California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

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CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS

Please find enclosed a copy of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Regional Board) brochure entitled *Irrigated Lands Waiver*. The Conditional Waiver Program for irrigated lands was adopted on11 July 2003 by the Central Valley Regional Board and upheld by the State Water Resources Control Board on 22 January 2004. With the adoption of the Conditional Waiver Program, growers with irrigated lands that discharge waste that can degrade surface water quality must now select one of three options to obtain regulatory coverage under the Water Code.

- Elect to join a Coalition Group approved by the Central Valley Regional Board;
- File for an Individual Discharger Conditional Waiver; or
- File a Report of Waste Discharge for the purpose of receiving Waste Discharge Requirements, if appropriate.

Those affected include growers (owners/operators) of irrigated lands, managers of wetlands, and local districts who discharge tailwater, water from underground drains, water from operational spills and storm water runoff to surface waters.

There are two adopted Conditional Waivers: one for Coalition Groups or other entities, which form on behalf of individual growers; and a second Conditional Waiver for individual growers. Both waive the filing of a Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements for growers with irrigated lands that meet waiver conditions.

The brochure contains information on the three options for growers, how to apply for regulatory coverage under the conditional waivers, how to maintain such coverage, and how to obtain more information on the Conditional Waiver Program for irrigated lands.

It is very important that growers select one of the above options. Failing to take action could result in enforcement action under the California Water Code.

If after reviewing the brochure you have any questions, or need further assistance regarding Conditional Waivers, please contact the Regional Board at (916) 464-3291, send an email to AgWaiver@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov or see our website at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/irrigated_lands/.

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