
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Implementation of the San Antonio Creek Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load for Chlorpyrifos May 10, 2012

Status

The Central Coast Water Board adopted the San Antonio Creek Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Chlorpyrifos at the May 3, 2012 Board meeting.

Staff anticipates that significant progress has already been made in achieving the TMDL numeric targets, i.e., meeting water quality standards for chlorpyrifos. Growers and pest control advisors in the San Antonio Creek Watershed have informed staff that recent chlorpyrifos application has been applied using management practices that should minimize or eliminate any chlorpyrifos from reaching a waterbody. Staff evaluated data from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) through County of Santa Barbara Ag Commission reporting and found minimal application of chlorpyrifos January through March of 2012. Staff's conversations with growers after adoption of the Agricultural Order (March 15, 2012) have indicated that they will no longer be applying chlorpyrifos to their fields.

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements, 2013-2014

The Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP) is scheduled to collect water quality samples in 2013 and sediment samples in 2014 in the San Antonio Creek Watershed. This sampling effort will include sampling for organo-phosphate pesticides, which includes chlorpyrifos. The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) is scheduled to take water quality samples in the watershed in 2014 and their sampling will include some organo-phosphate sampling as well.

Based on the CMP's and CCAMP's future monitoring efforts, grower's declining usage of chlorpyrifos, and management measures that have been in place over the last couple of years, the Water Board is not requiring that growers monitor for chlorpyrifos in their discharge or in San Antonio Creek or tributaries to the creek as part of this TMDL at this time. However, the TMDL implementation requirements do not supersede the Agricultural Order. If growers are required to sample for chlorpyrifos based on Agricultural Order requirements, the grower needs to comply with the Agricultural Order.

Staff will evaluate DPR's Pesticide Use Reporting Database and CMP's and CCAMP's data by 2015 and will determine whether the TMDL is being met or if more monitoring may be required. If staff determines water quality standards are not being met in 2015 for chlorpyrifos, staff will contact growers and implementation and monitoring strategies will be determined at that time. Staff anticipates that water quality standards will be met in 2015 based on available information.

For More Information

The Central Coast Water Board encourages interest and involvement in TMDL projects from stakeholders, interested parties, and the general public. Please refer to the Water Board's TMDL webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl

For more information, please contact:

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