatment***).

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | If stormwater discharges from the ranch, identify all locations where irrigation discharges occur on the Ranch Map. |
| ☐ | Assess the volume and velocity of stormwater that discharges from the ranch at each discharge location. |
| ☐ | Assess the frequency, timing, and duration that stormwater discharges from the ranch at each discharge location. |
| ☐ | Assess the sediment content of stormwater discharges from the ranch. |
| ☐ | Assess whether the stormwater discharge is causing erosion as it flows off the ranch at each discharge location. |
| ☐ | Use this information to inform management measure improvements. |

Water Quality Education

1. Provide details on personnel education and training related to sediment and erosion, including:
2. Types and dates of training conducted.
3. Personnel involved.

Water Quality Improvement Projects

If applicable, document participation in water quality improvement projects (scale and type), if applicable.

Examples

Management Measure Examples

This list is not exhaustive but provides examples of commonly used management measures that have been shown to be effective at reducing sediment in irrigation and stormwater discharges.

<i>Irrigation Discharge</i>
Prevention
Low-till or No-till to minimize soil disturbance and keep spoil particles in place
Minimized the presence of bare soil on the ranch
Drip tape or micro-irrigation
Regular irrigation system maintenance to improve irrigation efficiency
Water measuring device to measure volume of irrigation water applied (e.g., flow meter)
Variable speed pump, control system, and/or land-leveling to improve distribution uniformity (DU) and minimize irrigation water loss
Sprinkler heads, nozzles, and drip tape/emitter with application rates that match system layout, system pressure, and infiltration rates to minimize irrigation runoff
Ranch specific data to determine and schedule irrigation needs (e.g., maximum allowable depletion (MAD), soil water capacity, crop evapotranspiration (ET), irrigated system efficiency rating, soil moisture monitoring data
Online management tool or model to make irrigation decisions according to crop needs (e.g., Crop Manage or Heavy Connect)
Containment
Grassed furrows
Vegetation to trap excess nutrients, pesticides, or other pollutants from irrigation runoff (e.g., vegetated drainage ditch, grassed waterway, field border, vegetated filter strip)
Tailwater collection and recycling system for irrigation water
Ensured sediment (catchment) basins were properly designed and constructed
Maintained existing sediment (catchment) basins

Used drainage features (ditches), such as check dams and benches, to reduce water velocity during high flow periods.
Planted or maintained vegetation at waterbody boundaries, such as along drainage features or creeks, to reduce water velocity and trap sediment
Treatment
Filtration device to remove excess nutrients, pesticides, sediment, or other pollutants from irrigation runoff (e.g., activated carbon, biochar)
Denitrifying/woodchip bioreactor to remove excess nutrients, pesticides, sediment, or other pollutants from irrigation runoff
Vegetated treatment area or wetland treatment system to remove excess nutrients, pesticides, sediment, or other pollutants from irrigation runoff
Installed storm drain inlet protection features, such as sandbags or catch basin inserts, to allow sediment to settle out of irrigation water before discharging to the storm drain inlet

<i>Stormwater Discharge</i>
Prevention
Low-till or No-till to minimize soil disturbance and keep spoil particles in place
Minimized the presence of bare soil on the ranch
Stabilized bare slopes prior to winter rainy season (October 1 st through April 30 th) using sediment control features such as straw waddles (fiber rolls), silt fencing, and sandbags
Riparian herbaceous cover or buffer
Landscape management (e.g., contour buffer strips, terraces, strip-cropping, contour cropping, hedgerow planting)
Alley cropping and/or intercropping
Planted cover crops during winter rainy season
Soil surface cover (e.g., with plant-based mulch or crop residue)
Critical area planting (establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have, or may have, high erosion rates)
Properly maintained drainage features (ditches) to efficiently transport sediment during low flow periods
Ensured farm roads were properly designed and constructed to minimize soil erosion
Utilized water bars or rolling dips to divert stormwater off farm roads
Properly maintained farm roads and culverts to minimize soil erosion and sediment transport
Avoided driving on dirt farm roads during wet or muddy conditions
Applied rocks or gravel to roads used during the winter rainy season
Containment
Ensured sediment (catchment) basins were properly designed and constructed
Maintained existing sediment (catchment) basins
Used drainage features (ditches), such as check dams and benches, to reduce water velocity during high flow periods
Planted or maintained vegetation at waterbody boundaries, such as along drainage features or creeks, to reduce water velocity and trap sediment

