

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

15 February 2024

Mr. Tim Johnson
California Rice Commission
1231 I Street, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95814-2933

APPROVAL OF 2024 RICE PESTICIDES PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Thank you for submitting the 2023 Rice Pesticides Program Annual Monitoring Report and management practice recommendations for the 2024 thiobencarb monitoring season. The report and recommendations were submitted to meet the conditions of Resolution No. R5-2010-9001. The Central Valley Water Board staff review of the Annual Monitoring Report is in the attached memorandum.

In 2023, there were no exceedances of the thiobencarb water quality objective at the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento water intakes. There were two exceedances of the performance goal in the agricultural drains, one each at sites CBD1 and CBD5. These exceedances were likely contributed to by the 100 percent rebound in thiobencarb planted and treated acreage that occurred over the previous drought year. No exceedances occurred in the prior two years.

Your management practice recommendation for the 2024 monitoring season is to continue actions implemented by rice growers in the Sacramento Valley in 2023. Further, practices required by the Resolution and prior approval letters continue to apply to covered growers. No new management practices are proposed for 2024.

I approve the management practice recommendations for the 2024 thiobencarb monitoring season. If there are any questions regarding this approval or the status of the Rice Pesticides Program, please contact Ashley Peters at (916) 464-4857 or Ashley.Peters@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


Adam Laputz
Digitally signed by Adam Laputz
Date: 2024.02.16 10:59:06 -08'00'
Water Boards

Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer

cc: Craig Riddle, California Rice Commission (by email)
Rice Pesticides Program stakeholders (by email)

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Petra Lee
Senior Environmental Scientist
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

FROM: Ashley Peters, P.E.
Water Resource Control Engineer
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

DATE: 1 February 2024

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE RICE PESTICIDES PROGRAM 2023 ANNUAL
MONITORING REPORT AND 2024 MANAGEMENT PRACTICE
RECOMMENDATIONS

On 19 December 2023, the California Rice Commission (CRC) submitted the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report for the Rice Pesticides Program following a two-week public comment period on the draft submittal. On 24 January 2024, management practice recommendations for the 2024 thiobencarb use season were submitted.

In this memorandum, staff provides a summary of the monitoring activities conducted during 2023, the management practice recommendations for the 2024 season, and staff recommendations.

SUMMARY OF THE 2023 SEASON

The CRC monitored for thiobencarb at five (5) sites from 9 May to 11 July 2023:

- Colusa Basin Drain 5 in the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (CBD5);
- Colusa Basin Drain above Knights Landing (CBD1);
- Butte Slough at Lower Pass Road (BS1);
- Sacramento Slough Bridge near Karnak (SSB); and
- Sacramento River at Village Marina/Crawdads Cantina (SR1).

Thiobencarb was detected in 9 of 70 samples collected at these sites in 2023. There were two exceedances of the performance goal of 1.5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), one at each site CBD1 and CBD5. No exceedances occurred in the prior two years. 2023 experienced a significant rebound in planted and treated acreage from the previous year, both up 100 percent, which likely contributed to the increase in thiobencarb detections.

The Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento monitored for thiobencarb at their water supply intakes from 26 April to 12 July 2023:

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- City of Sacramento at Sacramento River Intake (SSR); and
- George Kristoff Water Treatment Plant Intake, formerly the City of West Sacramento Intake at Bryte Bend, (WSR).

There were no detections of thiobencarb above the reporting limit at the water intakes for the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento or at CRC's Sacramento River site.

2023 followed an extremely dry year where thiobencarb usage and planted acreage reflected the limited water availability. Planted and treated acreage recovered by 100 percent in 2023 from the prior year, which represented a new historical low from 2003, when reporting began.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2024 SEASON

The CRC did not propose any changes to the Rice Pesticides Program for 2024. The CRC plans to continue with the management practices previously implemented. These actions include the following:

- 1) Support voluntary acreage reductions by the registrant (the company or individual applying to register a pesticide), who controls product availability within the current manufacturing and distribution limitations; and
- 2) Department of Pesticide Regulation Enforcement Branch limitation of the liquid formulation (Abolish 8EC) of thiobencarb to ground only applications north of Highway 20 and west of the Sacramento River.

In addition to the recommendations outlined above, the CRC will continue to implement the actions required by the Resolution and subsequent approval letters, which emphasize outreach and education and funding the county agricultural commissioners' supplemental surveillance contracts.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2023 Annual Monitoring Report contained the information necessary to review and evaluate the program. The water quality objective at the Cities' water intakes was met in 2023. Two exceedances of the performance goal in the agricultural drains occurred. Historical data have indicated some correlation between treated acreage and performance goal exceedances, which is reflected by the two performance goal exceedances, one each at sites CBD1 and CBD5, that occurred in 2023 after a 100-percent rebound in planted and treated acreage over 2022. No exceedances occurred in the prior two years. Staff recommends approval of the management practices planned for 2024.