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MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 20, 2013

Sent via Hard Copy and Electronic Mail

Mr. George Kendall  
Dos Pasos Ranch  
4330 Santa Rosa Creek Rd.  
Cambria, CA 93428  
[gwkendall@wildblue.net](mailto:gwkendall@wildblue.net)

Dear Mr. Kendall:

### **AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY PROGRAM - APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM FOR SANTA ROSA CREEK VALLEY, CAMBRIA, CALIFORNIA**

On May 29, 2013, you submitted a final workplan titled "*Final Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Plan, Santa Rosa Creek Valley, Cambria, California*" (workplan) to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board). The stated purpose of this document is to set forth the workplan for a groundwater monitoring plan that will satisfy the groundwater monitoring requirements in Order No. R3-2012-0011 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Agricultural Order) and the associated Monitoring and Reporting Program Orders (MRPs) for participating landowners and growers in the Santa Rosa Creek Valley.

I am pleased to grant approval of the cooperative program, as presented in the workplan. The workplan is complete and demonstrates readiness for immediate implementation. We appreciate the effort you've made to create this workplan and recognize the significant progress that you have made in improving the workplan since our initial meeting in January 2013.

### **BACKGROUND AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPROVED PROGRAM**

The Central Coast Water Board adopted the Agricultural Order and associated MRPs on March 15, 2012. The Agricultural Order and the MRPs specify that enrolled landowners and growers have the option to comply with groundwater monitoring requirements by either monitoring groundwater individually on their agricultural operations, or by joining a groundwater cooperative monitoring program.

We recognize that cooperative third party approaches may provide a number of short and long-term advantages. For example, third parties may have the expertise to provide a high level of technical assistance and training to growers to achieve measureable water quality improvement. In addition, cooperative efforts provide leadership and can bring participants together to better understand the severity of groundwater quality impairment related to irrigated agriculture and maximize regional efforts toward improving water quality.

JEFFREY S. YOUNG, CHAIR | KENNETH A. HARRIS JR., INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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The Santa Rosa Creek Groundwater Basin is a relatively small, thin, and narrow basin underlying the westernmost approximately six miles of the Santa Rosa Creek Valley. Existing data suggests that groundwater is of relatively high quality with no known exceedances of the drinking water standard for nitrate. The approved workplan provides a thorough evaluation of the geologic and hydrogeologic conditions of the local area of the participating landowners and growers. In addition, the approved workplan provides the technical rationale for the monitoring approach, number of wells, and proposed sampling locations such that it is representative given the hydrogeologic conditions of the groundwater basin.

The approved workplan identifies the specific location of groundwater wells selected to monitor the water quality conditions of the uppermost aquifer that is used for drinking water purposes along the groundwater flow path. The approved workplan includes historical (1997) and recent (2008, 2011, 2012) water quality data, and includes new sampling to be conducted during the Spring and Fall of 2013. The approved workplan also specifies that two additional sampling events will be conducted during the Spring and Fall of 2018. All groundwater samples will be analyzed for parameters listed in Table 3 of the MRP and individual results will be uploaded to the Water Board's GeoTracker data management system.

The approved workplan includes the required description of third-party organization and member responsibilities. In addition, on May 29 2013, you provided a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by all cooperative program participants, which details the responsibilities of the third-party organization and members of the cooperative program.

Implementation of the workplan must begin immediately and all deliverables must be submitted to the Central Coast Water Board, according to the approved schedule. Failure to implement the workplan as approved, is a violation of the Agricultural Order and MRP, and grounds for immediate disapproval/termination of the cooperative program.

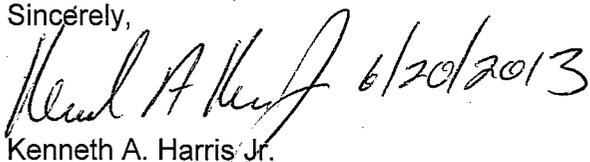
## CONCLUSION

I am pleased to approve your workplan that will satisfy the groundwater monitoring requirements of the Agricultural Order MRP for participating landowners and growers in the Santa Rosa Creek Valley.

In closing, I want to emphasize that Central Coast Water Board staff recognize that cooperative third party approaches may provide a number of short and long-term advantages that can bring participants together to maximize regional efforts toward understanding and improving water quality. We appreciate your efforts to work together to develop an effective cooperative program. We understand that the cooperative program participants are committed to improving water quality and we sincerely hope your efforts to implement the program are successful.

If you have any questions, please contact **Angela Schroeter at (805) 542-4644 or**  
**Aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov** or John Robertson at (805) 542-4630 or  
**JRobertson@waterboards.ca.gov**.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Harris Jr.  
Interim Executive Officer

JEFFREY S. YOUNG, CHAIR | KENNETH A. HARRIS JR., INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc:

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