Vegetation to trap excess nutrients, pesticides, or other pollutants from stormwater runoff (e.g., vegetated drainage ditch, grassed waterway, field border, vegetated filter strip)
Tailwater collection and recycling system for stormwater
Treatment
Installed storm drain inlet protection features, such as sandbags or catch basin inserts, to allow sediment to settle out of stormwater before discharging to the storm drain inlet
Filtration device to remove excess nutrients, pesticides, sediment, or other pollutants from stormwater runoff (e.g., activated carbon, biochar)
Denitrifying/woodchip bioreactor to remove excess nutrients, pesticides, sediment, or other pollutants from stormwater runoff
Vegetated treatment area or wetland treatment system to remove excess nutrients, pesticides, sediment, or other pollutants from stormwater runoff

Effectiveness Assessment Examples

There are many ways to conduct self-assessment to ascertain the effectiveness of management measure implemented on a ranch to minimize irrigation and stormwater discharges (and resulting erosion that may occur).

- Set up photo monitoring points at all discharge locations and develop a corresponding site map to document site conditions before, during, and after irrigation and storm events. Label the photos with a monitoring point number, the date and time the photos were taken, and take photos from the same vantage point each time (e.g., view northeast).
- Maintain observation logs that document discharges during irrigation and stormwater events.
- Use turbidity water tests (e.g., a turbidity tube or Secchi disk) to measure the NTU value of the water).
- Look for signs of erosion on the ranch and at all discharge points (e.g., soil ruts, rilling, sediment deposits after irrigation or storm events). Identify potential sources of the erosion on the ranch.
- If a management measure is not effective at reducing irrigation and stormwater discharges or reducing erosion, improve upon or implement a new management measure and compare the before and after site conditions to determine whether the improved or new management measure has improved site conditions.

Irrigation Discharge

Frequency and Flow Volume

Self assessed effectiveness observation logs (daily or quarterly) should be kept that characterize the frequency and flow volume of irrigation discharges at all discharge locations off the ranch and should be kept in the SEMP section of the Farm Plan, updated regularly, and summarized in the SEMP section of the Farm Plan (example observation log below). The logs should be accompanied by a locator map that shows

all discharge points off the ranch. The goal is to understand the frequency and flow volume of the irrigation discharge).

Frequency and Flow Volume Assessment – Irrigation Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Very Low					
Low					
Moderate					
High					

Very Low discharge has a flow-rate equivalent to a few garden hoses or less, e.g. less than 25 gallons per minute (GPM)

Low discharge has a flow-rate around 50 gallons per minute (GPM), or 0.1 cubic foot per second (CFS)

Moderate discharge has a flow rate of 51 to 200 gallons per minute (GPM), or 0.2-0.5 cubic feet per second (CFS)

High discharge has a flow-rate over 200 GPM, or 0.5 CFS

Sediment and Erosion

Turbidity Assessment – Irrigation Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Absent					
Low					
Moderate					
High					

Absent (less than 10 NTU) – clear water

Low (less than 50 NTU) – somewhat clear

Moderate (50 to 250 NTU) – murky, not clear

High (250 to 3000+ NTU) – chocolate milk color

Erosion Assessment on the Ranch – Irrigation Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Absent					
Low					
Moderate					
Frequent					

Absent – irrigation flows do not cause any erosion on the ranch

Low – irrigation flows rarely cause erosion on the ranch

Moderate – irrigation flows sometimes or mildly cause erosion on the ranch

Frequent – irrigation flows frequently or significantly cause erosion on the ranch

Erosion Assessment off the Ranch – Irrigation Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Absent					
Low					
Moderate					
Frequent					

Absent – irrigation flows do not cause any erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Low – irrigation flows rarely cause erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Moderate – irrigation flows sometimes or mildly cause erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Frequent – irrigation flows frequently or significantly cause erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Other assessments:

- Irrigation water pumped from a pond becomes turbid (cloudy) as it comes into contact with a roadside drainage or agricultural ditch.
- Irrigation water becomes turbid (cloudy) as it comes into contact with a roadside drainage or agricultural ditch.

