

Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region, Resolution r5-2018-0034, page 44	
Pathway A – Discharge Categories	Central Valley Water Board Findings/Conditions
<b>Category 1</b> - No Degradation Category	Discharge quality, as it reaches the Shallow Zone <sup>1</sup> is better than the applicable water quality objective and is better than the average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone.
<b>Category 2</b> - <i>De minimus</i> Category	The average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone is better than the applicable water quality objective, and, over a 20-year planning horizon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effect of the discharge on the average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone is expected to use less than 10% of the available assimilative capacity in the Shallow Zone; and</li> <li>• The discharge, in combination with other nitrate inputs to the Shallow Zone, is not expected to cause average nitrate concentrations in the Shallow Zone to exceed a nitrate trigger of 75% of the applicable water quality objective.</li> </ul>
<b>Category 3</b> - Degradation Below Trigger	The average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone is better than the applicable water quality objective. Estimated that discharge is more than de minimis, but will not cause the average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone to exceed a trigger of 75% of the applicable water quality objective over a 20-year planning horizon.
<b>Category 4</b> - Degradation Above Trigger	The average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone is better than the water quality objective. Though the discharge is reasonably expected to cause the average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone to exceed a trigger of 75% of the applicable water quality objective over a 20-year planning horizon, the average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone is expected to remain at or below the applicable water quality objective over the same 20-year planning horizon.
<b>Category 5</b> - Discharge Above Objective	Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone is better than the applicable water quality objective, but the discharge may cause the average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone to exceed the water quality objective over a 20-year planning horizon; or,</li> <li>• The average nitrate concentration in the Shallow Zone exceeds the applicable water quality objective and the discharge quality, as it reaches the Shallow Zone, also exceeds the applicable water quality objective.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Table, the “Shallow Zone” is the portion of the aquifer whose areal extent is defined by the boundaries of the discharge area and whose vertical extent is defined by the depth of the shallowest 10% of the domestic water supply wells near the discharge or an equivalent alternative.