

### ***Summary of Regulatory Requirements***

The template for the Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) was approved on December 23, 2014 by the Executive Officer of Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Each member of a third party entity (coalition) must prepare and implement a NMP for every crop "management unit" covered by the membership. "Management unit" is a term used to describe a group of parcels that are managed in the same way in regards to nitrogen applications. Each member must use the NMP template described in this publication as the basis for planning their crop production activities.

The NMP and NMP Summary Report (to be developed) for all fields/parcels shall be maintained at the member's farming operations headquarters or primary place of business. The member must provide the NMP and Summary Report to Regional Board staff, if requested or, should board staff or an authorized representative conduct an inspection of the member's irrigated agricultural operation. In addition, members shall comply with the following requirements where applicable:

#### ***Members within a High Vulnerability Groundwater Area***

For members in a high vulnerability groundwater area, for which nitrate is identified as a constituent of concern, the member must prepare and implement a certified NMP. Certified plans are **NOT REQUIRED IN 2015**. Starting in 2016, the plan must be certified in one of the following ways:

- \* Self-certified by the member who attends a California Department of Food and Agriculture or other Executive Officer approved training program for nitrogen plan certification. The member must retain written documentation of their attendance in the training program; or
- \* Self-certified by the member that the plan adheres to a site-specific recommendation from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the University of California Cooperative Extension. The member must retain written documentation of the recommendation provided; or
- \* Certified by a nitrogen management plan specialist as defined in each coalition's General Order. Such specialists include Professional Soil Scientists, Professional Agronomists, Crop Advisors, certified by the American Society of Agronomy, or Technical Service Providers certified in nutrient management in California by the NRCS; or
- \* Certified in an alternative manner approved by the Executive Officer. Such approval will be provided based on the Executive Officer's determination that the alternative method for preparing the NMP meets the objectives and requirements of the General Order.

#### ***Members within a Low Vulnerability Groundwater Area***

All members within low vulnerability areas shall prepare and update annually an NMP. The member must use the approved NMP or an equivalent. Certification of the NMP and submittal of an NMP Summary Report are not required.

## Deadlines for Nitrogen Management Plans

Updated on December 4, 2014. Old deadlines are stricken, replacements underlined.

Report	Vulnerability	Farm Size	Due Date	Notes
<b>Nitrogen Management Plans (NMP)</b>	High	Large *	23-Mar-15	<u>Certification delayed until 1 March 2016.</u> Annual Requirement.
		Small **	1-Mar-17	Certification needed in 2017. Annual Requirement.
	Low	All	1-Mar-17	No Certification Needed. Annual Requirement.
<b>NMP Summary Reports</b>	High	Large *	1 March <del>2016</del> <u>2017</u>	Report delayed one year. Annual Requirement.
		Small **	1-Mar-18	Annual Requirement.
	Low	All	N/A	Reporting not required in Low Vulnerability Areas.

\* Large Farms - 60 acres or greater

\*\* Small Farming Operations - farming operations that farm less than 60 total acres of irrigated land within the Tulare Lake Basin Area. A parcel is not a small farming operation if the total acres of irrigated land within the Tulare Lake Basin Area managed by the farming operation and any of its Subsidiary or Affiliated Operations is 60 acres or greater.