



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



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Agency Secretary

Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Sam Unger
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DATE: April 17, 2006

SUBJECT: CONDITIONAL WAIVER FOR IRRIGATED LANDS

This notice provides important information for agricultural operations and growers in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties regarding discharges of wastewater and stormwater from irrigated lands in the Coastal Watersheds of Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is the state regulatory agency responsible for protecting surface and groundwater quality within the Coastal Watersheds of Ventura and Los Angeles counties. On November 3, 2005, the Regional Board adopted a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Order No. R4-2005-0080). This order allows growers in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties to legally discharge wastewater and stormwater from their lands to waters of the state. The Conditional Waiver effectively requires growers and agriculture operators (dischargers) to either enroll under the waiver or obtain a permit to continue discharging wastes to waters of the state.

This memorandum provides basic information for enrolling in the Conditional Waiver program.

Options for Enrollment in the Conditional Waiver Program

There are 2 options for participation in the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.

1. Enroll in the program as an Individual Discharger
2. Enroll in the program as a member of a Discharger Group

Both Individual Dischargers and Discharger Groups are required to submit:

- Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (MRP)
- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

to the Regional Board by **August 3, 2006**. The NOI serves as the Discharger's or Discharger Group's statement to the Regional Board that they intend to comply with the conditions of the waiver program. The MRP and QAPP are necessary to ensure that the required monitoring is conducted in accordance with standard procedures and is compatible with other state monitoring programs.

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Informational materials and templates are available on the Regional Board website to help growers and agriculture operators with the development of these documents.

Conditions of the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands

The conditional waiver requires growers and agriculture operators to participate in the following activities.

- Submit NOI, MRP, QAPP
- Conduct water quality monitoring
- Submit annual monitoring reports
- Develop and implement a Water Quality Management Plan (if necessary)
- Complete 8 hours of training on water quality management practices

The results of water quality monitoring may require the development of a Water Quality Management Plan. This plan may require the implementation of management practices to reduce or eliminate impacts to water quality.

Regulatory Compliance

The requirements for growers and agriculture operators to enroll under and comply with the Conditional Waiver program are contained in the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code, Division 7). The California Water Code requires persons discharging waste, including stormwater, to apply for a discharge permit, unless this requirement is waived by the Regional Board. On November 3, 2005, the regional board adopted a Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands. Persons who fail to either submit a report of waste discharge or enroll under the waiver are subject to civil liability pursuant to section 13261. Section 13261 of the Water Code authorizes the regional board to administratively impose civil liability in an amount which shall not exceed one thousand dollars for each day in which the violation occurs. Other penalties may also apply.

Additional Information

To obtain additional information about the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands and examples of required documents and forms please visit the Regional Boards website at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/permits/waivers/waivers.html>

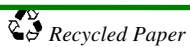
If you would like a copy of this material mailed to you please contact the Regional Board. For questions about the Conditional Waiver Program please contact the Regional Board staff below.

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