

ATTACHMENT A

February 2013 and April 2013 Outreach Notices

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

20 February 2013

Rushing, Brooks J TRS & Rushing Arlene J
2030 N Washington Rd
Turlock CA 95380

New Water Quality Regulations Require You to Act Now

Nuevas Regulaciones de Calidad de Aqua Requieren que usted Responde Inmediamente

(Para obtener más información en español (formularios u otra información), por favor contáctenos al telefono (916) 464-4611 o vía email a: lrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.)

You are receiving this letter because based on information available to us, you own the following parcels with irrigated cropland subject to the new regulations.

County: Stanislaus			
088-009-014			
088-009-029			
088-009-024			
088-009-025			

On 7 December 2012, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board or board), approved the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order (Order R5-2012-0116 or General Order) for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group. All commercial irrigated lands within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed are now required to get regulatory coverage through one of the options described below. The General Order addresses the discharge of waste from irrigated lands to groundwater and surface water. Wastes discharged from irrigated lands include pesticides, fertilizers, pathogens, and sediment.

Based on information available to us, you own one or more parcels with irrigated cropland within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed. The parcel number(s) for your property that prompted this letter are included above as a reference. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13260, you must obtain regulatory coverage for that irrigated cropland. Failure to obtain the regulatory coverage outlined above may result in penalties of up to \$1,000 per day pursuant to Water Code section 13261.

What Do Landowners or their Tenant Farmers Need to Do?

If you are the owner of commercial irrigated lands and you are **NOT** currently a member of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition), you have three options.

1. **Join the Coalition by 13 May 2013.** The Central Valley Water Board worked closely with agricultural and other interests to develop a cost effective program for complying with the State's water quality law. Under the General Order, the landowner, or your tenant, may enroll your irrigated agricultural parcel(s) directly with the Coalition (see next page). To take advantage of this option, you must enroll your parcel(s) with the Coalition by **13 May 2013**. After that date, landowners must apply to the Central Valley Water Board to join a Coalition. Additional fees will apply to applications after 15 May 2013 and the board has the discretion to reject the application and regulate the landowner directly.
2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers.** The Central Valley Water Board is currently considering the adoption of general Waste Discharge Requirements for landowners who chose not to join a Coalition group (anticipated adoption is in May 2013). Board staff anticipates that costs and requirements will be similar to Option 3. However, the process for getting regulatory coverage will be simplified with the submission of a Notice of Intent, rather than a report of waste discharge.
3. **Obtain an Individual Permit⁶⁵⁸.** You can apply to have your own individual Waste Discharge Requirements (a permit). Depending on the specific site conditions, growers with their own individual WDRs are often required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit technical reports regarding their actions to comply with their Waste Discharge Requirements. Costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently \$750 + \$5/acre); cost to prepare a report of waste discharge; and monitoring and reporting costs.

You do NOT need regulatory coverage under this Order if:

- Your commercial irrigated lands are covered by the General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies (R5-2007-0035) or NPDES Dairy General Permit CAG015001 (Dairy General Orders). Please notify board staff of your parcels that have Dairy General Order coverage so you do not receive further inquiries from the board regarding regulatory coverage of those parcels (see next page).
- **If your agricultural-zoned property is not used for commercial irrigated agriculture**, please notify board staff so you do not receive further inquiries from the board regarding regulatory coverage under this Order.

⁶⁵⁸ The form for completing the Application (referred to as a Form 200 - Report of Waste Discharge) can be found online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/forms/docs/form200.pdf. You may be requested by the Executive Officer to submit additional information to supplement the data provided in Form 200.

Who Do I Contact to Join the Coalition or Get More Information?

Contact the Coalition - To join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, or to get more information about this new requirement, call (209) 522-7278 and ask to speak with Wayne Zipser or Candy Hill or go to www.esicoalition.org. Also, check the website for dates on informational meetings for new Members and those thinking of joining the Coalition scheduled for March 2013.

Contact the Central Valley Water Board - To learn more about the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, you can visit our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/. If you have questions regarding the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, you can call our phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.



PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 April 2013

Rushing, Brooks J TRS & Rushing Arlene J
2030 N Washington Rd
Turlock CA 95380

Final Notice New Water Quality Regulations Require You to Act Now

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- 3. Obtain an Individual Permit¹.** You can apply to have your own individual Waste Discharge Requirements (a permit). Depending on the specific site conditions, growers with their own individual WDRs would likely be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit technical reports regarding their actions to comply with their Waste Discharge Requirements. Costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently \$750 + \$5/acre); cost to prepare a report of waste discharge; and monitoring and reporting costs.

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- **If your agricultural-zoned property is not used for commercial irrigated agriculture**, please notify board staff so you do not receive further inquiries from the board regarding regulatory coverage under this Order.

Who Do I Contact to Join the Coalition or Get More Information?

Attend an East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition New Member Signup Clinic – There will be three of these clinics held on the following dates, and at these locations:

- **Tuesday, April 23rd, 2013:** Madera County Farm Bureau, 1102 Pine Street, Madera; 1-hour presentations at 10 AM and 1:30 PM; Coalition staff available 9 AM to 4 PM
- **Wednesday, April 24th, 2013:** Merced County Farm Bureau, 646 So. Hwy 59, Merced; 1-hour presentations at 10 AM and 1:30 PM; Coalition staff available 9 AM to 4 PM
- **Thursday, April 25th, 2013:** Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, 1201 L Street, Modesto; 1-hour presentations at 10 AM and 1:30 PM; Coalition staff available 9 AM to 4 PM

Contact the Coalition - To join the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, or to get more information about this new requirement, call (209) 846-6112 and ask to speak with Wayne Zipser or Candy Hill or go to www.esicoalition.org. **These contacts are with the Coalition, not the Central Valley Water Board.**

Contact the Central Valley Water Board - To learn more about the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, you can visit our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/. If you have questions regarding the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, you can call our phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.



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