

# Dec 2010 --Record Rains - a Few Reminders for Complying with Water Quality Requirements

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With record rainfall in some areas of the Central Valley, it is important for producers to remember the additional monitoring and sampling requirements under the General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies. In emergency situations all effort should be made to prevent manure from leaving the property and entering surface water.

## **ALL PRODUCERS:**

**Production Area Inspection (MRP-Table 1).** Waste storage areas must be inspected weekly from October 1 to May 31 and monthly from June 1 to September 30. **Waste storage areas also must be inspected during and after each significant storm event.** A significant storm event is defined as “a storm event that results in continuous runoff of storm water for a minimum of one hour, or intermittent runoff for a minimum of three hours, in a 12-hour period.” Conditions or changes that could result in discharges to surface water and/or from the property must be noted. It is also necessary to note whether freeboard within each liquid storage structure is less than, equal to, or greater than the minimum required (two feet for above-ground ponds, one foot for below-ground). The [Production Area Visual Inspection Form](#) template (CDQAP WDR Reference Binder Document 6.1) Page 2 of this template should be used to document significant storm event inspection.

## **UN-AUTHORIZED MANURE DISCHARGE EVENTS (ON-FARM OR OFF-FARM):**

**Discharge Monitoring-Unauthorized discharges (including off-property discharges) of manure or process waste water from the production area or land application area (MRP- Table 3).**

Samples of materials discharged are required for both on-property and off-property discharges. Unauthorized on-property discharges include application of process waste water to land in excess or outside of applications identified in the Nutrient Budget. Unauthorized discharges require documentation, sampling and reporting to appropriate authorities. Any noncompliance that endangers human health or the environment shall be reported within 24 hours (reporting agencies include RB5, County Environmental Health & California Office of Emergency Services). A list of reporting agency phone numbers can be found in the CDQAP WDR Reference Binder Document 14.7, [Emergency Contact Information](#). Written documentation should be made using the Regional Water Quality Control Board supplied form titled [Priority Reporting of Significant Events](#) (CDQAP WDR Reference Binder Document 6.16). CDQAP WDR Reference Binder Document 8.2, [Monitoring Surface Runoff of Manure or Process Wastewater from the Production Area or Land Application Areas](#) notes sampling and reporting requirements.

## **STORM WATER DISCHARGE EVENTS (FROM PRODUCTION OR LAND APPLICATION AREAS):**

**Storm Water Discharge Sampling (MRP-Table 3).**

Sampling storm water discharges to surface water from the production area. Storm water discharge from the production area to surface water is prohibited unless authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Under the General Order, *if storm water leaves the production area and enters surface water documentation, sampling and reporting are required.*

Requirements for these events are similar to those for unauthorized discharges of manure or process wastewater. CDQAP WDR Reference Binder Document 8.3, [Monitoring Off-Site Discharges of Storm Water from the Production Area or Land Application Areas](#), notes sampling and reporting requirements. The [Priority Reporting of Significant Events](#) form should be used for event documentation.

Sampling storm water discharges to surface water from fields (land application area). *If storm water leaves your property and is able to reach surface water*, the Order requires end-of-field sampling and reporting be done *for two storm water discharges to surface water on approximately one third of your acreage each year*. The first sampling event is the first significant storm of the wet season. The second sampling event is during the peak storm season. The Order identifies peak storm season to occur typically in February, and that the event is preceded by at least three days of dry weather. Specific sampling and recording requirements for these events are found in CDQAP WDR Reference Binder Document 8.3, [Monitoring Off-Site Discharges of Storm Water from the Production Area or Land Application Areas](#). Documentation for these events should be included as part of the Annual Report.