




Drinking Water Supply Well Monitoring



Roberta Firoved
California Rice Commission



New requirement in the Rice WDR



● When:

- *Starts after January 1, 2022*
- *You can start anytime prior*

● What:

- *All drinking water supply wells on parcels where rice is produced*
- *Monitor for nitrate+nitrite as N at the MCL of 10 mg/L (ppm)*

● Who:

- *Growers are responsible*
 - Unless a portion of the property is leased to another party
 - Terms of lease give Grower no control over the drinking water supply wells
- *Then, Owner is responsible*

What if wells are monitored?



- If monitored for five-years with three consecutive years at 8 mg/L or less
 - *Once every five-years moving forward*
 - *Can count 2020, 2021 and 2022*
- If results exceed 10 mg/L
 - *Grower must notify users within 10-days and copy Central Valley Water Board*
 - *If Grower is not the Owner, Grower provides notice to landlord*
 - Within 24 hours
 - Owner provides users within 9-days and copies Central Valley Water Board
- Notice is the provided template

Additional details



- If well is out of service
 - *Supply replacement water, if still necessary*
 - *Document by keeping receipts*
- Use ELAP state certified laboratories
 - *Laboratories send monitoring results to State Water Board's GeoTracker Database*
 - *Contact laboratory for information on collection containers and handling procedure details*
- See handout for sampling procedures
- Use provided template for notification of exceedances

Remember handouts

DO NOT DRINK YOUR WATER

USE ONLY BOTTLED WATER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Failure to follow this advisory could result in serious illness.

Test Result: ____mg/L



Your drinking water well was recently tested, and nitrates were found to exceed the maximum level of 10 mg/L established by the State and Federal drinking water standards for safe drinking water.



Pregnant women are at increased risk for potential health effects and should not drink water with high levels of nitrate. Drinking water with high nitrate levels may also cause serious complications in pregnancy.



Do not give the water to infants. Infant formula and other edible products should be prepared with bottled water or other water with low levels of nitrate. Infants are at increased risk to become seriously ill or even death from consumption of high levels of nitrate.



Do not boil your water. Boiling your water may increase nitrate levels.

For more information contact the Central Valley Water Board:

- Phone: Sacramento Office (916) 464-4611 or Email: irrlands@waterboards.ca.gov
- Phone: Fresno Office (559) 488-4396 or Email: lrinfo@waterboards.ca.gov

Also visit us on the web: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/coc_nitrate.pdf

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/drinking_water/

This notification was provided by:

Landowner/Member Name: _____

Landowner/Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Assessor's Parcel Number: _____

- ☐ Notification has been provided to the users or appropriate landowner
- ☐ Replacement water has been provided to the user

Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0032-02 for Sacramento Valley Rice Growers

Information on the drinking water supply well monitoring requirement

After January 1, 2022, Growers must initiate annual sampling of private drinking water supply wells, located in areas where rice is produced. The well monitoring results are reported directly from the testing laboratory to State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker Database.

The purpose of the Drinking Water Supply Well Monitoring is to identify drinking water supply wells that have nitrate+nitrite as N concentrations exceeding the 10 mg/L maximum contaminate level (MCL) and notify well users of potential for human health impact.

Which wells does a person monitor?

All drinking water supply wells present on parcels where rice is produced.

Who is responsible for monitoring the well – the grower or landowner?

The Grower is responsible unless a portion of the parcel is leased to a party other than the Grower and the terms of the lease give the Grower no control over the drinking water supply wells on that parcel, the Owner of the parcel is responsible for sampling those drinking water supply wells.

What if I have been monitoring a drinking water well for nitrates?

You can submit one or more annual drinking water supply well sampling results from one or more of the five prior years. This would be in lieu of one or more of the first three rounds of annual monitoring samples. All sampling and testing must use EPA approved methods analyzed by an Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) State certified laboratory. If the concentration is below 8 mg/L of nitrate+nitrite as N in three consecutive annual samples, you can sample every five years going forward if you meet this requirement. Certified laboratories can be found at the web link: www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap.

What if I took a drinking water supply well out of service?

You need to supply replacement water to the location, if drinking water is still necessary.

Information on collection of drinking water well monitoring samples

Most laboratories provide sampling kits specifically for collection of drinking water well samples. Please check with the laboratory for proper sampling methods, chain-of-custody, and quality assurance/quality control protocols.

Groundwater sampling follows this list of protocols:

1. Near the well head before the pressure tank and prior to any well head treatment. If not possible, collect the water from a sampling point as close to the pressure tank as possible or, collect the sample from a cold-water spigot located before any filters or water treatment systems.
2. The laboratory uses latest edition of Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, SW-846, United States Environmental Protection Agency for all monitoring, sample preservation, and analysis. Certified laboratories can be found at the web link: www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap
3. All drinking water supply well monitoring data, including existing data are to be submitted electronically to the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker Database by the testing laboratory. The data shall include the APN of the drinking water well location.
4. Notice shall be given to users if the monitoring results exceed 10 mg/L of nitrate+nitrite as N. Growers must provide notice to the users within 10 days and send a copy to the Central Valley Water Board. If the Grower is not the Owner, the Grower may provide notice to the landowner within 24 hours and the Owner must provide notice to the users within nine days and send a copy to the Central Valley Water Board.

