



Reporting Requirements

Your checklist to "Good Standing" with the Regional Water Quality Control Board
The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program's Waste Discharge Requirement (Order)
requires members to complete the following to comply with the Order:

- Membership Fees: DUE JANUARY 31, 2017**
 - Pay invoice of membership fees before the due date

There is a 10% penalty of the entire annual invoice amount added for each 30 days past due until June 30, 2017.
- Recordkeeping: ONGOING**
 - Update name, contact information, etc.
 - Changes in parcel(s) information
- Farm Evaluation: DUE MARCH 1, 2017**
 - Verify APNs
 - Add any missing APNs
 - Verify the total and irrigated acres
 - Verify or update crop
 - Keep a copy of the Farm Evaluation for your records
 - Submit completed Farm Evaluation to STWEC
- Education Requirement: Select One: DUE ANNUALLY**
 - Attend a workshop that includes information about water quality management practices
 - Read the STWEC newsletters
 - Regularly review the STWEC website
 - Review other information about water quality management practices
- Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP): DUE ANNUALLY**
- Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet (NMP): DUE ANNUALLY; PRE & POST HARVEST**
 - All members must have an NMP. The exception is pasture that does not apply external nitrogen
 - Parcels designated as a groundwater High Vulnerability Area (HVA) must have an NMP certified by February 1, 2017*
 - Keep Worksheet on-site. Do not submit to STWEC
- NMP Summary Report: DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2017**
 - Only groundwater High Vulnerability Areas (HVAs) must complete a Summary Report based on your 2016 NMP Worksheet. *HVA designation is noted on the first page of your Farm Evaluation.*
 - Keep a copy for your records
 - Submit completed NMP Summary Report to STWEC
- Notice of Confirmation (NOC): DUE BEGINNING OF MEMBERSHIP**
 - STWEC must have an NOC on file per membership
- Access to the Order: ONGOING**
 - Maintain a hard or electronic copy of the Order at the farm headquarters

In addition to addressing groundwater quality concerns, the Order calls for protecting surface water quality by means of a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP). Parcels identified as highly susceptible to sediment discharges to surface water are required to complete a certified SECP. The SECP will help identify the erosion sources and potential locations of sediment discharge that could affect the quality of storm water and irrigation water discharges off your farm land(s).

It has yet to be determined which parcels fall within the high susceptibility status. Of note, members who responded 'yes' to question A3 in the Farm Evaluation will likely need to complete a certified SECP as well. Once the list is finalized STWEC will notify these select members and provide information on how to meet the requirement. The SECP template and instructions are posted on the STWEC website; see Member Requirements tab. A self-certification training program is being developed similar to the NMP self-certification. The certified SECP is to be kept on farm or primary place of business and updated as conditions change.

* Please see reverse side for NMP certification options. HVA designation is noted on the first page of your Farm Evaluation.

Message from the President

Well, another year has passed and the water quality in the Sacramento Valley, both surface and ground, continue to show little if any contamination from agricultural activities.

As you see, your bill has again increased in spite of this coalition's intention to keep the fees as low as possible while insuring that you are covered under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). There are two reasons for the increase. First, we have lost members and acreage, particularly in the past two years. A majority of STWEC members own small agricultural properties between 1 and 20 acres. As fees and regulations have increased, a number of the small irrigators have decided to stop farming commercially. It is estimated that there are still 1,000 irrigators with substantial property that should be enrolled. This could significantly lower the fees for everyone. The Regional Water Board has advised all those irrigators by letter that they should be enrolled. However, due to minimal enforcement staffing, the Water Board is unable to make physical inspections of those properties and file civil penalties against those irrigators. Second, the Regional and State Boards continue to add additional requirements. This year will

be the Soil and Erosion Control plans. This costs staff time to insure that all members are in compliance.

During the past year the Water Board has brought some significant civil fines to some of the persons/companies that should have enrolled early on. As agricultural irrigators, we do not like to see anyone on the receiving end of those fines. However, all of you have participated as required. Those that have chosen to wait have financially cost all of us.

We look forward to some positive changes to the program in 2017. We anticipate that the Water Board will deal with the water quality issues of E. coli and dissolved oxygen by recognizing that the agricultural community is not responsible.



Paul J. Bertagna
President, STWEC Board of Directors

Need Help Completing the Required Forms?

One-on-One Assistance

Drop-in office hours: STWEC Office

February 1st - 28th 2017
Monday, Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Located at:
2 Sutter St. Suite B, Red Bluff

An appointment can be arranged to accommodate member schedules by calling STWEC at (530) 527-4208.

NMP Certification Options:

The Order requires members with parcels within a groundwater High Vulnerability Area (HVA) to prepare and implement a certified Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) in one of the ways provided below

- Self-certified by the member - member attendance at a training program for NMP certification. Workshop dates TBD and will be posted on the STWEC website.
- Self-certified by the member whose NMP plan adheres to a site-specific recommendation from the NRCS or UCCE.
- Certified by a nitrogen management specialist (i.e., Professional Soil Scientist, Professional Agronomists, Crop Advisors certified by the American Society of Agronomy, or Technical Service Providers certified in nutrient management in California by the NRCS).
- Certified in an alternative manner approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such approval will be provided based on the Executive Officer's determination that the alternative method for preparing the NMP meets the objectives and requirements of this Order.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2016
8 a.m. | USDA Conference Room | 2 Sutter Street | Red Bluff, CA 96080