

Irrigated Lands Program - Agricultural Order 4.0 Compliance Calendar

General Requirements

Applicable to all Dischargers, even those participating in a third-party program

Enrollment and Fees

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
1	Submit electronic Notice of Intent (eNOI)	Within 60 days of control or ownership	Order ¹ pg. 11 #3 MRP ² pg. 1 #2
2	Update eNOI	Within 60 days of any change	Order pg. 12 #8
3	Pay annual permit fees	Third-party program: Annually by January 31	Order pg. 13 #16-17
		Individual: Annually by June 15	Order pg. 13 #15

Third-Party Participation (Optional)

Dischargers may comply with portions of this Order by participating in third-party groups or programs (e.g., certification program, watershed group, water quality coalition, monitoring coalition, or other cooperative effort) approved by the Executive Officer.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
4	As applicable, notify approved third-party program of request to become a member	Within 60 days of a third-party program approval OR Within 60 days of enrollment, whichever is later	Order pg.17 #40
5	As applicable, maintain membership with and meet third-party program expectations	Ongoing	Order pgs. 15-16 #33 &36

Farm Water Quality Management Plan (Farm Plan)

The Farm Plan is a planning and recordkeeping tool used by Dischargers to manage various aspects of their agricultural operation. The minimum required sections include: Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP), Pesticide Management Plan (PMP), Sediment and Erosion Management Plan (SEMP), Water Quality Education, and CEQA Mitigation Measure Implementation.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
6	Develop, implement, maintain, and update a Farm Water Quality Management Plan (Farm Plan)	Ongoing	Order pg. 19 #1-3
7	Maintain all records related to compliance for a minimum of 10 years in Farm Plan	Ongoing	Order pg. 19-20 #4

¹ [Agricultural Order 4.0 \(No. R3-2021-0040\)](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_order.pdf)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_order.pdf)

² [Attachment B: Monitoring and Reporting Program to Order No. R3-2021-0040](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_att_b.pdf)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/ag_order4/2021/ao4_att_b.pdf)

Continuing Education

Dischargers must attend outreach and education events annually to obtain technical skills and assistance necessary to achieve compliance with this Order.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
8	Attend outreach and education events and maintain records of participation in the Farm Plan	Ongoing	Order pg. 20 #5
9	Maintain copy of the Order and MRP at each ranch for reference by operating personnel	Ongoing	Order pg. 20 #7
10	Report on education obtained electronically in the ACF	Ongoing	MRP pgs. 31-32 #1

Management Practice and CEQA³ Mitigation Measure Implementation⁴

Dischargers must implement management practices, as necessary, to improve and protect water quality, protect beneficial uses, achieve compliance with applicable water quality objectives in this Order. Dischargers must also implement the mitigation measures identified in the final certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Management practices and mitigation measures implemented must be documented in the appropriate section of the Farm Plan and dischargers must report on management practice implementation and assessment in the Annual Compliance Form (ACF).

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
11	Implement management practices and maintain records in the appropriate section of the Farm Plan	Ongoing	Order pg. 20 #8
12	Report on management practice implementation and assessment in the ACF	Annually at minimum	Order pg. 20 #8 MRP pgs. 31-32 #1
13	Implement the mitigation measures identified in the final certified EIR	Ongoing	Order pg. 21 #9
14	Report on mitigation measure implementation electronically in the ACF	Annually at minimum	Order pg. 21 #10 MRP pg. 2 #11

³ California Environmental Quality Act

⁴ CEQA mitigation measures could include but are not limited to Avoid and Minimize Impacts on Sensitive Biological Resources; Cultural Resources Inventory, Evaluation of Resources for Significance, and Implementation of Avoidance and/or Minimization Measures; Comply with State Laws Pertaining to the Discovery of Paleontological Resources or Human Remains; Hazardous Materials Spill Prevention, Control, and Counter-Measures for Land Disturbance Activities; Review Proximity to Existing Known Hazardous Materials Cleanup Sites and Conduct an Environmental Site Assessment if Proposed Activity Is Located on or in Close Proximity to an Area of Hazardous Materials Contamination; Implement Construction Best Management Practices for Erosion Control; Place Management Practices that Involve Retention and/or Treatment of Surface Runoff Outside of 100-Year Floodplains or Tsunami or Seiche Inundation Zones; and/or Reduce Noise Generated by Pumps or Other Stationary and Permanent Noise-Generating Equipment.

