

**North Coast Regional
Water Quality Control Board**

Agricultural Lands Discharge Program
Monitoring Webinar
July 26, 2012

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Webinar Objectives

- Provide information and reach a common understanding about available monitoring options
- Review Regional Board authorities and obligations to require monitoring under the California Water Code
- Review different types of monitoring available for use by regulatory programs
- Review specific examples of monitoring requirements in existing regional Ag programs
- Discuss possibilities and ideas for the North Coast Agricultural Lands Discharge Program

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**Regional Board's Obligation
to Require Monitoring for Waivers**

- Statewide Nonpoint Source Program-Key Element #4:
 - A NPS control implementation program shall include sufficient feedback mechanism to determine whether program is achieving its stated purpose
- Water Code Section 13269 (a)(2)
 - The conditions of a waiver shall include the performance of individual, group, or watershed based monitoring (abbreviated).
 - Monitoring requirements shall be designed to support the development and implementation of the waiver program, including, but not limited to, verifying the adequacy and effectiveness of the waiver's conditions (abbreviated).

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**Regional Board's Authority
to Require Monitoring**

- **Water Code section 13242, subd. (c):**
A program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives shall include "a description of surveillance to be undertaken to determine compliance with objectives."
- **Water Code section 13267, subd. (b):**
The Regional Board may require any person who discharges, has discharged, or proposes to discharge waste to waters of the state to furnish technical or monitoring reports. (abbreviated).

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Purpose of Monitoring

- **Informs Regional Board/Permittees/Stakeholders**
 - Effectiveness of the program
 - Need for program refinements in five years
- **Provides assurance**
 - Permittees are complying with program requirements
 - Water quality is being protected
 - Good management
- **Supports movement to a lower tier or category**

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Monitoring Design Considerations

- **Regional Board has flexibility in designing the appropriate monitoring**
- **Dependent on permit requirements and risks to water quality to be addressed**
- **Not all types of monitoring are appropriate or necessary in all programs**

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Common Types of Monitoring

- Forensic Monitoring
- Implementation Monitoring
- Effectiveness Monitoring
 - On the ground inspections
 - Instream
- Assessment Monitoring
- Trend Monitoring
- Water Quality Compliance Monitoring

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Central Valley Region

Irrigated Lands Program Monitoring and Reporting Requirements: (2005)

- *Assessment Monitoring* – sampling about 50 parameters and having 3 lab toxicity tests done every 6 months
- *Compliance Monitoring* – based on problems identified in the assessment
- *Implementation Monitoring* – pesticide use evaluation
- *Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring* – of management practices
- Group monitoring and semi-annual reporting

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San Francisco Bay Region

Tomaes Bay Grazing Waiver Monitoring and Reporting Requirements: (2008)

- *Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring* - visual inspections of management practices
- Individual annual reports submitted to Regional Board
- No sampling required of landowners
- *Trend Monitoring* – instream sampling done as part of larger TMDL program

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North Coast Region

Regionwide Dairy Program Requirements (2012)

- *Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring* - visual inspections of management practices
- *Assessment and Effectiveness Monitoring* - surface water sampling
 - five parameters
 - may be fulfilled through a group monitoring program
- *Assessment Monitoring* - groundwater sampling
 - nitrate and fecal coliform
- Annual reporting by individuals
 - Checklist, photos, sampling results

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Typical Monitoring Objectives

- Typical questions to be answered
 - Are waiver conditions being met?
 - Are BMPs being installed?
 - Are BMPs working?
 - Are water quality objectives being met in receiving waters affected by agricultural activities?
 - Is instream health changing over time?
 - Are Basin Plan violations occurring?

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Next Steps

- Monitoring provisions will be discussed at December/January 2012 Advisory subgroups
- Next round of subgroup meeting will be scheduled for early September/October 2012
 - Permit requirements
 - Enrollment

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