
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11 September 2024

David Guy, President
Northern California Water Association
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Sacramento, CA 95814

RENEWAL FOR SUBWATERSHEDS ENROLLED IN THE REDUCED MONITORING/MANAGEMENT PRACTICE VERIFICATION OPTION

The Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed Order R5-2014-0030-11 (Order) allows a Reduced Monitoring/Management Practice Verification Option (RMMP) and renewal option where dischargers may monitor every five (5) years if certain criteria have been met. Currently, four (4) subwatersheds are enrolled in the RMMP: El Dorado, Lake, Napa, and Pit River.

In 2016, El Dorado, Lake, and Napa subwatersheds were approved for enrollment in the RMMP, and Pit River was approved for enrollment in 2019. Since approval, the subwatersheds have implemented reduced monitoring consisting of monitoring at Representative sites in the subwatershed areas with a frequency of one sampling event per five (5) years. Upon Executive Officer (EO) approval, subwatersheds are enrolled in the RMMP for five (5) years given the following conditions are met:

- An exceedance of any pesticide, toxicity, copper, or nutrient water quality objective or trigger limit requires monitoring of that constituent for an additional two years and the Third-Party must receive EO approval for continuation in the reduced monitoring option for the subwatershed where the exceedance occurred.
- Any Special Project monitoring required for management plans for lower priority parameters or TMDLs continues on the frequency required by the management plan or TMDL.
- In each Annual Monitoring Report, the Third-Party must report on the implementation of the education and outreach strategy and the management practice verification strategy.
- Farm Evaluations are collected from Members within the subwatersheds during the same year as assessment monitoring and reported as required in the Annual Monitoring Report.

In 2021, the EO approved an alignment of RMMP monitoring, and the next assessment monitoring for all subwatersheds will need to be approved for the RMMP schedule to begin in 2026. Staff recognize that Assessment monitoring will occur in 2026 regardless of RMMP approval, however, to continue the 5-year RMMP sampling schedule, a renewal must be submitted and approved.

For the subwatershed to meet RMMP renewal requirements, the Order states:

“The modified monitoring approach will be in effect for five years from the approval date. The Third-Party may request that the Executive Officer approve renewal of this option for another five-year period for all or some of the designated areas. The Executive Officer’s consideration of approval for renewal will be based on whether the conditions of the original approval are still met. The Third-Party may include an evaluation of the changes in conditions as a separate report or as part of the AMR submitted following the fourth year of implementation of this option. In its evaluation, the Third-Party shall include a review of trends in cropping patterns; changes in pesticide use; changes in enrolled Members; and trends in the proportion of agricultural land use in the subwatershed.”

For the El Dorado, Lake, Napa, and Pit River subwatersheds to continue enrollment in the RMMP, a request following the Order guidelines must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board by **1 February 2025**.

If you have any questions, please contact Petra Lee at (916) 464-4604 or Petra.Lee@waterboards.ca.gov or Olivia Mathews at (530) 224-3215 or Olivia.Mathews@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam Laputz  Digitally signed by Adam Laputz
Date: 2024.09.13 14:55:11
Water 1:0700

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: Bruce Houdesheldt, Northern California Water Association