



Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios  
Lt. Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304

DEQ Tel: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540

DCRM Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

[www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp) and [www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator

Zabrina C. Shai  
Acting Director, DEQ

Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

May 18, 2021

Pascal Mues  
Water Division  
U.S. EPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Plaza  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**RE: Waiver of Water Quality Certification – 2021 NPDES Pesticide General Permit - WQC-2021-003**

Dear Mr. Mues:

We received your letter and request for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) on March 26, 2021 for the **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Proposed 2021 Pesticide General Permit**. Additionally, we received your request for a pre-filing meeting for this WQC request on February 19, 2021, in accordance with 40 CFR 121.4. We attended a pre-filing meeting with EPA on March 9, 2021 to discuss the proposed permit.

BECQ has reviewed your WQC request, including the draft permit, fact sheet and supporting documents, and has determined that the nature and scope of pesticide applications in the CNMI are unlikely to result in a discharge to waters of the U.S., and that the proposed action is "minor and non-controversial." BECQ hereby waives its authority to act on the WQC request for this proposed 2021 NPDES Pesticide General Permit, as authorized under the CNMI Water Quality Standards and 40 CFR 121.9.

If you have any questions regarding this Water Quality Certification waiver, please contact our office at telephone number (670) 664-8531 or email Larry Maurin at [larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp](mailto:larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp).

Sincerely,

Eli D. Cabrera,  
Administrator

cc: Anthony Benavente-DLNR