

**Riparian Management Plan (RMP)  
For Dairies in the North Coast Region  
Order No. R1-2019-0001  
Suggestions for Completing**

**Complete this Plan and attach to your Water Quality Plan  
Submit by July 1, 2021**

Dischargers shall implement riparian management planning and measures that prevent, minimize, and control the discharge of sediment, nutrients, and animal waste to watercourses within and adjacent to dairy land. Riparian management and protection measures shall comply with the specified performance requirements listed in the General Waste Discharge Requirements (Condition B.4.) and listed in I.A. through I.J. below. Dischargers may propose alternative management measures that provide equal or better protection subject to approval by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

**Definition:** Riparian Area is defined as the interface between land and a river or stream. Plant habitats and communities along the river or stream margins and banks are called riparian vegetation. Riparian areas are important because of their role in soil conservation, habitat biodiversity, and influence on aquatic ecosystems. Healthy riparian areas protect water quality by providing erosion control, filtering out silt and pollutants, stabilizing streambanks, and stabilizing the stream channel. Riparian vegetation is necessary along the banks of any stream of water that can carry sediment or nutrients to a larger water body such as a river, lake, slough, or estuary. Several references mention a riparian protection width of about 35 feet as measured from the stream bank; however, the width of the riparian area may be less for flatter slopes with dense vegetation, or more for steeper slopes especially if bare soil areas are present. Changes to the RMP must be updated in this document and submitted to the Regional Water Board annually or the Discharger may note minor changes in the Riparian Protection portion of the Annual Report (Appendix 4).

- Attach photos of riparian management measures when submitting this RMP to the Regional Water Board by **July 1, 2021**.

## Performance Measures of Riparian Management Areas

Riparian areas on property associated with or used by each dairy shall be managed to protect water quality including compliance with the performance measures listed below:

- A. Riparian areas are managed in a manner that allows the natural establishment and growth of native vegetation;
- B. Riparian areas are managed in a manner that allows sufficient vegetation to prevent, minimize, and control surface erosion;
- C. Riparian areas are managed in a manner that maintains their essential functions supporting beneficial uses (e.g. sediment filtering, woody debris recruitment, streambank stabilization, nutrient cycling, pollutant filtering and shading);
- D. Grazing in riparian areas is limited to periods when impacts to woody species are minimized;
- E. Grazing within riparian corridors occurs for short durations and only when forage consisting of non-woody vegetation is available;
- F. Livestock are removed from riparian areas when stubble height reaches 4 inches, or livestock shift preference to browsing of woody species, whichever occurs first;
- G. Livestock are prevented from disturbing sediment discharge sites and other unstable features adjacent to watercourses;
- H. Creek crossings shall be designed and constructed in a manner that prevents, minimizes and controls animal waste from entering the waterway;
- I. In confined animal areas, livestock shall be excluded from any surface water or perennial streams passing through the confined area; and
- J. Grazing in riparian areas shall be conducted in a manner that prevents, minimizes, and controls the discharge of waste to surface waters.

Identify which riparian management practices are utilized on the dairy and other grazing lands where lactating or dry cows and replacement heifers graze.

Riparian Area Management (refers to items A through G and J of the Riparian Area Performance Measures list above). Identify all conditions below that apply to dairy crop land, pastures, and animal confinement areas near or in riparian areas. Note ditches may need water quality protection if connected to creeks:

- There are no streams or riparian areas on land grazed by dairy animals.
- Animals (cows and heifers) are permanently excluded from streams and riparian areas.

Streams and riparian areas are:

- Grazed seasonally for short durations when seasonally dry.
- Grazed by limited numbers of smaller replacement heifers.
- Monitored visually during grazing periods to assure the recommended Residual Dry Matter levels are met.

- Managed using additional practices including:
  - Riparian area management (cover, buffer)
  - Stream bank stabilization
  - Stream habitat improvement
  - Stream bank shoreline protection
  - Windbreak/shelter belt use
  - Filter strips
  - Storm water runoff control

Additional conservation practices and stream management projects that have been implemented include:

- Exclusionary fencing and alternative water sources
- Vegetation planting and regeneration
- Streambank stabilization at selected locations
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Additional conservation practices and stream management projects that will be implemented include—identify timeline:

New practices to implement	Timeline for completion (date)

- Other practices:

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Creek and or stream crossings management (refers to item H of the Riparian Area Performance Measures list above):

- Platform bridge(s) have been installed to provide livestock crossings.
- Wet crossings are fenced out with gates. When moving livestock across the stream, the gates are opened, livestock are herded quickly from one side to the other, and the gates are closed.
- Proper local and state permits have been or will be submitted for new permanent crossings such as rock fill over culverts on creeks and streams with aquatic (fish, frog, salamander) habitat (example: California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1600 Agreement; <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/LSA> ).
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Additional conservation practices for creek and or stream crossing projects that will be implemented include—identify timeline:

New practices to implement	Timeline for completion (date)

Confinement areas management (refers to I of Riparian Management Plan list above)

- Confined and high use areas are located away from waterways and streams.
- Confined and high use areas near gullies, ditches, and natural watercourses are treated prior to the rainy season such as scraped free of manure and revegetated to construct a 35-foot vegetated buffer.
- Practices, including gutters and other drainage management, have been implemented to minimize and prevent run-on and run-off that may impact streams.

- Additional conservation practices for creeks and streams and connected gullies and ditches that will be implemented include—identify timeline:

New practices to implement	Timeline for completion (date)

(If needed, please see additional tables on the last page.)

The Annual Report must include a summary of progress toward implementing and maintaining management measures in the RMP to prevent potential water quality impacts. Annual Reports to be submitted each year thereafter must also include photos of all riparian areas on the dairy property.

**Certification**

*“I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this report and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.”*

Printed Name of Dairy Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tables if needed for field specific improvements when many fields are present:

New practices to implement	Timeline for completion (date)