

How to comply with the Ag Order for Properties in the Ventura Coastal Responsibility Area (RA)

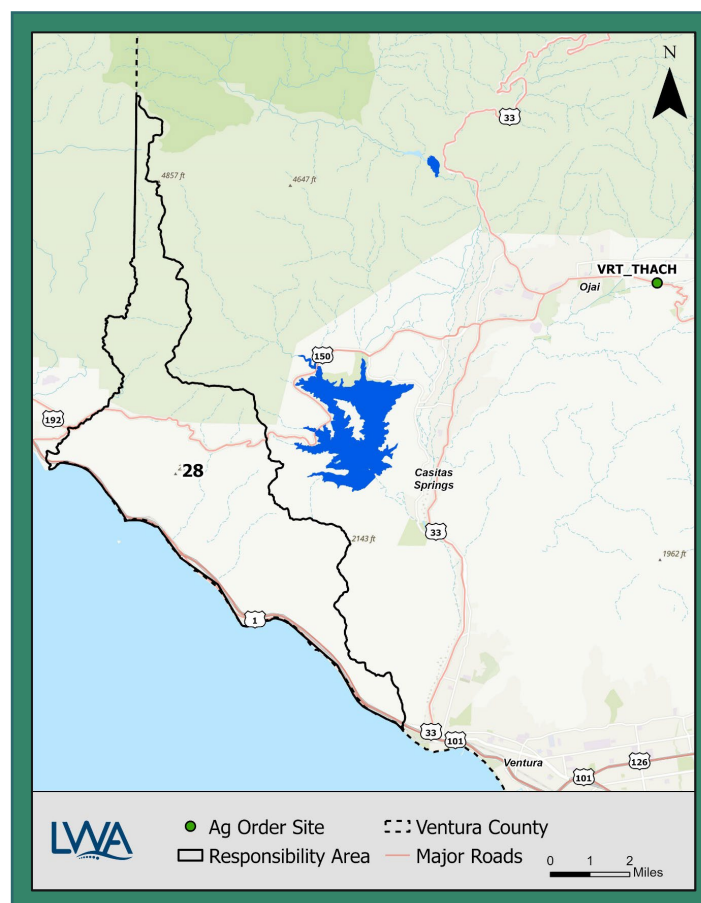
This compliance summary was developed as part of the Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group (VCAILG) Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)'s outreach to comply with the Ag Order and address persistent water quality issues found during sampling.

Step 1: Locate Your Parcel Information

Your first stop for information should be the [Clearwater](https://clearwater.vcailg.org/Account/Login) site (<https://clearwater.vcailg.org/Account/Login>) where you can find detailed information specific to your parcels. You can use Clearwater to:

- Determine which **Responsibility Area (RA)** your parcel(s) are located in.
- Update **VCAILG enrollment** and parcel information as needed.
- Access **resources and reporting platforms** for fulfilling compliance steps detailed below.

For assistance navigating Clearwater or retrieving login credentials, contact **VCAILG** at vcailg@farmbureauvc.com or **(805) 289-0155**.



Step 2: Review Water Quality Issues and TMDLs in Your Area

Water quality in the Ventura Coastal RA is assessed using data from one VCAILG monitoring sites. These sites evaluate compliance with standard Ag Order benchmarks:

Table 1. Monitoring Sites Used for Comparison to Applicable Benchmarks in the Ventura Coastal RA

Monitoring Site	Site Type	Applicable Benchmarks
VRT_THACH	VCAILG Monitoring Site (<i>evaluates standard Ag Order benchmark attainment</i>)	Standard Ag Order Benchmarks

What's the difference between Ag Order benchmarks and TMDLs?

Ag Order benchmarks apply to all VCAILG enrolled parcels and include a broad list of water quality constituents identified in Appendix 4 of the Ag Order (e.g., nitrogen, pesticides, metals). TMDLs are an added regulatory layer that apply in areas where runoff drains to impaired water bodies with adopted TMDL plans. These include specific limits—called load allocations—on how much of a pollutant can be discharged.

Your Responsibility:

As a grower, you are responsible for implementing appropriate Management Practices (MPs) to address water quality issues in your RA. Table 2 below summarizes the key water quality issues and associated Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), along with the applicable compliance date, that apply to this area (if applicable).

How RAs Were Created:

VCAILG established RAs based on Regional Water Board-defined TMDL boundaries. This means all parcels within an RA are subject to the same applicable TMDLs and are represented by the same monitoring sites.

To learn more about TMDLs, watch the TMDLs 101 Workshop: <https://youtu.be/66B6lxGBg3Q>. For a complete list of TMDLs that apply to agriculture, see Appendix 5 of the Ag Order.

Table 2. Water Quality Issues and TMDLs in Your Responsibility Area

Water Quality Issues in Your RA	TMDLs in Your RA
None	None

Step 3: Maintain Required Compliance Documentation

Growers must keep the following documents on-site (electronic or digital copies are accepted):

Table 3. Required Documents

Required Documents <i>*Electronic or digital documents accepted</i>	
☒	VCAILG contact information: vcailg@farmbureauvc.com or (805) 289-0155 (fulfilled by this handout)
☒	Link to VCAILG Water Quality Management Plan (fulfilled by this handout) https://www.farmbureauvc.com/vcailg/water-quality-management-plan/
☐	Proof of VCAILG membership (such as your invoice or Clearwater account access)
☐	Pesticide information as required by other regulatory programs
☐	Copy of all completed Farm Evaluation Surveys (accessible in Clearwater)
☐	Copy of all Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plans (INMPs) (accessible in Clearwater)

Step 4: Complete the Required Actions for Ag Order Compliance

The following ongoing compliance requirements must be met according to the stated deadline, as noted below. **You can review your status of completing many of these required actions by logging into your Clearwater account.**

Table 4. Required Actions

Required Actions	
☐	Attend a minimum of 2 hours of educational training yearly.
☐	Complete the Farm Evaluation Survey for each enrolled parcel when notified by VCAILG (roughly every 3 years).
☐	Develop a certified Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) and maintain the document on farm (initially required March 1, 2025, and annually thereafter)
☐	Submit an Irrigation and Nutrient Management Report (INMR) to VCAILG via Clearwater (due March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter).
☐	Implement management practices (MPs) to address water quality benchmark exceedances noted in Table 2. Refer to Step 5 for a list of required and recommended MPs.
☐	For parcels subject to TMDL discharge limitations (check the TMDL tab in Clearwater), implement a Track 1 Monitoring and Reporting Plan or Track 2 Management Practice Plan according to the plan-specified schedule approved by the Regional Board (additional TMDL information found in Step 6).
☐	For parcels with on-farm drinking water supply wells, monitor and report the findings of nitrate sampling according to Appendix 8 of the Ag Order.



Step 5: Implement Required Management Practices for the Ventura Coastal Responsibility Area

Growers must implement required Management Practices (MPs) and consider additional MPs to address water quality issues listed in **Table 2**. At this time there aren't any water quality issues listed in **Table 2**. Therefore, the only required MP is to **develop a certified Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) for each management unit on the property**.

Step 6: Review Additional TMDL Requirements Checklist, If Needed

No TMDLs currently apply in this RA and therefore, no additional steps are required.

Resources

Your property may be eligible for management practice funding through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Call (805) 984-2358 for more information. There may be grant funding and other technical assistance available through the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD). Current agricultural water programs can be found on the RCD website here: <https://vcrcd.org/agricultural-water-conservation-programs/> and the main office phone number is (805) 764-5130.