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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 August 2024

David Guy  
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition  
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 335  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **REVIEW OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITION 2024 GROUNDWATER QUALITY TREND MONITORING STATUS UPDATE**

Thank you for submitting the 11 July 2024 Technical Memorandum *Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition 2024 Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Status Update* (2024 GQTMP Update). The 2024 GQTMP Update was submitted to comply with the *Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers in the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-Party Group, Order R5-2014-0030-11* (Order).

The 11 July 2024 Technical Memorandum *Proposed Modifications to Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program* was received under separate cover and will be reviewed separately. The review may include further discussion of the overall GQTMP network for future monitoring events. Please follow the current 2024 GQTMP Update until further notice.

Staff has completed review of the 2024 GQTMP Update and recommends the Coalition proceed with groundwater monitoring in early September 2024. The attached memorandum contains comments from staff review.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Olivia Mathews at 530-224-3215 or [olivia.mathews@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:olivia.mathews@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Adam Laputz  Digitally signed by Adam Laputz  
Date: 2024.08.22 16:50:58 -07'00'  
Water Boards

Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Review of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition 2024  
Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Status Update

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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TO:** Petra Lee  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

**FROM:** Olivia Mathews  
Environmental Scientist  
**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

**DATE:** 26 July 2024

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY  
COALITION 2024 GROUNDWATER QUALITY TREND MONITORING  
STATUS UPDATE

On 11 July 2024, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received the Technical Memorandum *Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) 2024 Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Status Update* (2024 GQTMP Update). This review memorandum provides staff review of the 2024 GQTMP Update to meet the requirements of *Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers in the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-Party Group, Order R5-2014-0030-11* (Order).

The 11 July 2024 Technical Memorandum *Proposed Modifications to Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program* was received under separate cover and will be reviewed separately. The review may include further discussion of the overall GQTMP network for future monitoring events.

### 2024 GQTMP Update Overview

The Coalition submitted the 2024 GQTMP Update 60 days prior to sampling which is scheduled to be completed in early September 2024. The proposed 2024 network includes 33 wells, a net increase of five (5) wells from 2023. There are 18 domestic supply wells, 12 public water supply wells, two (2) irrigation wells, and one (1) unknown type. Three (3) of the 33 wells are located outside the Central Valley floor. Twenty-four (24) wells are screened 62 to 100 percent in the Upper Zone, and one (1) well is screened entirely in the Lower Zone. The screen interval for four (4) wells is unknown, and the remaining four (4) wells are in areas where the Upper-Lower Zone boundary has not been designated.

## Staff Review

The 2024 GQTMP Update was reviewed to determine compliance with Order requirements. Five (5) staff comments are provided below.

1. The Well Completion Reports (WCRs) for SVWQC00042, SVWQC00043, and SVWQC00045 are not included in Attachment A of the 2024 GQTMP Update. **The Coalition should provide available WCRs for wells newly added to the network.**
2. There are inconsistencies in the well construction information provided in the 2024 GQTMP Update compared to other GQTMP deliverables submitted by the Coalition. **The Coalition should review and update well information prior to submittal of the 2025 GQTMP Update.**
3. **Staff agrees that the Coalition provides sufficient justification for the suitability of well SVWQC00039 to be added to the network as the replacement for well SVWQC00030.**
4. The Coalition proposes the addition of public water supply (PWS) well SVWQC00045 to the network as the replacement for SVWQC00031 in monitoring area (MA) 3. The Coalition will obtain nitrate results from the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for annual reporting. The well is screened in the Upper Zone, is further from a surface water body than is average for wells in the area, is surrounded by 45% agricultural land use within a one (1) mile radius and is representative of the top commodity within MA 3, is in proximity to other drinking water wells in the same section, and is within a low monitoring priority area. The Coalition concludes that the well is suitable for the objectives of the GQTMP by providing a representation of groundwater quality conditions in the Upper Zone in an agricultural setting. **Staff agrees that well SVWQC00045 is a suitable replacement for well SVWQC00031 in MA 3.**
5. The Coalition proposes the addition of three (3) wells to the network in MAs 4, 12, and 13. The three (3) wells are PWS wells and the annual nitrate data will be obtained from the DDW.

Well SVWQC00042 is proposed for additional data in MA 4. The well is located just outside of MA 4, but is within the only large agricultural area not already monitored by a GQTMP network well in the area. The well is screened in the Upper Zone, is further from a surface water body than is average for wells in the area, is surrounded by 86% agricultural land use within a one (1) mile radius and is representative of the top commodity within MA 4, is in proximity to other drinking water wells in the same section, and is within a low monitoring priority area. The Coalition concludes that the well is suitable for the objectives of the GQTMP by providing a representation of groundwater quality conditions in the Upper Zone in an agricultural setting.

Well SVWQC00043 is proposed for additional data in MA 13. The well is screened in the Upper Zone, is closer to a surface water body (680 feet) than is average for wells in the area (926 feet) but is at an acceptable distance, is surrounded by 81% agricultural land use within a one (1) mile radius and is representative of the top commodity within MA 13, is in proximity to other drinking water wells in the same section, and is in a high monitoring priority area. The Coalition concludes that the well is suitable for the objectives of the GQTMP by providing representation of groundwater quality conditions in the Upper Zone in an agricultural setting.

Well SVWQC00044 is proposed for additional data in MA 12. The well is likely screened mostly within the Upper Zone based on the typical screen depth of production wells in the same section, is further from a surface water body than is average for wells in the area, is surrounded by 48% agricultural land use within a one (1) mile radius and is representative of the top commodity within MA 12, is in proximity to other drinking water wells in the same section, and is within a high monitoring priority area. The Coalition concludes that the well is suitable for the objectives of the GQTMP by providing a representation of groundwater quality conditions in the Upper Zone in an agricultural setting.

**Staff agrees that wells SVWQC00042, SVWQC00043, and SVWQC00044 are suitable for addition to the network.**

## Staff Recommendation

Overall, the 2024 GQTMP Update meets the requirements of the Order. **The Coalition should provide available WCRs for wells newly added to the network in 2024. Staff recommends the Coalition proceed with groundwater monitoring in early September 2024 as specified in the 2024 GQTMP Update.**