

March 20, 2019

San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group Quarterly Newsletter

Two Reports to Complete

In addition to the Quarterly Self-Inspection Reports (Quarterly Inspection) required by the San Diego Water Board there is a requirement to complete an Annual Self-Assessment Report (Annual Report). This will be the first Annual Report for you to complete because 2018 was the first full-year under the General Order. *Please keep in mind that the ongoing acceptance of the program is largely dependent on the completion of these quarterly and annual reports and will keep you from having direct contact with the San Diego Water Board.*

2018 Annual Self-Assessment Report (must be completed by April 30, 2019)

The Annual Report for the 2018 calendar year form is included in this mailing. Here are some comments and instructions for your 2018 Annual Report:

Parts A, B, C, & D – These will auto-fill based on information you previously submitted. Please make any needed changes.

Part E – The San Diego Water Board has agreed to allow the work you did to complete your enrollment in the program to satisfy the two hours of required water quality management training for 2018.

Part F – The Quarterly Inspections you completed for 2018 will auto-fill for the dates they were submitted. We do not know how the San Diego Water Board will react to missing quarters. We strongly suggest that each 2019 Quarterly Inspection be completed.

Part G – Review the Water Quality Protection Plan you submitted with your Notice of Intent and note the changes if any were made.

Part H - Report on record-keeping and give explanations as needed. NOTE: The groundwater quality question only applies to on-farm drinking water wells.

Part I – If there were failures to report, we suggest you also note corrective actions.

Part J – Certification.

2019 First Quarter Self-Inspection

Following completion of your 2018 Annual Report you will move on to your first Quarterly Inspection for 2019. The form has no changes from the reports you filled out previously.

Once completed mail both forms back to the San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group in the enclosed envelope.

Annual Education Requirement

The General Order requires two hours of runoff pollution prevention training per year. Nearly 300 growers have already met the 2019 requirement by attending classes put on by the University of California Cooperative Extension Service at the Farm Bureau office. Classes will be offered throughout the year with the next one taking place at 10:00 am on April 2nd. You can register at <http://bit.ly/sdwaterapril>. Also, an online class option is nearly complete and you will be notified when it is active. The compliance deadline is December 31, 2019, so time is not tight.

Monitoring

On February 13th and 14th the SDRILG contracted testing firm conducted the first of what will be twice-annual water quality sampling events. The laboratory results are not yet available. This test was a “wet season” test and the “dry season” test will take place this summer. The sampling is 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.

Annual Acreage Fee

At their next meeting the SDRILG Board of Directors will set the 2019 Acreage Fee with billings going out in May. The budget projections indicate the fee will be close to the 2018 fee.

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