Annual Compliance Form

The objective of the Annual Compliance Form (ACF) is to assess management practices and management measures implemented by Dischargers to meet water quality objectives and protect beneficial uses. The ACF includes monitoring and reporting on elements of the Farm Plan, including management practices implemented and assessed for effectiveness. This monitoring and reporting will allow the Central Coast Water Board to assess whether Dischargers are implementing additional management practices over time.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
15	Submit ACF	Annually by March 1 (starting in 2022)	MRP pgs. 31-32 #1

Additional Requirements

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
16	Manage stormwater discharge duration, rate, and volume from fields with applicable impermeable surfaces ⁵	Ongoing	Order pg. 37 #11
17	Install and maintain backflow prevention devices	Ongoing	Order pg. 43 #7
18	Properly destroy permanently inactive groundwater wells	Ongoing	Order pg. 43 #8
19	Properly manage, construct, and maintain containment structures	Ongoing	Order pg. 43 #10
20	Implement proper handling, storage, disposal, and management of fertilizers, fumigants, pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and other chemicals	Ongoing	Order pg. 44 #11
21	Prevent erosion and minimize bare soil	Ongoing	Order pg. 44 #12-13
22	Dissipate flow and prevent channel and/or streambank erosion (if utilizing agricultural drainage pump)	Ongoing	Order pg. 44 #14
23	Properly construct and maintain farm roads	Ongoing	Order pgs. 44-45 #17-20
24	Properly maintain chemical toilets or holding tanks	Ongoing	Order pg. 45 #21
25	Properly produce and apply compost	Ongoing	Order pg. 45 #22
26	Avoid disturbance in riparian areas, and as applicable, ⁶ report riparian area (average width and length, in feet) in ACF	Ongoing	Order pg. 42 #23, pg. 46 #23-24 MRP pgs. 31-32 #1

⁵ Requirement only applies to ranches with either 50 to 100 percent of fields covered by impermeable surfaces, or with greater than or equal to 22,500 square feet (0.5 acre) of impermeable surfaces.

⁶ Requirement only applies to dischargers with waterbodies within or bordering their ranch.

Groundwater Protection Requirements⁷

Applicable to all Dischargers, even those participating in a third-party program

Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA Report)

On an annual basis, Dischargers required to submit the Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA) report⁸ must monitor and report the total amount of nitrogen applied from all sources, acres of each specific crop grown, whether each specific crop was grown using organic or conventional methods, and information describing the basis for the amount of nitrogen applied. Due dates are phased in based on the Groundwater Phase Area in which the ranch is located.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
27	Conduct monitoring and recordkeeping necessary to submit TNA Report ⁹	Phase 1 Areas: Not required	Order pg. 29 #27 MRP pgs. 2-3 #1
		Phase 2 Areas: January 1, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2024	
		Phase 3 Areas: January 1, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2026	
28	Submit TNA Report ¹⁰	Phase 1 Areas: Not required	Order pg. 29 #27, pg. 35 #21-22 MRP pgs. 2-3 #1, pg. 3 #4-5
		Phase 2 Areas: By March 1, 2024 and 2025	
		Phase 3 Areas: By March 1, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027	

Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) Summary Report

Dischargers required to submit the Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) Summary report¹¹ must monitor and report all nitrogen applied information required in the TNA report, in addition to specific irrigation management information and total nitrogen removed. Due dates are phased in based on the Groundwater Phase Area in which the ranch is located.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
29	Conduct monitoring and recordkeeping necessary to submit INMP Summary Report	Phase 1 Areas: Beginning January 1, 2023	Order pg. 29 #28-29 MRP pgs. 2-3 #1
		Phase 2 Areas: Beginning January 1, 2025	
		Phase 3 Areas: Beginning January 1, 2027	

⁷ Some Groundwater Protection requirements and due dates are phased in based on Groundwater Phase Areas, which are defined on pages 49-50 of Order in Table and Figure C.1-1. Other requirements and due dates are not phased in and therefore apply to all growers regardless of the Groundwater Phase Area.

⁸ Growers must submit either a Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA) Report or an Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) Summary Report (which includes information required in the TNA Report) by March 1st of each year. A comparison of information required in TNA reporting versus INMP Summary reporting is included in Table MRP-1. Eventually, all growers will be submitting INMP Summary Reports regardless of Groundwater Phase Area.

⁹ If TNA was required during Ag Order 3.0 (regardless of Groundwater Phase Area), continue monitoring and recordkeeping necessary to submit TNA.

¹⁰ If TNA was required during Ag Order 3.0 (regardless of Groundwater Phase Area), submit report by March 1, 2022 and March 1, 2023.

