

**State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)****Letter No. 005****Subject:** Reporting of Matrices in EDF**Date:** April 26, 2002**Overview:**

The *MATRIX* field identifies the sample's medium or make-up (e.g., soil, air, water, etc.), as categorized by the analytical laboratory. The SWRCB recommends that the laboratories use the more generic sample matrix codes when reporting data for field samples (such as "W" for "Water", "SO" for "Soil" and "LF" for Floating/Free Product in Groundwater).

Laboratory-generated QC samples, using only laboratory reagents, may be assigned QC *MATRIX* codes, such as "WQ" ("Water QC Matrix") or "SQ" ("Soil/Solid QC") for a blank spike.

Laboratory-generated samples that use the original environmental sample matrix are assigned the same *MATRIX* code that was used to describe the original sample matrix, rather than the QC sample matrix, (e.g., a matrix spiked waste groundwater sample would be assigned "WG" ["Water"] rather than "WQ" ["Water QC Matrix"]).

**Special Conditions:**

This applies to water and soil sample matrices.

**Areas of Impact:**

Field(s): *MATRIX*

Entry: "W", "WQ", "SO", "SQ", "LF"

**Policy:**

- a) Scenario 1 – Matrix codes for a soil sample and the related quality control samples

Code use: Sample	<i>MATRIX</i> = "SO"
Lab Blank	<i>MATRIX</i> = "SQ" or "SO"
Matrix spike	<i>MATRIX</i> = "SO"
Blank spike	<i>MATRIX</i> = "SQ" or "SO"
Lab Replicate	<i>MATRIX</i> = "SO"

- b) Scenario 2 – Matrix codes for all water (groundwater and surface) samples and the related quality control samples

Code use: Sample	<i>MATRIX</i> = “W”
Lab Blank	<i>MATRIX</i> = “WQ” or “W”
Matrix spike	<i>MATRIX</i> = “W”
Blank spike	<i>MATRIX</i> = “WQ” or “W”
Lab Replicate	<i>MATRIX</i> = “W”