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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 September 2024

Nicole Bell  
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority  
P.O. Box 151  
Bakersfield, CA 93302

### **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE KERN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION AUTHORITY PESTICIDE MONITORING PROPOSAL FOR THE 2025 WATER YEAR**

Thank you for your submittal of Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority's 2025 Water Year Pesticide Evaluation Protocol Proposal (Proposal), dated 2 August 2024. The proposed pesticides and schedules for surface water monitoring were identified based on guidance provided in the Pesticide Evaluation Protocol, as required by the Monitoring and Reporting Program for Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120-09.

Based on Central Valley Water Board staff review, the proposed monitoring constituents and schedule were appropriately identified, except for Copper and Clothianidin. I am approving the proposal under the condition that the monitoring schedule is revised to include these pesticides during the months indicated in Table 1 of the enclosed staff memorandum.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mathew Jian at (559) 445-5567, or by email at [Mathew.Jian@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mathew.Jian@waterboards.ca.gov).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Pulupa".

For Patrick Pulupa  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Staff Review of Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority's Pesticide Evaluation Protocol Proposal for the 2025 Water Year

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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TO:** Eric Warren, PE  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer  
**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

**FROM:** Mathew Jian  
Water Resource Control Engineer  
**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

**DATE:** 18 September 2024

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF KERN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION AUTHORITY'S  
PESTICIDE EVALUATION PROTOCOL PROPOSAL FOR THE 2025  
WATER YEAR**

On 2 August 2024, the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (Coalition) submitted a Pesticide Evaluation Protocol Proposal for the 2025 Water Year (Proposal) to the Central Valley Water Board. Monitoring proposals are submitted annually in accordance with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) for Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-0120-09. The Proposal identifies the constituents and schedule for pesticide monitoring at designated surface water monitoring sites from 1 October 2024 through 30 September 2025.

### **2025 PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

The pesticides selected for monitoring were determined using three years of the **Department of Pesticide Regulation's** Pesticide Use Report (PUR) data (2019-2021). Pesticides that were applied within the watershed areas were filtered based on the Executive Officer List of Pesticides for Consideration (Attachment A, Pesticide Evaluation Protocol [PEP] issued by the Central Valley Water Board on 21 February 2024). If applicable, degradates of parent pesticides were added to the evaluation list. Lastly, pesticides with the same toxicant in water were grouped together. Pesticides applied within the watershed areas were excluded from monitoring based on factors including environmental fate and transport properties (e.g., high volatility), calculation of an aquatic life risk ratio of less than 50, and absence of commercially available analytical methods.

The pesticides proposed for monitoring are summarized in Tables 1 through 5 of the Proposal. Figure 1 of the Proposal shows the location of the five surface water monitoring sites.

### STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table lists pesticides that staff identified as requiring additional monitoring in the 2025 Water Year, along with the watershed and months in which they should be monitored in:

Table 1: Additional Pesticides Requiring Monitoring

<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Months</b>
Kern River	Copper	January, February
Poso Creek	Clothianidin	May
Tecuya Creek	Clothianidin	March, April, May, September

Staff recommend that Copper be included for monitoring in the Kern River Watershed based on step 3.C.c. of the PEP process, as the sampling data indicates that the level of copper is greater than 10% of the aquatic life reference value of 1.11 µg/L. Staff also recommend Clothianidin be included in the proposal for monitoring for the Poso Creek and Tecuya Creek watersheds for the months listed above. Step 1.E. of the PEP states, *“Determine if any parent compounds on the EO list of degradates (Attachment A1), have reported usage. Add degradates to the list in the same amount as the pounds of applied parent.”* Clothianidin is a degradate pesticide of the parent pesticide Thiamethoxam, which had reported usage based on the Coalition’s submitted PUR data.