¹¹ The INMP Summary Report satisfies the TNA Report requirement; therefore, an additional, separate TNA Report is not required to be submitted when the INMP Summary Report is submitted. (Order pg. 29 #29). A comparison of information required in TNA reporting versus INMP Summary reporting is included in Table MRP-1.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
30	Submit INMP Summary Report (includes TNA report information)	Phase 1 Areas: Annually by March 1 (starting in 2024)	Order pg. 29 #28-29, pg. 35 #21-22 MRP pg. 3 #3
		Phase 2 Areas: Annually by March 1 (starting in 2026)	
		Phase 3 Areas: Annually by March 1 (starting in 2028)	

On-Farm Domestic Wells

All Dischargers must arrange for annual monitoring and reporting for all on-farm domestic drinking water wells and uploading of the data to the State Water Board's GeoTracker database. Dischargers must provide domestic well users with a summary of sampling results and health risks associated with elevated nitrate and 1,2,3-TCP concentrations, and confirm that domestic well users have been notified. These on-farm domestic well requirements are necessary to protect public health by identifying domestic wells that do not meet drinking water standards, providing timely health risk notifications, and verifying well users have alternative replacement water as may be appropriate.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
31	Monitor all on-farm domestic wells & report results to GeoTracker	Start: 2022 Monitor: Annually (March 1 – May 31) Report: Annually by July 31	Order pg. 30 #31, pg. 35 #23 MRP pg. 13 #5
32	Provide Notification to Domestic Well Users	Annually within 3 business days of receiving results from laboratory	MRP pg. 14 #10-11
33	Update eNOI to Confirm Notification to Domestic Well Users	Annually within 30 days of receiving results from laboratory	MRP pgs. 14-15 #13

Irrigation Wells Prior to the Start of Trend Monitoring

The ranch's primary irrigation well must be sampled, and analytical results reported annually until groundwater quality trend monitoring begins. The objectives of sampling on-farm irrigation wells prior to the initiation of groundwater quality trend monitoring are to evaluate groundwater conditions in agricultural areas and inform the establishment of a trend monitoring network.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
34	Monitor & report results for primary irrigation well to GeoTracker (only until groundwater quality trend monitoring begins)	Start: 2022 (continue until trend monitoring starts) Monitor: Annually (March 1 – May 31) Report: Annually by July 31	Order pg. 29 #30, pg. 35 #23 MRP pg. 15 #15

Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring

All ranches are required to conduct groundwater trend monitoring and reporting, either individually or through a third-party program effort, in accordance with a groundwater trend monitoring work plan that must be submitted by due dates associated with a ranch's Groundwater Phase Area. Third-party programs may submit plans on behalf of participating dischargers. The groundwater trend monitoring work plan must justify how the proposed plan will adequately evaluate groundwater quality trends over time and assess the impacts of agricultural discharges. Due dates are phased in based on the Groundwater Phase Area in which the ranch is located.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
35	Submit work plan (<i>third-party program must include SAP/QAPP</i>) ¹²	Phase 1 Areas: By September 1, 2023	MRP pg. 16 #19, pg. 17 #23
		Phase 2 Areas: By September 1, 2025	
		Phase 3 Areas: By September 1, 2027	
36	Conduct monitoring	Third-party program: established in approved work plan	Order pg. 30 #32 MRP pgs. 16-17 #20, pg. 18 #25-26
		Individual: semi-annually during first (January 1 – March 31) and third (July 1 – September 30) quarters of each calendar year (after work plan approval)	
37	Submit monitoring results	Third-party program: established in approved work plan (must include monitoring results & trend evaluation)	Order pg. 30 #32 MRP pgs. 16-17 #20, pg. 18 #26
		Individual: semi-annually by May 31 and November 30	
38	Submit annual trend evaluation report (individual approach only)	Annually by January 31	MRP pg. 18 #27-28

Ranch-Level Groundwater Discharge¹³

Ranch-level groundwater discharge monitoring and reporting may be required of a Discharger based on groundwater quality data. Ranch-level groundwater discharge monitoring and reporting must assess and quantify the Discharger's contribution to nitrogen below the root zone, effects of the discharge on groundwater quality and beneficial uses and demonstrate compliance with this Order.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
39	Submit work plan (<i>includes SAP/QAPP</i>)	Within 120 days of being required by Executive Officer	Order pg. 30 #33 MRP pg. 20 #32
40	Implement work plan	Within 90 days of approval	MRP pg. 20 #33

¹²The minimum required sampling and analysis plan (SAP) and quality assurance project plan (QAPP) components are outlined in Section G of the MRP.

¹³ Dischargers participating in the Third-Party Alternative Compliance Pathway for Groundwater Protection program are exempt from Ranch-Level Groundwater Discharge requirements if they remain in good standing with the third-party.

