

December 10, 2018

San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group Quarterly Newsletter

You are receiving this newsletter as a member of the San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group (SDRILG). As a reminder, SDRILG is a non-profit organization governed by seven farmers who volunteer their time as members of the board of directors. Joining SDRILG is a benefit exclusively for Farm Bureau members. As a member you are enrolled in a third-party group as required by the General Order for Agriculture adopted by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board).

Fourth quarter self-inspection

It is time to conduct your fourth and final self-inspection for 2018. At this link <https://noi.sdirrigatedlandsgroup.org/qsir/login/2017/04> you can log on with your member number, check “2018 – 4th Quarter,” and fill out the quarterly report. The completed version will be emailed to you, which you must keep for your records. Please note these self-inspections are an important part of the process that satisfies your regulatory requirements as set by the San Diego Water Board.

Annual Education Requirement

In addition to filings, use of best management practices, and quarterly self-inspections, the General Order for Agriculture requires growers to complete two hours of training each calendar year on runoff pollution prevention. Through an agreement with the San Diego Water Board, all SDRILG members met the 2018 education requirement through the initial paperwork enrollment process. Classes have already been launched to meet the 2019 requirement through the University of California Cooperative Extension. Early next year additional class times and an online option for compliance will be sent to all members.

Information Changes

If you change your email address, mailing address, or your phone number, please contact the SDRILG office so your records can be kept up to date. Also, if you leased or purchased parcels not previously enrolled or moved off of parcels that were enrolled, it is important to report those changes as well.

Monitoring

One of the key responsibilities of a third-party group is to do sampling and testing to see if agriculturally-generated materials are reaching local waterways or affecting stream health. This will be done during both wet and dry seasons each year. SDRILG is prepared to launch

sampling and testing in 2019. The sampling will be done on a watershed basis not targeting individual farming operations. Should problems be discovered, SDRILG will work with UC Cooperative Extension on educational outreach and suggested practices to convey to all members and how to reduce pollution of the discovered materials. Subsequent testing will then reveal the results of the educational outreach and actions by growers.

As always, if you have any questions about SDRILG or your compliance responsibilities, please feel free to call 760-745-2215 or email info@sdirrigatedlandsgroup.org