

Waiver #4 adopted Nov. 2007 by the San Diego

Regional Water Quality Control Board:

- “No later than December 31, 2010, agricultural and nursery operations must form or join a monitoring group.”
- “No later than January 1, 2011, operators of agricultural and nursery operations must file a Notice of Intent, as an individual operation or as part of a monitoring group.”
- Monitoring group participants may share costs

Who Must Comply

The Regional Water Quality Control Board defines an “operation” as any individual or entity that expects gross receipts from farming operations this year, or in any of the next five years, of \$1000 or more.

Path to Monitoring Mandate

- 1969 Birth of Clean Water movement in U.S.
- 1969 Calif. adopts Water Quality Control Act
- 1972 Congress passes Clean Water Act
- 1983 Agriculture granted waiver as “non-point”
- 1988 Non-point sources added to CWA
- 1999 Waivers given strict conditions
- 2002 Waiver adds BMPs and nursery inspections
- 2007 Waiver requires monitoring

Creation of SDRILG

San Diego County Farm Bureau Board of Directors took action on June 5, 2008 to form a monitoring group that would give members access to the “join a monitoring group” option as prescribed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board

Joining the SDRILG

- **Farm Bureau membership**
- **Fill out application**
- **Pay one-time entry fee**
- **Provide additional information as required**
 - **Parcel numbers, parcel sizes, irrigated acres**
 - **Parcel owner or operator**
 - **Crops grown**
 - **Site-specific BMPs**
- **Pay annual acreage fee that will be established**

Why Farm Bureau Membership?

- **Membership is not required to comply**
 - **Anyone can form a monitoring group**
 - **Opportunity for individual compliance**
- **Farm Bureau's responsibility is providing services to its dues-paying members**
- **Farm Bureau brings advantages to the group**
 - **Leadership in place**
 - **Experience**
 - **Staffing**
 - **Facilities**
 - **Access to legal assistance**

One-time Entry Fee

- **\$100 per acre capped at \$500 if paid by Dec. 31, 2008**
- **\$150 per acre capped at \$750 if paid between Jan. 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009**
- **\$200 per acre capped at \$1000 if paid between July 1, 2009 and close of group**

Covering On-going Costs

- Annual acreage fee
- Directly proportional to size of operation
- Fees may vary based on intensity of use
- The larger the group, the further costs can be spread
- Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group charges \$8/acre/year on 73,000 acres to cover annual \$585,000 budget

We Are Not Alone

- So. SLO and Santa Barbara Counties Agricultural Watershed Coalition
- Central Coast Water Quality Preservation
- Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group
- Yolo County Educational Foundation
- Lake County Irrigated Agricultural Lands
- Nursery Growers Assoc. (Los Angeles)
- California Rice Commission
- Goose Lake Water Quality Coalition
- Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
- Westland's Water District
- San Joaquin and Delta Water Quality Coalition
- San Joaquin Westside Coalition
- South San Joaquin Valley Coalition
- East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

In Addition to Joining Group

- Follow best management practices to minimize or eliminate discharge of pollutants
- Conduct and record annual self assessments
- 2 hours of water quality management training annually
- Maintain records pertaining to water quality management efforts

What SDRILG Will Do

- Help participants meet record keeping and educational mandates
- Submit all required information on behalf of participants
- Interface with Regional Board
- Work with selected third-party firm to establish monitoring program
- Submit monitoring test results
- Make certain all reporting deadlines are met
- Keep participants informed

Why Now?

- Monitoring mandate moved up 2 years
- Outreach to as many as 5000 farm sites
- Incorporate as 501(c)(3) organization
- Create database and capture data on all participants
- Apply for Prop 84 funding
- Develop GIS mapping program
- Retain monitoring firm
- Develop testing methodology
- Meet Jan. 1, 2011 mandate to file Notice of Intent

If You Do it Alone

- Jan. 1, 2011 - file Notice of Intent
- March 31, 2011 - begin development of Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (\$7200*)
- March 31, 2011 – begin development of Quality Assurance Project Plan (\$7200*)
- Jan. 1, 2012 – Submit Monitoring Program Report that shows plans will meet standards (\$3600*)
- Dec. 31, 2012 – file first test report (\$2075*)

*Cost estimate by Regional Board

Monitoring and Testing

- **Representative sites will be selected in each watershed that contains SDRILG participants**
- **Wet and dry season flows will be sampled**
- **Samples will be tested for:**
 - **Nutrients**
 - **Bacteria**
 - **Agricultural chemicals**
- **Excessive pollutants will likely result in an awareness and education program to reduce contaminants**