



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region



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CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION - REQUEST FOR COALITION GROUP MEMBERSHIP LIST

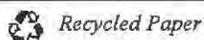
Since July 2003, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has been assessing the degree of grower participation in the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program (Program). Based on information provided by the Coalition Groups, the level of grower participation in the Program does not meet the Water Board's expectation after two years that the Program has been in effect.

During the past six months, the Water Board has been enforcing Program requirements through the issuance of California Water Code Section 13267 Orders for technical and monitoring reports. However, this initial enforcement effort has proceeded without Water Board knowledge of which growers are actually participating in the Program through Coalition Group representation. Based on the results of the initial enforcement efforts and statements made by Coalition Groups, subwatershed contact letters and public input, the Water Board continues to be concerned about low grower participation levels in many areas of the Central Valley Region. Therefore, further actions are required to identify growers not participating in the Program or otherwise not complying with the California Water Code.

Further identification of non-complying growers entails direct contact by Water Board staff with growers by phone, mail and/or in person. To facilitate this next enforcement step, the Water Board must obtain information documenting that growers have knowingly elected to participate in the Program. This information will be used to eliminate Water Board enforcement actions, as outlined in the Program's enforcement strategy, towards growers that are meeting their regulatory requirements through Coalition Group membership.

In 2003, the Water Board implemented the Conditional Waiver Program through adoption of Resolution No. R5-2003-0105 Attachment B.1.c, which states:

California Environmental Protection Agency



"The Coalition Groups shall, by July 22, 2004, maintain a Membership Document with information concerning each Participant who has knowingly elected to be a member of the Coalition Group. The Membership Document shall include, at a minimum, a list of the Participants, information on contacting each Participant, and information sufficient to locate the fields or parcels of each Participant that are within the Coalition Group. The Regional Board may further specify the information to be included. This information shall be provided to the Regional Board upon request, within the time specified by the Regional Board, which time shall not exceed thirty days."

In accordance with Resolution No. R5-2003-0105 Attachment B.1.c., and through this letter, the Coalition Group shall submit their membership document to the Water Board on or before **26 September 2005**. This document shall include a list of the Coalition Group participants who have knowingly elected to participate in the program, contact information (including mailing address and telephone number), and information sufficient to locate their irrigated agricultural fields or parcels or District boundary(s). This information shall be submitted to the Water Board at the following address:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Electronic membership document(s) may be submitted on a compact disk (CD) or emailed to Irrlandswaiver@waterboards.ca.gov.

Additionally, to facilitate enforcement efforts while concurrently promoting Coalition Group membership, the Water Board is requesting the Coalition Group submit information regarding the growers that have been contacted and/or informed about the Conditional Waiver Program from the Coalition Group representatives. This information should include the approximate date of contact and a copy of the actual information provided by the Coalition Group.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program, please contact Ms. Diana Messina at (916) 464-4828 or dcmessina@waterboards.ca.gov.

Signed by Thomas R. Pinkos
THOMAS R. PINKOS
Executive Officer

cc: Central Valley Water Board Members
Tom Howard, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento