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## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Notice of Decision

**TO:** Wade Crowfoot **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[CRP-NOD@resources.ca.gov](mailto:CRP-NOD@resources.ca.gov)

**FROM:** Ryan E. Lodge  
Executive Officer  
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**SUBJECT:** Filing of Notice of Decision in compliance with section 21080.5 of the California Public Resources Code

**PROJECT PROPONENT:** Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

**PROJECT TITLE:** Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin to Establish Total Maximum Daily Loads for Organophosphate Pesticides and Toxicity in the Lower Salinas River Watershed, Monterey County, California

**LOCATION:** Lower Salinas River Watershed, Monterey County, California

**DESCRIPTION:** The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) adopted this amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan amendment) via Resolution Number R3-2024-0002 on June 21, 2024. The State Water Resources Control Board approved the Basin Plan amendment through Resolution Number 2025-0031 on October 7, 2025, and the Basin Plan amendment was subsequently approved by the Office of Administrative Law on February 25, 2026.

This Basin Plan amendment establishes Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for organophosphate pesticides and toxicity and an implementation strategy to restore water quality in the Lower

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | RYAN E. LODGE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Salinas River watershed.

TMDLs are a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act, and waterbodies assigned TMDLs in this Basin Plan amendment include Moro Cojo Slough, Old Salinas River, Salinas River Lagoon, Tembladero Slough, Merritt Ditch, Alisal Slough, Alisal Creek, Blanco Drain, Salinas Reclamation Canal, Salinas River (lower), Espinosa Slough, Gabilan Creek, Natividad Creek, Santa Rita Creek, Quail Creek, and Chualar Creek.

The Basin Plan amendment identifies point and nonpoint source implementation parties responsible for achieving pollutant load reductions. The Central Coast Water Board is relying on existing regulatory measures (i.e., the Agricultural Order and stormwater NPDES permits), voluntary actions, and grant funding to ensure implementation actions to reduce organophosphate pesticide loading to the river basin are carried out and maintained by the responsible parties.

Milestones are established for achieving the TMDLs, and the Central Coast Water Board will track progress towards achieving the TMDLs through review of implementation actions and monitoring. If existing efforts are not expected to achieve the TMDLs, the Executive Officer or the Central Coast Water Board may require changes to existing monitoring, reporting, or implementation efforts pursuant to California Water Code sections 13263, 13267 or 13383.

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This is to advise that the Central Coast Water Board concludes that this Basin Plan amendment will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has made the following determination regarding this project:

The project has been:   X   approved  
       disapproved

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Ryan E. Lodge  
Executive Officer

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Date