Third-Party Alternative Compliance Pathway for Groundwater Protection Program

Only applicable to members in good standing (i.e., "participating Dischargers")

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
41	Submit third-party alternative compliance pathway program proposal	Prior to the initiation of the work plan process	Order pg. 16 #34 Order pg. 31 #2

Membership Notification

On behalf of its participating Dischargers, an approved third-party program administrator must notify the Central Coast Water Board of Dischargers electing to participate.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
42	Notify Central Coast Water Board of Dischargers electing to participate (required of an approved third-party program administrator, on behalf of participating dischargers)	Within 90 days of a third-party program approval; updates on a quarterly basis thereafter	Order pgs. 17 #41

Draft and Final Work Plans

On behalf of its participating Dischargers, an approved third-party program administrator must develop and submit sequential draft and final work plans.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
43	Submit First (35%) Draft Work Plan	Within 24 months of Order adoption (by April 15, 2023)	Order pg. 33 #14 MRP pg. 21 #2-3
44	Submit Second (70%) Draft Work Plan	Within 18 months of a first draft work plan conditional approval	Order pg. 33 #14 MRP pgs. 21-22 #2, #4
45	Submit Final (100%) Work Plan	Within 10 months of a second draft work plan conditional approval	Order pg. 33 #14 MRP pg. 21-22 #2, #5

Surface Water Protection Requirements

Applicable to all Dischargers, even those participating in a third-party program

Surface Receiving Water Quality Trends

All dischargers must conduct surface receiving water monitoring and reporting, either individually or through a third-party program effort. Third-party programs may submit plans on behalf of participating dischargers. This monitoring and reporting requirement is equivalent to the monitoring and reporting currently conducted by Preservation Inc.'s Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP).

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
46	Submit work plan (<i>includes SAP/QAPP</i>)	July 1, 2022	Order pg. 39 #18 MRP pg. 23 #4
47	Conduct monitoring	Established in work plan ¹⁴	Order pg. 39 #18 MRP pg. 23 #5
48	Submit monitoring data to CEDEN ¹⁵	Quarterly by January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 (after work plan approval)	MRP pg. 24 #11
49	Submit Annual Report	Annually by July 1	MRP pgs. 24-25 #12

Follow-up Surface Receiving Water Implementation

All Dischargers must develop a Follow-up Surface Receiving Water Implementation Work Plan either individually or through a third-party program effort. Third-party programs may submit plans on behalf of participating dischargers. The Follow-up Work Plan must identify follow-up actions such as numeric interim quantifiable milestone(s), implementation of management practices, education, outreach, source identification where applicable, and follow-up surface receiving water monitoring. Due dates are phased in based on the Priority Area in which the ranch is located.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
50a	Third-Party Program: Submit work plan (<i>includes SAP/QAPP</i>) ¹⁶	High Priority Areas: By March 1, 2024	Order pg. 36 #5, pgs. 39-40 #19b
		Medium Priority Areas: By March 1, 2026	
		Low Priority and All Other Areas: By March 1, 2028	
50b	Individual: Submit work plan (<i>includes SAP/QAPP</i>) ¹⁷	Priority 1 Areas: By March 1, 2023	Order pg. 35 #1, pg. 39 #19a
		Priority 2 Areas: By March 1, 2024	
		Priority 3 Areas: By March 1, 2025	
		Priority 4 Areas: By March 1, 2026	
51	Conduct monitoring ¹⁸	Established in work plan	MRP pg. 27 #16-17

¹⁴ Monitoring frequency is detailed in MRP pg. 42 Table MRP-10.

¹⁵ Surface water quality data must be submitted electronically, in a format that is compatible with the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). MRP, pg. 2, #7.

¹⁶ Third-party Alternative Surface Water Priority Areas defined in Table and Figure C-3.1 ACP in Order.

¹⁷ Surface Water Priority Areas defined in Table and Figure C-3.1 in Order.

¹⁸ Minimum monitoring frequency is detailed in MRP pg. 42 Table MRP-10. Data must be reported based on when it was collected.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
52	Submit monitoring results to CEDEN ¹⁹	Quarterly by January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 (after work plan approval)	MRP pg. 28 #20
53	Submit annual report	Annually by July 1	MRP pgs. 28-29 #21

Ranch-Level Surface Discharge

Ranch-level surface discharge monitoring and reporting may be required of a Discharger based on applicable surface receiving water quality data. Ranch-level surface discharge monitoring and reporting must evaluate effects of the discharge on receiving water quality and beneficial uses, and demonstrate compliance with this Order.

#	REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	REFERENCE
54	Submit work plan (<i>includes SAP/QAPP</i>)	Within 120 days of being required by Executive Officer	Order pg. 41 #20 MRP pgs. 28-29 #23
55	Implement work plan	Within 90 days of approval	Order pg. 41 #20 MRP pg. 30 #24
56	Conduct individual ranch-level surface discharge monitoring	Quarterly by March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 (after work plan approval)	Order pg. 41 #20 MRP pg. 30 #28
57	Submit individual ranch-level surface discharge monitoring data and summary information	Semi-annually by March 1 and September 1	MRP pgs. 30-31 #29

¹⁹ Surface water quality data must be submitted electronically, in a format that is compatible with the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). MRP, pg. 2, #7.