January – February 2020

Amendments to Rice WDR Order



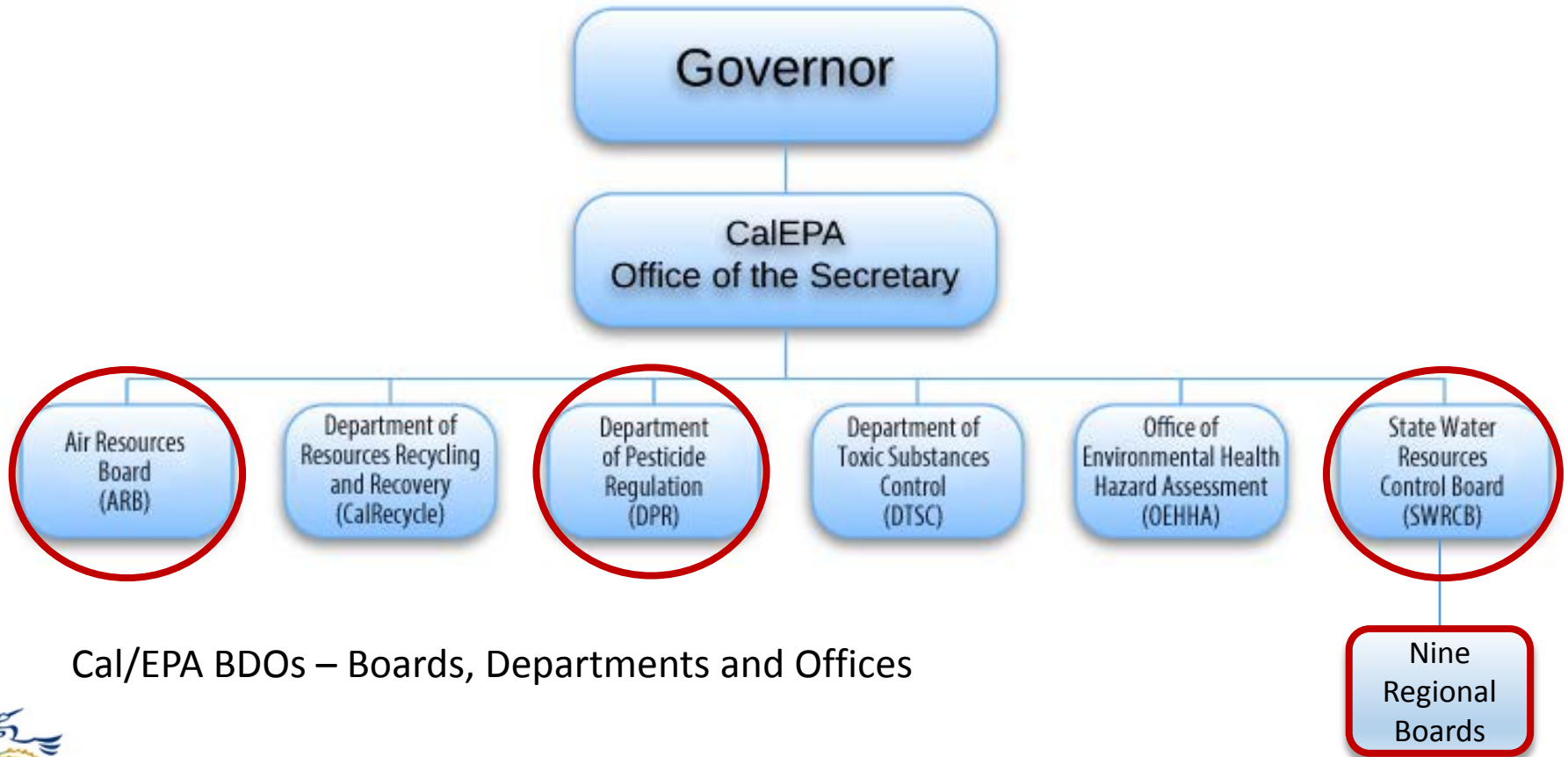
Amendments that pertain to Growers:

- Annual participation in continuing education provided by the CRC
 - *Include more detail on drinking water supply well monitoring*
- Farm Evaluation/Nitrogen Management Plan Reporting
 - *Beginning in 2018*
 - *Every five years*
 - *Report 2022 crop in 2023*
 - *CRC will send notices as reminders*
 - *Central Valley Water Board will contact non-compliers*

Thank you

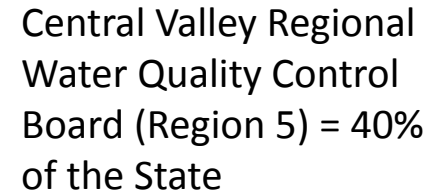


Cal/EPA Structure



Cal/EPA BDOs – Boards, Departments and Offices

Nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards:
Responsible to protect all beneficial uses of waters under federal and state laws



Region 5 Third-Party Boundaries

Litigation of other Order:

- SWRCB takes over
- Rewrite to make all orders the same
- “The irrigation and nitrogen management requirements in the order accordingly are not precedential for rice growers.”
- What changes affect rice?
 - CE requirements online
 - Drinking water well monitoring by January 1, 2022
 - Reduction in FE/NMP reporting

Note: no exemption from previous non-compliance