Stormwater Discharge

Self assessed effectiveness observation logs (daily or quarterly) should be kept that characterize the turbidity of stormwater discharges at all discharge locations off the ranch and should be kept in the SEMP section of the Farm Plan, updated regularly, and summarized in the SEMP section of the Farm Plan (example observation log below). The logs should be accompanied by a locator map that shows all discharge points off the ranch. The goal is to understand the turbidity (sediment content) of the stormwater discharge).

Frequency and Flow Volume

Self assessed effectiveness observation logs (daily or quarterly) should be kept that characterize the frequency and flow volume of stormwater discharges at all discharge locations off the ranch and should be kept in the SEMP section of the Farm Plan, updated regularly, and summarized in the SEMP section of the Farm Plan (example observation log below). The logs should be accompanied by a locator map that shows all discharge points off the ranch. The goal is to understand the frequency and flow volume of the stormwater discharge).

Frequency and Flow Volume Assessment – Stormwater Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Very Low					
Low					
Moderate					
High					

Very Low discharge has a flow-rate equivalent to a few garden hoses or less, e.g. less than 25 gallons per minute (GPM)

Low discharge has a flow-rate around 50 gallons per minute (GPM), or 0.1 cubic foot per second (CFS)

Moderate discharge has a flow rate of 51 to 200 gallons per minute (GPM), or 0.2-0.5 cubic feet per second (CFS)

High discharge has a flow-rate over 200 GPM, or 0.5 CFS

Other assessments for alignment with the Annual Compliance Form (ACF) may include:

- Stormwater discharges off the ranch to a surface water body (including riparian area).
- Stormwater discharges only occur during heavy storm events.

Sediment and Erosion

Turbidity Assessment – Stormwater Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Absent					
Low					
Moderate					
High					

Absent (less than 10 NTU) – clear water

Low (less than 50 NTU) – somewhat clear

Moderate (50 to 250 NTU) – murky, not clear

High (250 to 3000+ NTU) – chocolate milk color

Erosion Assessment on the Ranch – Stormwater Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Absent					
Low					
Moderate					
Frequent					

Absent – irrigation flows do not cause any erosion on the ranch

Low – irrigation flows rarely cause erosion on the ranch

Moderate – irrigation flows sometimes or mildly cause erosion on the ranch

Frequent – irrigation flows frequently or significantly cause erosion on the ranch

Erosion Assessment off the Ranch – Stormwater Runoff Discharge Point 1					
1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Number of Days				
	0 (never)	1 to 3	4 to 30	31 to 60	61-90
Absent					
Low					
Moderate					
Frequent					

Absent – irrigation flows do not cause any erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Low – irrigation flows rarely cause erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Moderate – irrigation flows sometimes or mildly cause erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Frequent – irrigation flows frequently or significantly cause erosion off the ranch at discharge points

Resources

Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

The approved third-party program has developed templates⁵ for a SEMP, ranch maps, observation logs, and self-assessment forms for irrigation and stormwater discharges.

Resource Conservation Districts

There are [Resource Conservation Districts](#)⁶ that serve all areas of the central coast region and can provide technical assistance and in some cases, funding assistance, to implement management measures to protect water quality.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

The Natural Resource Conservation Service has developed Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) for many agriculture-related management measures in [Field Office Technical Guides](#)⁷ (FOTG) for the state of California. The FOTG has prepared CPS documents for each of the CPS which includes a definition, purpose, conditions where the practice applies, criteria (including technical guidance for construction, implementation, and maintenance).

- Select California from the dropdown menu, then Section 4 – Practice Standards and Supporting Documentation, then Index to view a list of all CPS, then Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents to view a PDF of the CPS.

⁵ Preservation, Inc.'s templates are available on their website at:

[https://ccwqp.org/swfollowup/#:~:text=Sediment%20%26%20Erosion%20Management%20Plan%20\(SEMP\)](https://ccwqp.org/swfollowup/#:~:text=Sediment%20%26%20Erosion%20Management%20Plan%20(SEMP))

⁶ The Resource Conservation Districts that serve California can be found at:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/RCD/Pages/CaliforniaRCDs.aspx>

⁷ The Natural Resource Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guides can be accessed at:

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>.