



Waste Discharge Order Update

State Board Revises East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Waste Discharge Order.

The revised Waste Discharge requirements for the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition does include precedential requirements for all Irrigated Land Regulatory Programs in California. Despite a concerted effort by the agricultural community and water quality coalitions several unfavorable conditions are likely to be adopted. The proposed changes include requiring all coalition members to annually monitor domestic wells on their parcels that serve residences, shops or other facilities beginning in 2019, and all members regardless of their groundwater vulnerability designation must have their nitrogen worksheets certified. Some good news regarding the proposed changes is that the annual Farm Evaluation may be extended to once every five years. Source *Water Coalition News* - CURES, Winter Newsletter 2017

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

Continuing Education REQUIRED for Grower Certification of Nitrogen Management Plans - After receiving training and passing the Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) certification test, a grower can certify the NMP for his own property and lands that he leases. The NMP self-certification is valid for three years as long as a grower attends three hours of Continuing Education (CE) Courses covering crop nutrition. CURES maintains a webpage of all courses approved for CE credits www.curesworks.org/cecourses

Applying the 4R's Principle...

Principals to keep in mind for future reference revolve around the 4R's of Nitrogen Management for all Members.

1. Apply the Right Rate.
⇒ Match supply with crop demand (all inputs –fertilizer, organic N, water, soil.)
2. Apply at the Right Time.
⇒ Apply with crop demands and root uptake.
3. Apply in the Right Place.
⇒ Ensure delivery to the active roots and minimize movement below the root zone.
4. Use the Right Source.
⇒ The 4R's are specific to every individual orchard/field and every year selecting the appropriate N source for the crop /irrigation management situation can lead to the greatest nitrogen use efficiency.

For more information on the 4R's please review at: <http://www.ipni.net/ipniweb/portal/4r.nsf/article/4r-history> ~

REQUIREMENTS AND ENFORCEMENTS

UNENROLLED PARCELS - The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) continues to issue administrative civil liability orders and fines to irrigated agricultural landowners that are not enrolled in a Coalition or do not have an individual waste discharge permit. Numerous letters were mailed out in the fall of 2017 in southern Tehama county for parcels not enrolled.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT REQUIRED REPORTS TO COALITIONS - Regional Board is starting to issue fines for failure to submit Farm Evaluations and Nitrogen Management Plan requirements as mandated. Best practice is to keep a copy of all reports submitted, create a file for all STWEC membership requirements including invoice copies. Ensure the file is updated every year with all required forms/reports.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS - Regional Board conducted 14 inspections in Shasta Tehama in May of 2017. STWEC is expecting a second round of inspections to be coming soon. If you are selected for inspections you will receive a call from the STWEC staff to set-up and assist with the inspection process.

LOCAL FINES

\$27,720 tentative settlement in January 2018, Shasta County, for failure to join a Coalition or obtain an individual waste discharge permit.

\$19,733 settlement in February 2018, Modoc County for failure to join a Coalition or obtain an individual waste discharge permit.

Member Notifications

Board Vacancy

We are sad to announce that Hal Crain is retiring from as a Director of the STWEC board. He has provided over a decade of invaluable service to STWEC members and staff. We will accept nominations for this vacant board position. Members may nominate themselves or other members. Nominations will be accepted at the annual meeting on May 9th or in advance by contacting STWEC at (530) 527-4208 or emmy@stwec.org.

The board consists of 5 Directors, with both counties represented. The board meets bi-monthly at 8 am on the second Wednesday of each odd numbered month.

A Director is a STWEC member in good standing, defined as a Shasta or Tehama County commercial irrigator who complies with the requirements of the Waste Discharge Order.

Message from the President

As you are now aware, your costs have increased again. Part of the increase this year is due to increased monitoring costs. Every three years we are required to do more substantial monitoring than the previous years. This extra monitoring costs about \$30,000. The other increase in cost is due to the continued requirements the Regional Board adds to the program. Trying to get over 800 irrigators certified in soil erosion has added costs, along with as collecting the required reports. STWEC has approximately 1,000 members at any given time. However, it is estimated that there are still approximately 1,000 irrigators who have not joined the coalition. Obviously, if we had an increase in membership, the fees for everyone would go down. The Regional Board has sent letters to many of those irrigators advising them of the regulations. They are just now beginning to take action in the north part of the state. In addition, STWEC requires back fees to join back to 2014 when the Regional Board contacts those non-member irrigators. STWEC is not an enforcement agency. We exist to keep all commercial irrigators in compliance with the Waste Discharge Orders. However, if you know of an irrigator who should be a member and has not joined, you may suggest to them that they should join as soon as possible so they don't receive a fine that could cost them thousands of dollars.



Paul J. Bertagna
President STWEC Board of Directors



Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition

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mail merge

Up-Coming Board Meeting:

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 8 am | USDA Conference Room | 2 Sutter Street | Red Bluff, CA 96080
Annual Board Meeting Coming Soon! Wednesday May 9th, 2018 at 8 am